

Colorado Music Educators Convention
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Trombone: The DIFFERENT Wind Instrument
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GOALS, TARGET GROUPS, CLINIC STRUCTURE

- Something for teachers: those teaching beginner, middle, and advanced players
- Something for players
- Something for rehearsals: fundamentals checklist

BASICS: BEFORE PLAYING

Beginner method books

- Issues with some of the pedagogy
- Rote to note: learn the horn BEFORE learning reading

Instrument assembly

- Removal from case / replacing in case: allowing time for this

Holding the trombone

- Posture: standing posture to sitting
- Left hand
- Right hand
- Right elbow

Maintenance and repair

- Slide lube
 - Oil
 - Trombone slide grease and water
- Damage and not working (What can happen and how?)

BASICS: STARTING TO PLAY

First notes

- High/middle/low notes (Where am I?)
- Holding first notes (brass versus woodwinds and percussion)
- Simple tunes by ear

Slide positions

- First positions to teach: 1, 3, 4, 6
- All 7 positions: 2, 5, 7
- Alternate positions: D and F

Aural teaching: “Rote-to-Note”

- Issues with beginner method books and when reading is taught before playing

Introducing note reading: “Building on Rote-to-Note Skills”

- What happens when reading is added to playing
- One thing at a time

PLAYING FUNDAMENTALS

Physiology

- Face: muscles and embouchure
- Breathing
 - Inhale: low and high
 - Exhale: relaxed release only using relaxation pressure
 - Tension inhibits inhale
 - Muscles go 1 way (except for the tongue)
- Embouchure
 - Setup
 - Mouthpiece placement
 - Yes it can move depending on range
 - Lips MUST touch
 - Jaw position
 - Horn / head angle
- Dual function of the tongue
 - Front does articulation
 - Rear does range and tone
- Tone
 - Dual function of the tongue: BACK of the tongue
 - Tongue and jaw
- Air speed
 - Speeding up air (there are several ways to do this)
- Breathing
 - TRANSITION: passive to active breathing (playing compared to running)
 - Comparing instruments: Air pressure versus air quantity
 - Air placement
 - Simple breathing exercises
- Blowing
 - Fast and slow air instruments
- Range
 - Orbicularis
 - Lower lip
 - Chin
 - Lower lip rip
- Buzzing
 - Tube
 - Covering the end for back pressure
- Articulation
 - Dual function of the tongue: FRONT is for articulation
 - Single tongue basics
 - Marcato (tuh)
 - Legato/tenuto (duh)
 - Articulating slurs to match instruments who can slur

- Except for advanced players, have trombones tongue EVERYTHING (no natural slurs)
 - Staccato: not short but detached
 - Multiple
 - Double
 - Triple
 - Doodle
 - Double doodle
 - Triple doodle
- Intonation
 - Just and Tempered tuning
 - Drones
 - Chords
 - Remington exercise
 - Making waves
 - The dangers of a tuner
 - Teaching good tone versus using a tuner
 - Tuners set pitch level while ears and willingness to adjustment make it good in music
 - 6th partial on brass
 - 3rd of the major chord
- Developing speed and accuracy
 - Approximation then Refinement
 - Arrival notes
 - Slow slide with fast tongue: the BS factor
- Repertoire that challenges and motivates
 - Solos
 - Chamber music
 - Honor groups

OTHER GEAR AND TROMBONES

- F attachment
- Bass trombone
 - Attachments
 - F (6 positions)
 - D (5 positions)
 - Remington exercise to learn attachments

RECRUITING AND RETAINING STUDENTS

- Motivating students: upbeats don't cut it
- Events: honor groups, solo and ensemble
- Talk: make problem instruments IMPORTANT
- Feature pieces
- Student models
- Guest artists

PLAYING MODELS FOR STUDENTS TO IMITATE

- Models of classical tenor trombone playing
 - Joe Alessi
 - Christian Lindberg
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- Models of classical bass trombone playing
 - Charles Vernon
 - Randall Hawes
 - John Rojak
- Models of jazz trombone playing
 - Carl Fontana
 - JJ Johnson
 - Frank Rosolino
 - John Allred
 - Wycliffe Gordon
- YouTube
- Checklists like flying: trombone checklist

Contacting me

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Fundamentals Checklist for Wind Instruments

Tone

Time

Tuning

Rhythms

Breathing in

Blowing out

Posture

Hand position

Articulation

Intonation

Balance

Blend

Technique

Musical interpretation

Models of fine players

Motivation

Equipment maintenance

Variety of music

Dynamics

Range