

Instrument Hot List

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.

As a disclaimer, I should say that I have not yet tried the Fox "Sayen" model oboe, nor the "Fox/Laubin" oboe, nor the Fox Maplewood English horn, nor the Marigaux "M2" model oboe, nor the Marigaux bass oboe, nor the Buffet "Orfeo" oboe, nor instruments by Dupin. The 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 any model

Puchner

Buglheroni "Opera" model (especially Violetwood)

Howarth S5XL model (especially Cocobolo & hard rubber)

Moennig "Albrecht Mayer" model

Covey (especially Honduran Rosewood)

Bulgheroni “MUSA” model (especially Violetwood)
Laubin
Marigaux “Altuglas”
Loree “B Series Copy” (with polymer sleeve in upper joint)
Rigoutat model J
Fossati “Soloiste” (especially Rosewood)
Yamaha 841 prefer with sleeve liner

New oboes d'amore:

Puchner
Howarth, Loree, Bulgheroni MUSA, Moennig (tied)
Bulgheroni, Fossati, Marigaux (tied)
Josef

New English horns:

Puchner (especially to low Bb)
Howarth (may wish to try with Hiniker bocals) &
Loree & Bulgheroni MUSA & Marigaux & Moennig
“Platinum” (now called “Richard Wagner” model) &
Fossati (“Soloiste” model in Rosewood) & Rigoutat} -
(all tied)
Josef

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)

Sierra (Mark Chudnow, MCW)

Kreul, Kreul/Mirafone, Kreul/Gordet and Kreul stencils

Covey especially 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 1970s, 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:

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

Puchner

Chauvet BW series

Howarth S5, S5 XL

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

Marigaux

Malerne, Malerne/Marigaux and a myriad of stencils

Rigoutat (some made in the 1950s-1970s need re-voicing)

Chauvet AC series

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

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

Josef

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