



Howarth of London

*artistry*  
&  
*excellence*

# Howarth Professional Oboes

Howarth professional oboes were developed to fulfil the demands and expectations of the world's finest players. In collaboration with top oboists we have created three prestige instruments. The XL, XM and LXV models are found in the greatest orchestras worldwide, and are played by many of the finest solo artists of international repute.

Handmade by our most experienced craftsmen, the accuracy and fine tolerances used during the manufacturing stage give a clean, quick action allowing a musician to play with confidence. Each oboe has a flexible diversity of tone giving the freedom to perform with great elegance and character.

Howarth professional oboes are available in either high density Grenadilla or in Cocobolo (*Dalbergia retusa*). Cocobolo is a lighter, lower density wood which produces a warm, rich palette, offering a distinct alternative in timbre. Our professional oboes have metal socket liners and metal sleeved tenons, offering greater protection and durability to the instrument and better mechanical security. The keywork is finished in a generous layer of silver plate. Gold plating is available to special order.

The XL, XM and LXV oboes have been carefully designed to accommodate a player's individual style and requirements, taking into consideration the desired sound and response from the instrument. The XL with its large bore and wall thickness has been developed to give a big sound with classical projection. In contrast, the XM has thinner walls than the XL and a smaller bore producing a continental dark sound. The LXV is the newest oboe in our collection and combines the thicker walls of the XL with the smaller bore of the XM to give an instrument with powerful projection and a continental dark sound.

Howarth professional oboes are supplied in a bespoke solid wood case lined with green velvet. The case is protected by a Howarth professional oboe case cover. The instrument is supplied with premium accessories, including a wooden grease pot and a screwdriver with wooden embellishment, made and designed in our workshops.



Howarth professional oboes are supplied in a bespoke solid wood case lined with green velvet.



Keywork is finished in a generous layer of silver plate. Gold plating is available to special order.



The adjustable thumbrest on all our professional models gives added comfort whilst playing.



All our professional oboes have metal socket liners and metal sleeved tenons.



The XL, XM & LXV oboes have a Philadelphia link, the double adjusting screw on the C touchpiece.



Howarth oboes have a series of adjusting screws for fine tuning.



# Howarth VT and Synthetic Instruments

All Howarth instruments are made from wood seasoned naturally in our workshops. This is a process that takes many years as the wood is left to rest between each manufacturing process. The time taken to fully prepare and mature the wood gives Howarth our reputation for crafting instruments from high quality woods.

All woods naturally respond to the ambient humidity and temperature of the surrounding atmosphere. The main woods from which we make our instruments, Grenadilla (*Dalbergia melanoxylon*) and Cocobolo (*Dalbergia retusa*), are no exception. High levels of humidity will cause the wood to expand whilst drier air will cause the wood to contract.

If an instrument is played in a country or venue with either a hot or cold dry atmosphere, the player's moist breath going through the middle of the instrument can cause the wood to move slightly in different directions, causing stress to the wood. This can also happen in particularly cold environments and buildings as the player's warm breath can also cause movement in the wood.

## Velvet Throat

To counteract the risk of splitting, we have developed a special sleeve made from synthetic material to partially line the bore of the instruments' top joint. We call this the "Velvet Throat" (VT) option. It offers added protection by creating a barrier between the breath of the player and the wood of the instrument at the instruments' most vulnerable point.

There is never a 100% guarantee that the joints of an instrument will not crack. They are made from a natural material that responds to ambient conditions for many decades after manufacture. Our feedback from players gives us confidence that an instrument with the Howarth Velvet Throat can avoid cracking in ambient humidity as low as 15% and occasionally even lower.

## Synthetic Instruments

For further protection we offer joints made entirely from synthetic materials. Made from resins which have been carefully chosen for their acoustic properties, these materials are not vulnerable to variations in humidity or temperature and therefore offer complete protection against splitting.

Velvet Throats are available on the S20c, S40c, S50c and all professional oboes. They are also available on S20c and S40c English horns and XL English horns and oboes d'amore. Synthetic joints are available to special order. There are additional costs for these options.



A collaboration of  
the finest craftsmanship  
and the very best of  
modern technology

