Weekly Focus: The B Note
So far, we have learned C, D, E, F, G, and A on the clarinet. Today, we are going to learn low B. We refer to this as “low B” because it is below the C note that you have already learned. The fingering is like “C” with the addition of the middle finger on your right hand covering the second hole of the bottom joint. Be sure to cover holes completely. This is what the fingering chart for this note looks like:

Warm Up:
We will start off by playing C, D, E, F, G, and A in a row using whole notes. That means you will hold each note for 4 beats before switching to the next note. Try to start each note with your tongue and take a big breath for your best sound. Next, try playing each of these notes for the value of a half note (which means only holding for two beats before moving on). And finally, play them each for the value of a quarter note (which means holding for only 1 beat before moving on).

Let’s continue warming-up our fingers on C, D, E, F, G, and A on the following exercise.

Musical excerpts to Practice B:
Now let’s try playing a B for a whole note, which means 4 beats. Make sure that it sounds lower than the C you played in your warm-up. Next try playing 4 quarter notes (one beat for each quarter note) on the B using your tongue to start each note.

Next, let’s put B into a warm-up song.

#36 Mark Time for Clarinet

And now we are going to try putting B into a song! Let’s play #38 Mary Ann (see below), but before starting, can you find all the B notes in the song? Remember to check your posture and your hand position before starting. Now take a deep breath and play all of #38 Mary Ann.

#38 Mary Ann for Clarinet

Clarinet lesson developed by Liz Harris Scruggs (Bryant/Concord International/Highland Park/Laurelhurst/Roxhill)