Studying Privately.....

...with a specialist on your instrument is the fastest way to improve. With individual instruction, you get all the attention for faster progress that others will notice.

Study with me and you can

♫ Develop solid fundamentals in embouchure, finger position and tone
♫ Learn how to maintain your instrument, and select and care for reeds
♫ Conquer major, minor, and chromatic scales, plus thirds and arpeggios
♫ Advance technique with etudes and specialized studies
♫ Become more familiar with music terms plus music history and theory
♫ Use solos and duets to learn how to perform – and then perform
♫ ...and have a good time becoming a better musician

I can help with

❖ Current band and audition music
❖ Selecting and preparing solos and ensembles for competition
❖ Recommendations and selection of step-up instruments
❖ Positive reinforcement, encouragement, direction and support as you progress and achieve

These Gardner-isms are totally free and completely me. You may even hear some of them in your lessons.

♫ Good Grades Do Pay - and I can prove it.
♫ Colleges Pay for those who Play - well!
♫ It doesn’t matter whether you win or lose -- until you lose.
♫ If the notes are on the paper, it is your job to play ALL of them.
♫ If you're going to play it, you might as well play it right.
♫ The view from 1st chair is much better.
♫ Private Lessons can be like paying for college -- one week at a time.
♫ Be prepared: Make sure your parents are getting their money’s worth.
♫ Santa isn’t the only one who knows whether you’ve been bad (no practice) or good.
♫ You can’t sight read in your lesson and get away with it. I’m better than that.
♫ Like the ice skater who misses the quad, missing notes in public can hurt.
♫ Anybody can be mediocre. Not you. Not with me. Don’t even think about it.
♫ You can practice hard now and have fun at performance, or you can have fun now...
♫ Do you really want to pay me to tell you it was good -- if it wasn’t?

If you didn’t disagree with too many of those, then give me a call, claim your time and let’s get started. The sooner you start, the better you can be.

Music Study

CLARINET

SAXOPHONE

MUSIC THEORY

CONDUCTING

John Gardner
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I began clarinet in 5th grade and started taking lessons in 7th. I studied with an expensive teacher who allowed me to do odd jobs to pay for lessons.

In high school I entered 16 solo & ensemble events, receiving 15 (I’s). My high school was inner city with about 2500 students. Our band was small, but we never, ever, lost a competition. I played clarinet and alto sax and spent summers on scholarship at Music Camps at two Kentucky universities. The experience of concerts and recitals every week was great. I was in the KY All-State Band four years and 1st chair senior year.

During the summer before college, I toured Europe and Russia with the US Collegiate Wind Band, a cultural exchange program made up of musicians from 25 states. I was 1st chair clarinet.

I majored in Music Education at the University of Kentucky where I performed on faculty recitals, was winner of the School of Music Concerto Competition and was student conductor of the Concert Band. Summers during college were spent at Camp Crescendo, a marching band camp in Kentucky, where I worked with clarinet sectionals and wrote and taught marching drill.

My wife Joan and I were the Music Department in a small rural school system in Southern Indiana. She had all vocal and I had all instrumental. We didn’t have a football team, but we had a marching band, fielding 93 out of a school of 450. We won our share of competitions, went to state every year and got 4th place in Class C twice.

We left education and moved to Huntington when I went to work for a fundraising company. In 1984 I left and started my own company, which Joan and I still operate.

We have two sons. During their high school tenure, we were very active in both band and choir parent groups. During David’s senior year, I conducted his show choir’s backup band, which won Best Band honors in three of six competitions.

John Jr., has a music degree from Tennessee Tech. Due to his music abilities (trumpet lessons since 7th grade), high SAT scores and National Merit Finalist ranking, TTU awarded him their Presidential Scholarship and waived in-state tuition, the Honors Program waived out-of-state tuition, the Music Dept waived the dorm fees, and the Trumpet Studio gave him $500 per semester. With local and National Merit scholarships, there were semesters when the college gave him a check at registration. Colleges pay for those who play well. He currently administers the Stevens Street School of Performing Arts and is School Board Pres of Highland Rim Academy, both in Cookeville, TN.

David was Valedictorian and ranked #1 in a graduation class of 469, graduating with a perfect grade point. In 2005, he graduated summa cum laude from Duke University with a 3.9 GPA and in the top 1% of his class. 500 of the 1500 in his class were high school valedictorians. In summer of 2003, he spent six weeks studying in Ghana, Africa, and five weeks in San Jose, Costa Rica and the Fall Semester at New York University in Manhattan. Summer of 2004 was spent on a Duke-funded research project in Chile. He was Duke’s sole nominee and received a national $32,000 award for use for any graduate school. He was one of two student commencement speakers. His grad school GRE scores were 780/800 in English and 800/800 in math. Good grades do pay.

David was accepted into 13 grad schools, including Yale, Cornell, Princeton, Columbia, UC Berkeley, Stanford and more. He accepted a full fellowship from Penn and received his PhD in 2013. Beginning Fall of 2013, he will teach at Phillips Academy in Andover, MA.

I am adjunct faculty at Huntington University where I teach Applied Clarinet and Saxophone, play in the Wind Ensemble & Orchestra and have performed on several faculty recitals and in musicals. I teach part time at Huntington North High School as Asst. Band Director. I conducted the Community Strings until they were absorbed into the university’s orchestra.

Joan is a church choir director, teaches music at a private school and can help with piano accompaniment.

Schedule and Charges

I work on site with area students and via Skype for non-local students and charge $48 per month (3-5 weekly lessons prepaid) or $15 per session and can invoice by paypal. I offer a FREE 15-minute session (based on availability) for remote students to evaluate me and this concept.