



# THE EDUCATOR HANDBOOK

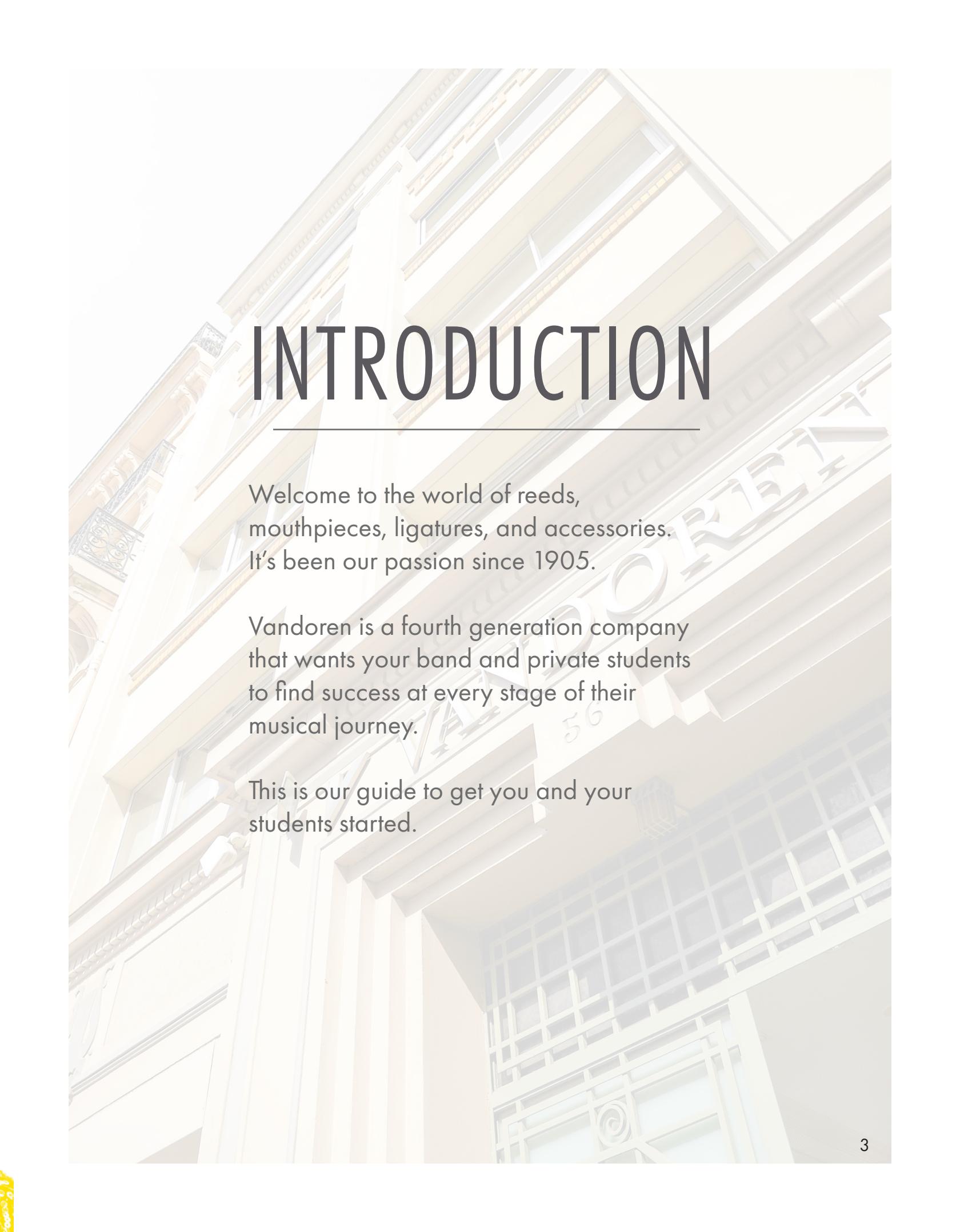
*A Step by Step Guide for Clarinet  
and Saxophone Success*

*Vandoren*<sup>®</sup>  
PARIS

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# INTRODUCTION

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Welcome to the world of reeds,  
mouthpieces, ligatures, and accessories.  
It's been our passion since 1905.

Vandoren is a fourth generation company  
that wants your band and private students  
to find success at every stage of their  
musical journey.

This is our guide to get you and your  
students started.

# CLARINET REEDS



## BEGINNER TO INTERMEDIATE

### JUNO

Designed for beginners, JUNO reeds feature a more flexible cut, giving the student an immediate response with a full sound. Our most affordable reed. Available for Eb, Bb, and Bass clarinets.

### TRADITIONAL

Perfect for advanced middle school and beyond, Traditional reeds are available for every clarinet family member. They have the thinnest tip and one of the thickest hearts, giving you a crisp and easy response and articulation, allowing you to play with a very clear and even sound in all registers.



## INTERMEDIATE TO ADVANCED

### V•12

V•12 reeds are cut from thicker cane and feature a longer vibrational palette. This allows more of the reed to vibrate to produce a sound with more depth and richness. A favorite among professional Eb, Bb, and Bass clarinetists.

### 56 RUE LEPIC

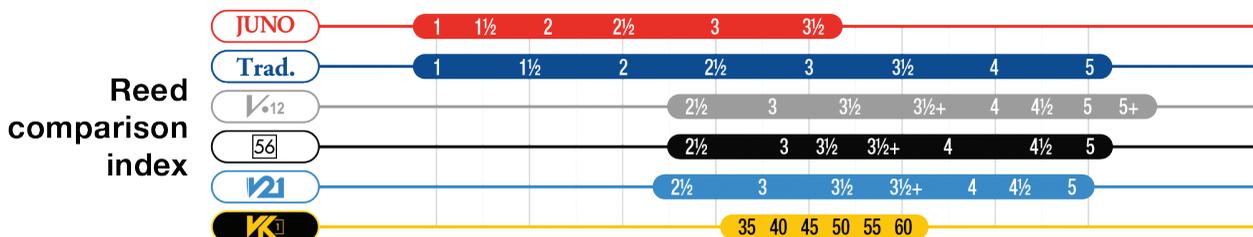
These reeds are created from a German style blank (thick and tapered at the heel). This provides added stability with a rich, pure sound and easy response. Available for Bb clarinet.

### V21

V21 reeds combine the cut of the V•12 with the shape of the 56 rue Lepic. This results in a warm and stable sound with easy response and connection in all registers. Available for Eb, Bb, and Bass clarinets.

### VK SYNTHETIC

While nothing beats the sound of a great cane reed, there are situations where caring for cane can be challenging. This is where the VK shines. Durable and resistant to changes in environment, the VK provides a dependable option when you need it the most.



# SAXOPHONE REEDS



## BEGINNER TO INTERMEDIATE

### JUNO

Designed for beginners, JUNO reeds feature a more flexible cut, giving the student an immediate response with a full sound. Our most affordable reed. Available for Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Baritone saxophones.

### TRADITIONAL

Perfect for advanced middle school and beyond, Traditional reeds are available for every saxophone family member.

Of all of our Vandoren reeds, Traditional reeds are considered the most versatile and are suitable for all styles of music. They have the thinnest tip and one of the thickest hearts, giving you a crisp and easy response and articulation, allowing you to play with a very clear and even sound in all registers.

## INTERMEDIATE TO ADVANCED

### V•12

Cut from a thicker cane than Blue Box reeds, V•12s have a longer vibrational palette. This gives you a beautifully dark, velvety sound in all registers. Available for Soprano, Alto, and Tenor saxophones.

### V21

Featuring the profile (or cut) of the V•12 reeds on a unique conically shaped blank. Gives the player a warm and centered sound with clean articulation and great projection. Available for Soprano, Alto, and Tenor saxophones.

### JAVA GREEN

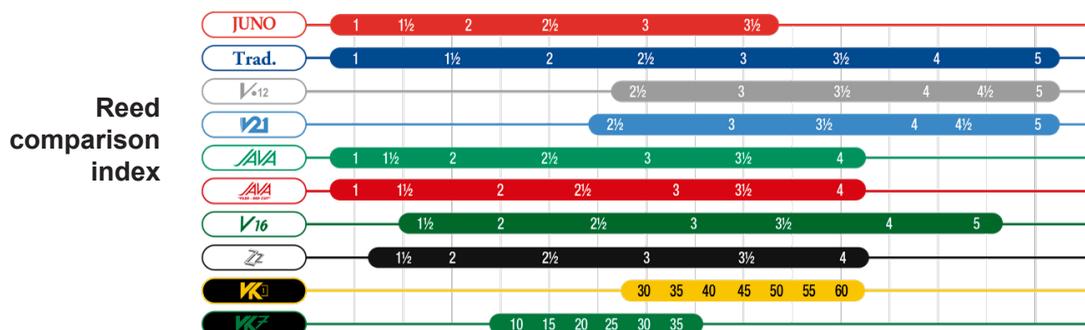
The original jazz reed from Vandoren. Featuring a thin and flexible cut, JAVA Green reeds provide players with a bright, flexible tone that projects well in any jazz ensemble. Our most popular jazz reed.

### JAVA RED

Designed with a little more heart and thinner rails than JAVA Green. This helps create a rich, centered sound with body and powerful projection.

### VK SYNTHETIC

While nothing beats the sound of a great cane reed, there are situations where caring for cane can be challenging. This is where the VK shines. Durable and resistant to changes in environment, the VK provides a dependable option when you need it the most. Available in both classical (VK1) and jazz (VK7) models.



# CLARINET MOUTHPIECES



## BEGINNER TO INTERMEDIATE

### 5RV LYRE

One of the most popular mouthpieces in the world and favorite among beginning band directors. The medium tip opening and facing make it easy for students to produce a controlled, colorful sound with quick response right away.

### M13 LYRE

The M13 Lyre has grown to be a top choice among students, band directors, private teachers, and professionals alike. This mouthpiece is very closed and is known for its beautifully smooth, dark and flexible sound. For students, we recommend using strengths 2.5 - 3.5 reeds. \*Only available in 13 Series.

## INTERMEDIATE TO ADVANCED

### M15

With its closed tip opening and long facing, the M15 is designed for harder reeds, and is known for its rich sound and incredibly quick articulation and response.

### M30

With its medium tip opening and long facing, the M30 is loved for its round, warm, and extremely flexible sound. Excellent for classical, jazz, and doublers.

### Black Diamond Series

Featuring a new internal and external design, the BD series delivers a sound with unparalleled depth and richness. Available in a wide variety of tip openings and facings, our most popular models include:

B♭ Clarinet: BD2, BD4, BD5  
Bass: BD5

### B45

Featuring a medium-open tip and a medium-long facing, it's loved for its versatility. With great projection and flexibility, it gets the job done in a wide variety of situations.



# SAXOPHONE MOUTHPIECES

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## BEGINNER TO INTERMEDIATE CLASSICAL

### Optimum Series

The standard mouthpiece recommendation for band directors and private teachers.

With their round tone chamber and unique beak design, Optimum mouthpieces are known for their round, warm sound and easy playability and control. A popular choice among students and professionals alike.

Available for soprano-bari in a variety of tip openings and facings. Our most popular models include:

Soprano: SL3  
Alto: AL3  
Tenor: TL3  
Bari: BL3



## ADVANCED CLASSICAL

### Profile Series

The newest classical series from Vandoren. Profile mouthpieces are known for their round sound, flexibility and immediate response, making them a popular choice for more experienced classical players.

Available in the following models:  
Soprano: SP3, SP4 (NEW)  
Alto: AP2 (NEW), AP3, AP4 (NEW)  
Tenor: TP4 (NEW)  
Bari: BP3 (NEW)



## JAZZ

### Ebonite V16 Series

V16s are jazz mouthpieces designed to give you the perfect balance of power and flexibility needed to compete with brass or rhythm sections, along with the warmth and body needed to blend within a section.

Available in a variety of tip openings and chamber sizes. Our most popular models include:

Soprano: S6, S7  
Alto: A5S+, A5M, A6S+, A6M  
Tenor: T6, T7  
Baritone: B7

## CLASSICAL VS. JAZZ MOUTHPIECES

*Learn the differences between classical and jazz saxophone mouthpieces and why you should consider both.*



# LIGATURES

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## M|O LIGATURES

The M|O continues to grow in popularity for its ease of tightening, free blowing feel, and crisp articulation.

Available for the entire clarinet and saxophone family in a variety of platings. Try the black, pewter, and silver models for clarinet and the gold-finish for saxophone.





## OPTIMUM

The Optimum ligatures are ideal for any clarinetist or saxophonist looking for a warm sound and the ability to refine their tone color with 3 interchangeable plates included.

Clarinet version: silver plated

Saxophone version: gold plated



**CLARINET**



**SAXOPHONE**

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## LEATHER

The Leather ligatures produce a rich, velvety sound for clarinet and saxophone players. Refine your response with the 3 interchangeable plates included.

Clarinet version: silver plated

Saxophone version: gold plated



**CLARINET**



**SAXOPHONE**

# ACCESSORIES

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## QUAD PACK

The Quad Pack holds 4 reeds and is an excellent introduction to beginner reed rotation. Holds 4 B♭ and/or Alto saxophone reeds.



## VANDOREN REED CASE

Our Traditional blue case has a hard shell exterior, and grooved ridges on the inside to promote air circulation. An affordable case with protection.



## HYGRO REED CASE

The Hygro Reed Case uses air circulation and a small sponge to **maintain reeds in optimal humidity conditions** to prevent warping and deterioration. Each case holds 6 reeds, with numbered slots for easy organization and rotation.





## MOUTHPIECE PATCHES

An often overlooked accessory, a simple mouthpiece patch can make all the difference. This gives all levels of players the ability to form the correct embouchure on the mouthpiece.

Comes in a pack of 6 in **clear (thin)** and **black (thick)** patches.



## NECK STRAPS

Our neck straps make the saxophone playing experience comfortable. The string and sliding V system prevents tangling and is easy for kids to adjust.

Choose from our **regular** or **deluxe** versions to find the right fit for your students.



## UNIVERSAL HARNESS

The first harness that makes **heavy instruments** feel weightless.

- **Secures your instrument** discreetly without uncomfortable straps that restrict your breathing.
- **Stabilizing rods (back)** work independently as you move, giving you leverage to offset your instrument's weight.
- **Support belt** centers the load at your waist, balancing you perfectly whether standing or sitting.

# REED BREAK-IN PROCESS

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It all starts with a new box of reeds. A good **break-in process** allows reeds to adjust to their new environment and gradually get used to making music.

-  1. Remove reeds from packaging.
-  2. Wet your reeds.
-  3. Play each reed for a few minutes.
-  4. Remove from mouthpiece, wipe down, store.
-  5. Play reeds progressively longer each day for a week.



# 5 STEPS TO STARTING A REED ROTATION



## OPEN

Carefully open and break in 2-4 reeds (see previous page).



## LABEL

Label your reeds to keep track of which reed you just played and which is next in line. This can be done in a variety of ways (numbers, letters, colors, etc). This example uses days of the week, which works wonders for beginners.



## ROTATE

Alternate which reed you play each day or session by following your labels.



## STORE

Wipe off excess saliva and store reeds in a quality case between sessions. Inspect daily for damage or filth. Discard damaged or gross looking reeds immediately regardless of their age.



## REFRESH

At the beginning of each month, "refresh" your rotation by replacing your old reeds with fresh, broken-in reeds. **This keeps your embouchure strong and maximizes reed lifespan and performance.**

## PRO TIP

**Pro Tip #1:** Grow your rotation! Professionals routinely have 5-10 reeds in rotation to ensure success regardless of variables at play.

**Pro Tip #2:** Replace reeds based on performance - not the calendar. Professionals replace reeds based on what they hear, feel and see.

# REED TIPS AND TROUBLESHOOTING

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## REED TOO HARD/SOFT?

Many students (and players!) often associate reed strength with skill level but this is false. Reed strength can be dependent on many factors, like mouthpiece facing, tip opening and even climate. Here are a few tips for both too soft and too hard reeds.

### Soft Reed Strength Troubleshooting | What You'll Hear

- Intonation issues
- Unfocused or nasally sound
- Thin upper register

\* Move the reed higher on the mouthpiece facing so that it is in line or slightly past the tip rail.

### Hard Reed Strength Troubleshooting | What You'll Hear

- Muffled tone
- Low register is not speaking clearly
- Consistently sharp

\* Move the reed slightly lower on the mouthpiece facing.

**Soft Reed  
Fix**

**Hard Reed  
Fix**



# RESOURCES

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## **1. DonorsChoose | [www.donorschoose.org](http://www.donorschoose.org)**

Have your school music projects funded by people all over the country. This includes reeds, instruments, learning materials and more.

## **2. Be Part of the Music | [www.bepartofthemusic.org](http://www.bepartofthemusic.org)**

Resources, newsletters, and videos, all to keep your music program healthy and alive. Join Scott Lang's newsletter to receive email templates for recruiting, advocacy, and more.

## **3. Online Resources for Musicians | [www.dansr.com](http://www.dansr.com)**

Articles, video clinics, downloads and more for students, teachers, and professionals.



## **4. Vandoren WAVE**

Our weekly educational newsletter designed to give you articles on clarinet, saxophone, reed tips, and additional topics.





WITH  
YOU  
EVERY  
STEP.

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