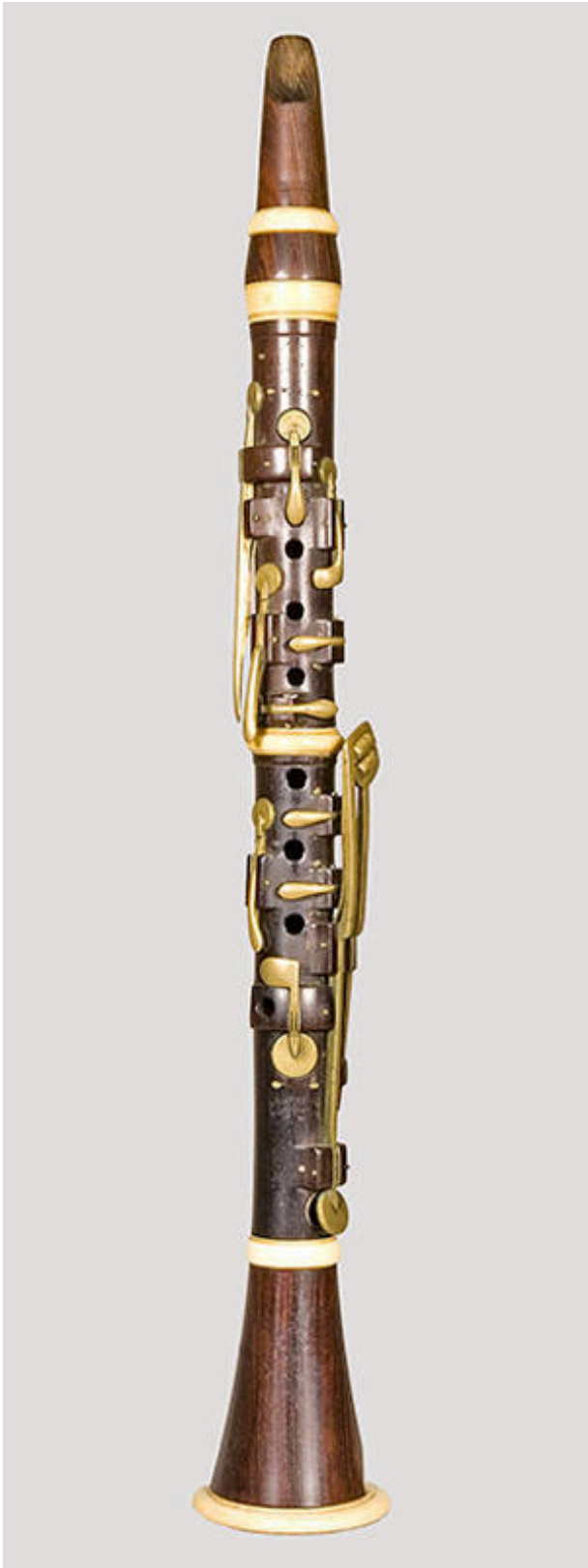


Basic Detail Report



Clarinet, E-flat

Date

1832-1845 ca.

Primary Maker

Graves & Co.

Description

4 sections: barrel, top joint, bottom joint, bell. Simple system; 13 brass keys with flat, round covers, mounted in blocks, with flat springs attached to keys; cocus wood (Brya Ebenus) body; ivory ferrules; touchpieces of E/B and F-sharp/C-sharp keys are furnished with brass rollers; integral thumbrest; wooden mouthpiece (not original) and mouthpiece cup; original wooden case. This clarinet is well-made and shows a high degree of craftsmanship. It would certainly be classified as up-to-date with its European counterparts. Unlike most other American clarinets from the time, including other Graves clarinets, this instrument is made from cocus rather than boxwood. The reinforced mounts, the brass saddles, and the cocus wood construction indicate that Graves must have intended this instrument to endure time, and, maybe, to be used under less-than-ideal circumstances. Perhaps, it was intended for the military. Samuel Graves (1794-1878) began making woodwind instruments in West Fairlee, Vermont, in 1824. Graves subsequently moved to Winchester, New Hampshire, in order to tap into water power from a dam on the Ashuelot river, and opened a new workshop there in 1827, along with three partners (Graves & Alexander). From 1832, the company was known as Graves & Co., the first to challenge European instrument makers in the American market, with a larger production and a more extensive line of instruments than any other American firm before the Civil War.

Dimensions

(all measurements exclude tenons) Overall length (from tip of mouthpiece to bottom of bell): 489 mm
Overall length (from top of barrel to bottom of bell): 429 mm Barrel: 36 mm Top joint: 132 mm Bottom

joint: 161 mm Bell: 92 mm Bore at top at top joint: 12.6 mm Bore at bottom of top joint: 11.5 Bore at bottom of bottom joint: 17.9 mm