***BRIMS Uilleann Pipe Rental/Loaner Program-Pipe Kit Care and Management***

This **BRIMS Rental Uilleann Pipe Practice Set** is a very good quality instrument. It has been inspected, and is currently in good working order. As you begin to play, you will realize the pipes performance/sound will be affected by room temperature and humidity. Your instructor will guide you through basic reed adjustments.

**Follow the guidelines below. Contact BRIMS Piping if you have any issues, problems, concerns.**

***General Pipe Kit Care:***

* **Do not make any changes or alterations to any part of the kit.**
* Do not take the chanter cap off until instructed how to do so by your instructor.
* Do not attempt to adjust the chanter reed until instructed
* Never blow into the chanter/reed with your mouth.
* Store the pipes in a climate-controlled location. It’s ok to leave it out to ease practicing, but make sure it is safe from pets, siblings, etc. Keep your chanter in its protective case.
* Position the bellows with the air intake down. This helps to extend the life of the flapper valve.
* Take care when walking with your pipes. Hold the chanter body firmly with two hands- not the chanter cap. (Dropping the chanter on the floor can result in severe damage)
* If travelling by air/rail/bus, **never** “check” your pipes. Always keep them with your person.
* Be very cautious allowing untrained people to play your pipes. Over-blowing the reed can cause damage.

***Weather Related:***

* The chanter/reed will be influenced by temperature and humidity.
* Your pipes will generally like temps from mid 60’s to mid 70’s.
* Depending on your reed- typically humidity levels in the 50’s.
* **NEVER** leave your pipes inside a car if the **inside car temp** warmer than the 80’s or colder than the 50’s. Very hot temps and very cold temps can cause the wood to crack- and/or damage the reed.
* You will notice changes with the reeds when the climate changes from winter to Spring- and from fall to winter. Consider adding a small humidifier to your practice room when the climate is very dry.

***Maintenance:***

* Your instructor will guide you through basic chanter reed adjustments that can be made to improve the chanter sound. Do not attempt until instructed in the proper technique.
* Keep your pipe kit and bag clean. Use only a dry cloth to clean your pipes.
* If you have animals in your practice room- you will have animal hair in your pipe kit. Periodically clean any visible hair from the intake, connections, and reed.
* The wood components of your pipes will swell and contract with temperature changes. You may need to add windings onto the cork joint(s) as it gets colder- and remove as it gets warmer. Ask you instructor for assistance the first few times. Try to use a colored silk or polyester thread- that makes is easier to remove when the temps increase.
* Check your case regularly to make sure all of the straps and secure and functioning.
* The Brass chanter cap will get a lovely patina on it in no time. Do Not attempt to polish.
* The BRIMS Rental Kit needs to be visually inspected at the end of the specified contract time.
* **Report any issues with the kit to BRIMS as soon as you are aware.**