

Beginning Trumpet Solutions

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Idaho Music Educators Association

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University of Idaho

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Thursday, February 1, 1:00 p.m.- 2:00 p.m. – University of Idaho

Fundamentals of Tone

- Wind
 - Breathing Gym Book & DVD
 - Swinging the racquet
 - Paper Airplane
 - Spirometer
 - Cyclic motion of air without suspension
- Vibration
 - “M” Face
 - Coffee stir straw
 - Buzzing (free and with mouthpiece)
 - Buzz simple lips slurs with a slight glissando
 - Buzz simple, smooth melodies (Twinkle Twinkle, Somewhere Over the Rainbow, The Christmas Song, America, etc...)
- Embouchure
 - 50/50 placement between top & bottom
 - Start in center, deviation can happen
 - Firm corners, flat chin, soft lips

Balanced Set-up

- Left Hand
 - Healthy handshake, don't squeeze
 - 3rd valve slide ring position (they need to use it!)
 - Palm remains perpendicular to floor
- Right Hand
 - 'C' curve, thumb between 1st & 2nd valves, pinky above hook
- Arms
 - Elbows out from torso so ribcage isn't constricted
 - Relaxed, a tense left hand sends signals through your arms and shoulders that you are about to lift a heavy weight
- Head
 - Lifted, “swan neck” – teach proper posture from the beginning without instrument

First Notes

- Have students play their first note without restricting them to one pitch.
- Low C or 2nd line G will probably sound - Gradually bring the class to the pitch that is predominant.

- Model, Hum, Buzz, Play - Routine, Repetition, Retention
- Flexibility - Speed of air flow, Tongue shape and function, Aperture size
 - Whistle
 - Blow on palm, Direct air to elbow
 - Airplane, Race car, Siren (vocalize then buzz)
 - Slur G down to C - Don't feel hurried to slur up.
 - Call & response through each fingering (0, 2, 1, 12, 23, 13, 123)
 - Creative buzzing - melodies, matching rhythms, student-led

Concept of Sound

- Live examples, videos (keep a growing list of videos for each instrument)
- Vocabulary to reinforce concepts for positive & negative feedback – warm, open, full, rich, healthy, dark, vibrant, resonant ----- weak, brittle, unhealthy, thin, fuzzy, harsh, wimpy, tight, pinched, nasal, airy
- Singing is critical!
- Private lessons – If local teachers are unavailable, Skype makes the world a smaller place. Consider keeping a record of qualified teachers for different instruments to offer parents. Encourage them to consider lessons. Plenty of achievements are for the taking to those who put in that extra work.

Articulation

- Relative to pitch placement
 - A high tonal center will result in more cracked or missed notes.
- Connect the dots
 - The tongue interrupts the air without stopping it
 - Avoid taking staccato markings too literally
- Consistency in attack
 - All notes begin the same way regardless of length or volume
- Multiple tonguing
 - Slow and steady wins the race
 - Match the T and K tongue with simple rhythmic patterns
 - Increase tempo as the articulations match
 - As one pitch becomes consistent move on to changing notes.

Technique

- Scales
 - Slur and tongue
 - Memorize – muscle memory will improve sight reading
 - Simple mode of assessment – in person or SmartMusic
- Technical studies
 - Focus on time (Drum Beats+ app)

- Fermatas on selected notes to check air stream
- Pop valves down quickly (unscrew valve caps to hear clicks)

Flexibility

- Lip slurs
 - Listen for telegraphing
 - Move in time
 - Ease into leaps over one partial

Intonation

- Make sure slides are movable!
 - Don't rely solely on them
- Play with a drone (Tonal Energy app)
 - Lock intervals and listen for overtones

Routine

- Establish a routine in class that transfers to at-home practice and allows them to demonstrate the following at the end of the first semester:
 - Proper breathing
 - Buzz freely
 - Acceptable tone supported with full breath
 - Tongue smoothly without stopping air
 - Flexibility on mouthpiece and instrument
 - Basic understanding of counting system
- More advanced routine will include (yes, even middle school)
 - Long tones
 - Flow studies
 - Scales
 - Technical studies
 - Etudes
 - Solos
 - Jazz literature & improvisation

Thank you for attending! Please contact me if you have any questions or have interest in setting up a masterclass/clinic for your students.

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