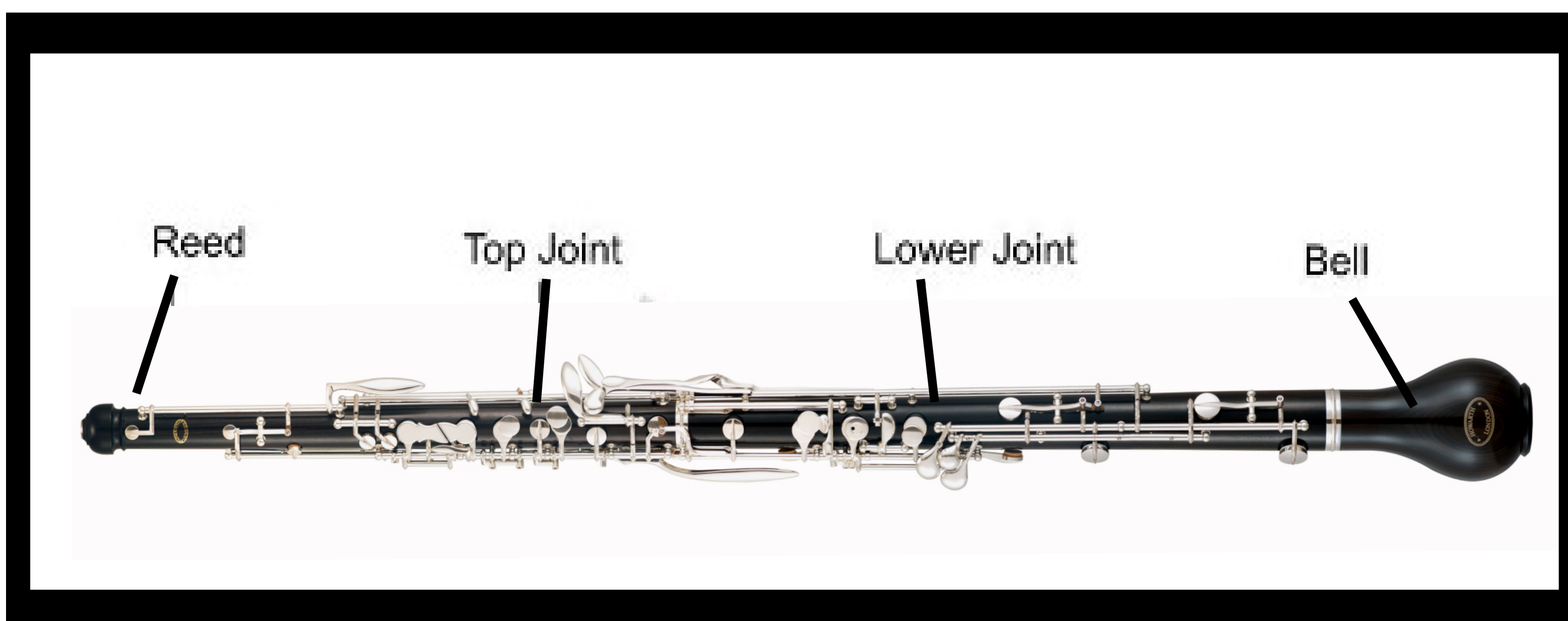


The Cor Anglais



The Facts

- The cor anglais, or English horn, is a double reed instrument in the woodwind family. It is very similar to an oboe, but as it is longer than an oboe it plays lower notes.
- The word "cor anglais" is a French word which literally means "English horn", but the cor anglais is neither English nor a horn.
- Reeds used to play the cor anglais are similar to those used for an oboe, consisting of a piece of cane folded in two. While the cane on an oboe reed is mounted on a small metal tube (the staple) partially covered in cork, there is no such cork on a cor anglais reed, which fits directly on the bocal.
- Instruments are usually made from African blackwood (aka Grenadilla), although some makers offer instruments in a choice of alternative woods as well, such as cocobolo (Howarth) or violet wood (Lorée), which are said to alter the voice of the cor anglais slightly, producing a more mellow sound.
- There are few solo pieces for the instrument, but mostly it is used for solo melodies in slow pieces for orchestra because it can sound very expressive.

Pieces to listen to:

- Alfred Reed's Russian Christmas Music
- Antonín Dvořák's Symphony No. 9 (1893), the New World Symphony (Largo)
- Joaquín Rodrigo's Concierto de Aranjuez (1939) (2nd movement)
- Hector Berlioz's Symphonie fantastique (third movement) (1830)
- Alexander Borodin's Eine Steppenskizze aus Mittelasien

Players to listen to:

Nancy Rumbel
Marcel Ponsele
Jennifer Paull
Heinz Holliger
Francois Leleux
Eugene Izotov