

## Articulation

1. In order to articulate well, one should use the tip of the tongue, or as near to the tip of the tongue as possible, depending on the length of one's tongue. It should make contact with the reed at the tip, or as near to the tip as possible. The proper place on both the tongue and reed depends greatly on the person and model of mouthpiece. Experimentation is the best way to find the precise technique that sounds best. Be sure that once the best places on the mouthpiece and tongue have been found that they are used exclusively.
2. The placement of the tongue in the mouth is very important to one's ability to articulate. The tongue should be relatively high in the back with the tip a little lower so that it can touch the reed. The tip of the tongue should be held as close to the mouthpiece as possible at all times.
3. If the embouchure or throat moves while tonguing, there is a problem with the technique one is using. If the embouchure is moving, one needs to work on further developing strength in his or her embouchure.
4. If the throat is moving, there may be one of these problems:
  - A. One may be stopping the air with the throat instead of, or in addition to, the tongue. Be sure you are blowing through the clarinet while using the tongue to only interrupt the air. The air does not assist in articulation.
  - B. One may be moving the tongue too much when articulating. The tip of the tongue is the only part that needs to move when tonguing. Moving too much tongue will also make it difficult to tongue rapidly.
  - C. One may not be using the tip of the tongue to articulate. Be sure that you are not tonguing using the middle of the tongue or touching any part of the mouthpiece or mouth other than near the tip of the reed. Also, you should not be depending on the throat to articulate. The throat should be relatively relaxed when playing and there should be no straining or tightening of it when playing.