

Instrument Hot List
Revised 2023

Prologue

It is astonishing how many firms nowadays make oboes, oboes d'amore, English horns, and bass oboes of sublime quality. I have listed below some of my favorite instruments at the moment.

This list is organized in approximate order of preference, though subject to change at a moment's notice.

New piccolo oboes (oboes musette):

Patricola

New oboes:

*Hiniker Hiniker - any model, though especially
Snakewood and Cocobolo Puchner (especially Violetwood)
Buglheroni "Opera" model (especially Violetwood)
Howarth LXV & S5XL models (especially Cocobolo)
Loree model 140 & Etoile
Ludwig Frank Maplewood
Moennig "Albrecht Mayer" model
Covey (especially Honduran Rosewood)
Bulgheroni "MUSA" model (especially Violetwood)
Marigaux "Altuglas" and Model 901, especially with*

polymer top joint

Fox “Sayen” model

Loree “B Series Copy” (with polymer sleeve in upper joint)

Rigoutat model J

Josef GS-2 (the “top of the line” model)

Fossati especially “MB” model in exotic wood

Buffet - “Orfeo” model

Yamaha 831 the new design, oboes made after May, 2017

New oboes d'amore:

Puchner

Howarth, Loree, Bulgheroni MUSA, Moennig (tied)

Bulgheroni, Fossati, Marigaux (tied)

New English horns:

Puchner

Howarth (may wish to try with Hiniker bocals) & Rigoutat

& Rigoutat RIEC & Loree & Marigaux & Moennig

“Platinum” (now called “Richard Wagner” model) &

Fossati (“Soloiste” model in Rosewood) & Josef model GS-

2, Fox Maplewood – all tied

New bass oboes:

Rigoutat (try with Loree or Hiniker bocals)
Loree (try with Hiniker bocal)

Student/Intermediate:

Bulgheroni FB091
Howarth
Fox models 330, 300
Rigoutat REIC

Used oboes:

Hiniker -any!
Puchner
Loree B, C, early to mid D, mid-late H, & all of the I series,
Laubin any after serial number AL128
Bulgheroni “Opera” model
Howarth S5XL (especially Cocobolo)
Decker (rare)
Kreul, Kreul/Mirafone, Kreul/Gordet and Kreul stencils
Covey oboes made after 2011
Marigaux mid 1990s, if not cracked
Yamaha model 841 prefer sleeved version
Chauvet BW series especially c. #BW100 – c. #BW330
Rigoutat 1980s (before “Evolution” [avoid] & “Symphony”
[avoid] models), and the “Expression” model
Lym
Jarde'

Used oboes d'amore:

Loree, Puchner, Howarth

Bulgheroni, Fossati, Moennig, Marigaux

Used English horns:

Puchner

Loree Especially B through D series, though just about any made post 1910. Be especially careful when assessing instruments made in the E, F, and G series

Laubin especially "Laubin/Malerne" (pre-mid 1976) and Laubin English horns made after c. 1990

Chauvet BW series

Howarth S5, S5 XL

Marigaux

Josef- late model instruments

Kreul, Kreul/Gordet, Kreul/Mirafone & other Kreul stencils

Malerne, Malerne/Marigaux and a myriad of stencils

Rigoutat and Rigoutat RIEC

Chauvet AC series

Orsi & Orsi stencils ("V. Barcone," "Royal," etc.)

Cabart & Cabart stencils ("Noblet," Mirafone/Cabart, etc.)

Bass Oboes:

Rigoutat try with Loree bocals...

Loree (especially examples made in the 1920s-1930s)

Student oboes:

Kreul

Bulgheroni model FB091

Fox models 330,300

Rigoutat REIC