

**The Midwest Clinic**  
***Let's Play the Saxophone!***  
***ABCs of Classical Saxophone Performance***

**Otis Murphy**

Professor of Music (Saxophone)  
Indiana University Jacobs School of Music  
Email: [omurphy@indiana.edu](mailto:omurphy@indiana.edu)  
Homepage: [www.otismurphy.com](http://www.otismurphy.com)

**Equipment**

The Instrument  
The Mouthpiece  
Reeds  
The Ligature  
Care of the Saxophone

**Tone Production**

Breathing  
Posture  
Inhalation  
-Silent Inhalation  
Exhalation  
Catch Breath  
Embouchure  
Formation/Position  
Mouthpiece Exercises  
-The 3 Steadies: Tone, Pitch & Volume  
Sound  
Tonal Concept  
Intonation  
-Mouthpiece Position on the Instrument  
-Dynamics  
-Tuning the Attack  
Resonance  
Tone-Building Exercises  
Vibrato  
Producing the Vibrato  
Exercises for Vibrato

## Articulation

- Kinds of Articulation
  - Tip-To-Tip Tonguing & Anchor Tonguing
- Articulation Exercises
  - Breath Attacks
  - Stop Tonguing
  - Speed Exercises
  - Note Releases
  - Low Register/High Register Attacks

## Technique

- Playing Posture (Standing & Sitting)
- Hand & Finger Positions
  - The Saxophone Keyboard
  - The Octave Key & Crossing the Break
  - Basic Technique: Scales, Arpeggios & Articulation
  - Wide Intervals
  - Alternate & Advanced Fingerings

## The Saxophone Section in the Concert Band (Soprano, Alto, Tenor & Baritone)

- Each Saxophone is Special: Tone, Tuning & Response
- The Balance Pyramid

## Musicality

- The 4 Ts: Tone, Tuning, Tonguing & Technique
- Standardized Markings in Music
- Tempo
  - Fast/Slow & Loud/Soft
- Rhythm
  - Mnemonic Devices
  - Duples, Triples & Beyond
- Melody & Harmony
  - Harmonic Progressions & Chromaticism
- Dynamics
  - Balance, Tuning Tendencies & Tone Quality
- Types of Attacks & Releases

## Practicing

- The Peripheral Studies
- Rhythmic Skip Drills
- The Anacrusis and Syncopation
- The Drone