Prologue

It is astonishing how many firms nowadays make oboes, oboes d'amore, English horns, and bass oboes of sublime quality. I have listed below some of my favorite instruments at the moment.

This list is organized in approximate order of preference, though subject to change at a moment's notice.

New piccolo oboes (oboes musette):

Patricola

New oboes:

Hiniker     any model
Puchner     (especially Violetwood)
Buglheroni “Opera” model (especially Violetwood)
Howarth LXV & S5XL models (especially Cocobolo)
Moennig   “Albrecht Mayer” model
Covey       (especially Honduran Rosewood)
Bulgheroni “MUSA” model (especially Violetwood)
Laubin
Marigaux   “Altuglas” and Model 901, especially with polymer top joint
Fox “Sayen” model
Loree “B Series Copy” (with polymer sleeve in upper joint)
Rigoutat model J
Josef GS-2 (the “top of the line” model)
Fossati especially “MB” model in exotic wood
Buffet - “Orfeo” model
Yamaha 831 the new design, oboes made after May, 2017

New oboes d'amore:

Puchner
Howarth, Loree, Bulgheroni MUSA, Moennig (tied)
Bulgheroni, Fossati, Marigaux (tied)

New English horns:

Puchner
Howarth (may wish to try with Hiniker bocals) & Rigoutat
& Rigoutat RIEC & Loree & Marigaux & Moennig
“Platinum” (now called “Richard Wagner” model) &
Fossati (“Soloiste” model in Rosewood) & Josef model GS-2, Fox Maplewood – all tied

New bass oboes:

Rigoutat (try with Loree or Hiniker bocals)
Loree  (try with Hiniker bocal)

**Student/Intermediate:**

**Bulgheroni FB091**  
**Howarth**  
**Fox models 330, 300**  
**Rigoutat REIC**

**Used oboes:**

**Hiniker** -any!  
**Puchner**  
**Loree  B, C, early to mid D, mid-late H, & all of the I series**  
**Laubin  any after serial number AL128**  
**Bulgheroni “Opera” model**  
**Howarth S5XL (especially Cocobolo)**  
**Decker  (rare)**  
**Kreul, Kreul/Mirafone, Kreul/Gordet and Kreul stencils**  
**Covey  oboes made after 2011**  
**Marigaux  mid 1990s, if not cracked**  
**Yamaha  model 841 prefer sleeved version**  
**Chauvet BW series especially c. #BW100 – c. #BW330**  
**Rigoutat 1980s (before “Evolution” [avoid] & “Symphony” [avoid] models), and the “Expression” model**  
**Lym**  
**Jarde'**
Used oboes d'amore:

Loree, Puchner, Howarth
Bulgheroni, Fossati, Moennig, Marigaux

Used English horns:

Puchner
Loree  Especially B through D series, though just about any made post 1910.  Be especially careful when assessing instruments made in the E, F, and G series
Laubin  especially “Laubin/Malerne” (pre-mid 1976) and Laubin English horns made after c. 1990
Chauvet   BW series
Howarth  S5, S5 XL
Marigaux
Josef-  late model instruments
Kreul, Kreul/Gordet, Kreul/Mirafone & other Kreul stencils
Malerne, Malerne/Marigaux and a myriad of stencils
Rigoutat and Rigoutat RIEC
Chauvet AC series
Orsi & Orsi stencils (“V. Barcone,” “Royal,” etc.)
Cabart & Cabart stencils (“Noblet,” Mirafone/Cabart, etc.)

Bass Oboes:

Rigoutat  try with Loree bocals...
Loree (especially examples made in the 1920s-1930s)

**Student oboes:**

*Kreul*
*Bulgheroni model FB091*
*Fox models 330,300*
*Rigoutat  REIC*