



FROST
SCHOOL OF MUSIC
UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI

JUPITER®

Investing in Fundamentals: Recruiting, Training and Retaining Low Brass Players

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Wednesday, December 19, 2012
10:30 – 11:30 am, Room W179

Recruiting Approaches

1. We can only be as good as our *foundation*.
 - a. We need smart people.
 - b. We need you to become fine musicians.
 - c. We will have the same expectations as all the other instruments.

2. “We can only be as good as our foundation, which we will build our whole band upon.” Explain the importance of “foundation function!”
 - a. Low brass is:
 - Bottom of the “sound pyramid.” “We will build the band on your sound!”
 - Explain “meltdown” or successful group tone.
 - “We will tune to *you!*” You will develop an ear for music.
 - You will be a key influencer of the *dynamics*.

3. Who should take low brass?
 - a. Students

Training Low Brass Students

1. Air
 - a. Breathing Gym!
 - b. Wind pattern parts, melodies.
 - Sing it with fingers.
 - Wind-pattern it or wind horn it with fingers.
 - Buzz it with fingers.
 - Play it.

2. Ear
 - a. Listen! (Service Band recordings)
 - b. Do *accurate* mouthpiece buzzing drills.
 - c. Learn melodies by ear (learning the song to better play the bass line).
 - d. Do active intonation study (drones, scale and chord rounds).

3. Technique
 - a. Sound production
 - Clarity via mouthpiece buzzing
 - Hybrid long tone studies
 - Loud, low legato studies
 - Same note play-through on “lowest note”
 - b. *Move!!!* We will have the same expectations as all of the other instruments in the band.
 - Slow-practice with character.
 - Move incrementally faster.
 - Always be team building.

Retaining

1. Recruit for leadership.
2. Create a low brass ensemble or include feature sections.
3. Create a low brass cheer group (travelling band).
4. Do “playoffs” using treble clef expectations in range, tempo, etc.

Books every band director should have:

1. For all low brass players:
 - a. Arban’s Method for Euphonium and Trombone, edited by Brian Bowman and Joseph Alessi
 - b. Breathing Gym (DVDs and book), Patrick Sheridan and Sam Pilafian
 - c. Brass Gym, Patrick Sheridan and Sam Pilafian
 - d. 15 Minute Warm Up, Michael Davis
 - e. Selected Duets, Rubank compilation

2. Trombone books
 - a. Advanced Method, Rubank
 - b. Studies in Legato, Reginald Fink
 - c. Method for Trombone, Ernest Clarke
 - d. 40 Progressive Etudes, Sigmund Hering

3. Euphonium books
 - a. Melodious Etudes Book 1, Bordogni/Rochut
 - b. Selected Studies, Voxman
 - c. Any of the trombone books

4. Tuba books
 - a. 60 Studies for Tuba, Kopprasch
 - b. Studies for Tuba Book 1, Blasevich
 - c. Legato Etudes, Bordogni
 - d. 40 Etudes for Tuba, Tyrell