

## Reed Assessment

### Taking photos of your reeds

In online settings, camera quality varies greatly. If you'd like to send me pictures of your reeds for specific assessment, here is how to do it with a high-quality format so I can see every detail. Make sure to take these pictures in good lighting – a spotlight, ring light or table lamp is best for capturing details.

**Front/back** (if they look different)



**Bottom**



**Side Profile 1**



**Side Profile 2**



**Tip opening**



## Helpful Description Words

These words will allow me to get a good sense of what you're feeling and hearing, since the sound quality over an internet connection isn't always the best.

**Hard/Soft Flexible Stuffy Tight/Loose Pitchy Sharp/Flat**

**Airy Reedy Dark/Bright Heavy/Light Rough (feel) Unstable**

### Some Questions to consider

When playing normally, is it easy to bend the pitch of E down to what sounds like an E $\flat$ , or does it take a considerable amount of effort?

Is the bottom of the reed black or discolored in any way?

Do the edges look even to you, or are they overlapping?

Is the reed chipped?

Does the tip have a "smile" bend to it, or does the tip meet at the edges with a solid arc?

Are there any notes that stick out to you when you play, either from timbre or pitch?

How long have you been playing on this reed?

Do you get tired quickly playing on this reed?

Is it hard to play piano and forte dynamics?

Crow the reed. Can you hear low AND high pitches, or only high?

Try tonguing a low E at a soft dynamic a few times, at a slow tempo. Does it come out clearly every time using good air, or is it difficult to hit?

Has there been a drastic change in temperature/humidity where you live in the last month?