

Chamber Music – The Path to Excellence in Your Band

Presented by

AXIOM BRASS

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Dorival Puccini, Jr. - trumpet

Bryant Millet – trumpet

Matthew Oliphant – horn

Brett Johnson – trombone

Kevin Harrison - tuba

The Axiom Brass would like to thank the Music Institute of Chicago and Mutec Mutes for sponsoring this clinic presentation

*The Midwest Clinic
An International Band and Orchestra Clinic
December 17, 2010*

Clinic Synopsis

This clinic focuses on using chamber music as a medium to help students improve their technique and musicianship, as well as their ensemble etiquette, confidence and leadership. Furthermore, it explores long-term benefits of chamber music such as personal growth and ability to work as a team. Lastly, the clinic will demonstrate how these same chamber music techniques can be paralleled in large ensemble rehearsals, thus showing how a chamber music approach to large ensemble can create a more rewarding musical experience. Excerpts from traditional and alternative repertoire will be performed and discussed throughout the clinic.

Biography



Praised for their “high level of musicality and technical ability” and for their “clean, clear and precise sound”, the award-winning Axiom Brass Quintet has quickly established itself as “one of the major art music groups in brass chamber music.” Winners of the 2008 International Chamber Brass Competition and prize-winners of the 2010 Fischhoff Chamber Music Competition, the Preis der Europa-Stadt Passau, the Plowman Chamber Music Competition, and the Jeju City International Brass Quintet Competition in South Korea, the Axiom Brass is dedicated to enhancing the musical life of communities across the globe and educating the next generation of musicians.

Axiom’s commitment to education and their blend of virtuosic performances and dynamic teaching have inspired young audiences around the nation, earning the ensemble the 2010 Fischhoff Educator Award. Their educational concert “Let’s Make Music” has captivated thousands of elementary and middle school students in the USA.

Internationally recognized for their groundbreaking programming, their repertoire ranges from jazz and Latin music to string quartet transcriptions, as well as original compositions for brass quintet. Axiom Brass’ performances have captured the hearts and imaginations of their audiences, leading the ensemble to national radio and television appearances as well as concerts in Asia, Europe and across the USA.

Highlights of Axiom’s 2010-11 season includes their return to Europe, the Axiom Brass Summer Academy, the release of their debut album “New Standards,” a clinic and performance at the Midwest Clinic, as well as recitals, masterclasses and solo appearances with orchestras and bands around the USA.

The Axiom Brass is an Ensemble-in-Residence at the Music Institute of Chicago and performs exclusively on Mutec Mutes.

The Axiom Brass album, “New Standards,” has been released and is available for purchase at **www.axiombass.com**. By purchasing this CD, all profits will go to the outreach program, *Music for All*, which allows Axiom Brass to bring the joy of classical music to underprivileged communities so that young people everywhere can experience the power and beauty of music.

PRACTICAL TECHNIQUES

Articulation

- Air Articulations – Start each note with air alone (without the use of the tongue).
- Work with what you know – To improve a style of articulation start with a comfortable articulation first, then gradually work your way toward the desired articulation.
- Mix and Match – Have the ability to mix dynamics, articulations, and note lengths with the utmost control.

Choose one from each category

Dynamic

p, mf, f

Articulation

> _ .

Note Length

half, quarter, 8th, 16th

Slurring

- Buzzing – Buzz loudly and use plenty of air! A slur is a fast glissando, so keep the buzz smooth and even.
- Sing, Subdivide, Flutter – First sing the slurred passage. Second, play the passage subdivided using the shortest note as the division. Finally, play the passage flutter tongued (rolling your tongue like the Spanish “rr”) but continue to think of the subdivision.

Multiple Tonguing

- Slow – Play the passage very slowly (comparatively speaking). Keep the “T” and “K” articulations the same.
- Play the passage slowly using only the “K” tongue.

Range

- Play by comparison – If passage is too high, play down an octave. If too low, play up an octave. Also, transpose into different keys.
- Be patient. Building range is a slow process.

Dynamic Flexibility

- Play by comparison – Start with a comfortable dynamic and slowly get louder/quieter keeping the sound the same.

General Flexibility

- Start with small sections and slowly add measure by measure, note by note, etc.
- Slur tongued passages, tongue slurred passages. Be creative!

HOW TO LISTEN

- Focus on other instruments. Be able to sing others’ musical lines.
- Be able to compare recordings – Go beyond the “like or dislike” level. Why do you like it? What makes it great? How would you describe the sound?
- Listen & Emulate – Don’t ignore other instruments. Be able to emulate the qualities of a different instrument without losing the characteristics of your own instrument.

INTERACTIONS

Ensemble Exercises

- Breath together, play together – Start music by focusing on the breath alone.
- Look at each other – Play passages with music stands as low as possible and make as much eye contact as you can.
- Dynamic Cues – Play music where every phrase is at a different dynamic. The dynamic change should not be planned, but should be initiated with visual cues (e.g. trumpet player's bell).

Rehearsal Etiquette

- Always be constructive – when a member gives a comment make sure there is positive feedback accompanying it.
- Always be respectful!

SUGGESTED CHAMBER ENSEMBLES FOR LISTENING

Brass Quintet

American Brass Quintet
Axiom Brass Quintet
Meridian Arts Ensemble
Stockholm Chamber Brass

americanbrassquintet.org
axiombrass.com
meridianartsensemble.com
stockholmchamberbrass.com

Woodwind Quintet

Borealis Wind Quintet
New York Woodwind Quintet

borealiswindquintet.com
nywq.org

String Quartet

Emerson String Quartet
Kronos Quartet
Pacifica Quartet
Turtle Island Quartet

emersonquartet.com
kronosquartet.org
pacificaquartet.com
turtleislandquartet.com

Piano Trios

Ahn Trio
Beaux Arts Trio
Claremont Trio
Eroica Trio

ahntrio.com
beauxartstrio.org
claremonttrio.com
eroicatrio.com

Other

Eighth Blackbird

eighthblackbird.com