

WHAT DO I DO WHEN I HEAR THAT?

2022 Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic
Chicago, IL
McCormick Place W181
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**WHAT DREW YOU TO THIS
CLINIC?**

This is a Mentimeter activity.





SETTING THE SCENE



“

WHAT DO (WOULD) YOU DO?





SESSION GOALS

Highlight common concerns

Provide specific pedagogy

Share timely techniques





SESSION STRUCTURE

Instrument Concerns/Specifics

Large Group Implications

Question & Answer



FLUTE

- Airy, Thin Sound
- Breathing Between Notes
 - Air Articulation
- Incorrect/Inconsistent Octave



FLUTE TROUBLESHOOTING

Airy, Thin Sound

- Wide/Misplaced Aperture
 - Mirror
- Airstream Direction
 - Danger of Soda Bottle
- Incorrect Hand Position
- “Skip Hit”, Thumb, Pinkies, Holes

Breathing Between Notes / Air Articulation

- Breath Control
 - Exercises Daily
 - Successive Approximation
- Understanding Articulation
 - Teach from Instrument Testing
 - Faucet Analogy

Inconsistent Octave

- Air Speed
- Headjoint Position
- Posture

SINGLE REED INSTRUMENTS



CLARINET/SAXOPHONE

- Squeaking, Shrill Sounds
- Weak, Flat Tone
- Unfocused, Foghorn Sound
- Uncontrollably Loud
- Sudden Sound

SINGLE REED TROUBLESHOOTING

Squeaking, Shrill

- Biting
- Instrument Angle
- Not Covering Holes
- Embouchure
 - Tighter Corners
 - Less Bottom Lip
- Reed Too Soft; Overblowing

Weak, Flat Tone

- Low Tongue Position
 - “Angry Cat”
- Slow Air
- Improper Embouchure

Unfocused Sound

- Fast Air without Embouchure Support
- Corners Not Firm
 - Chin vs Corners
- Too Much Mouthpiece

SINGLE REED TROUBLESHOOTING

Uncontrollably Loud

- Soft Reed
- Overblowing
- Leaks

No Sound to Sudden Sound

- Hard Reed
- Leaky Instrument
- Inconsistent Embouchure
 - Means They're Trying!

MENTIMETER



DOUBLE REED INSTRUMENTS

- Reed Issues
- Embouchure Issues
- Tone Issues



Double Reeds Troubleshooting

Reed:

- Check/Rotate Reed
- Soaked vs Unsoaked
- Damaged, Frayed, etc.

Embouchure:

- Amount of reed in embouchure
- Instrument/Head Angle

Sound/Intonation:

- Intonation Issues: check reed/ embouchure;
 - unstable sound on reed= unstable intonation
- In general:
 - flat= more support (air, reed, or embouchure) is needed
 - sharp= less support (air, reed, or embouchure) is needed
- Blend issues: consider changing where students are seated; check reed tip/quality
 - may be too open



OBOE

Uncontrollably Loud

- (Likely) too much reed/ too much air
- Oboe/head angle:
Instrument should be at 45 degree angle w/ head slightly down so reeds match lips evenly

Sound Production

- Crow Pitch: Concert C
 - Intonation Issues
- Register dictates vowel sound:
 - low= “ooo”; High= “ee”

Finger Issues

- Half-holing exercises (slow to fast)



BASSOON

Very Flat

- Engage Abdomen
- More Embouchure Support (or more reed)
- Faster Airspeed

Very Loud/Uncontrolled Sound

- Tighten at corners of mouth (potentially less reed)
- Engage abdomen
- Less air, more ab support (more focus)

Quiet/Thin Sound

- Faster Air- higher VOLUME of air; blow through the instrument
- Bigger Breath
- Potentially more reed (check embouchure)



BRASS

- Embouchure Issues
- Tone Issues
- Technique Issues



Brass Troubleshooting

Stuffiness, Fuzziness, and/or Weak Sound

- More "focused" buzz
- Firmer corners
- Faster wind *through* the instrument

Pinched Sound

- Set top lip, leave space, set bottom lip
- Relax throat

Small Range

- Sirens and lip slurs on mouthpiece
- Chromatic flexibility: add one note, take away one note
- Free buzz

Intonation

- *Sing it*, buzz it, play it



HORN

Embouchure Issues

- Top Lip = Heavy Lifting
- 60/40
 - Outside goes outward; inside goes inward



Intonation Issues

- Hand in bell
- Where are they seated?
 - Away from bell front brass / timpani

Stuffy Sound

- Bell angle
- Head angle

TRUMPET

Blaring Sound

- Tongue position
- "Narrower" air column



TROMBONE

Slide Issues

- Check slide/grip
- Separate the variables: slide, air play/slide, play
- Slide movement
- Natural slurs



EUPHONIUM

Posture Issues

- Chair, leg, pillow
- Set posture then "bring the instrument to you"



TUBA

Partial Issues

- Flap lips
- Lip slur: let the pitch fall (open taller, relax corners)
- Chirp when tonguing: keep jaw steady OR move tongue more relaxed and quick
- Fat fast wind “THROUGH THE TUBA”
- Long tones at “fuller” dynamics



MENTIMETER



PERCUSSION

- Accidental Multiple Bounce
- Uneven Hands
- "Thud"/"Thunk"
- Too Accented/Too Soft



PERCUSSION TROUBLESHOOTING

Accidental

Multiple Bounce

- Relax wrist
- Practice full legato stroke

Too Accented or Soft

- Practice different stick heights
- Tap stroke vs down stroke with wind up vs full stroke

“Thud” / “Thunk”

- Check playing area
- Play lighter / more rebound
- “Pull sound away from the drum” / “let the drum give the stick back to you”

Uneven Hands

- Slow-to-fast practice; scale and scale patterns practice
- Too much tension in non-dominant hand
- Metronome practice
- Check for wrist motion vs. elbow motion



HOW DO I DO THIS IN CLASS?



Considerations

- Prioritize what to address
- Prioritize when to address it
- *"What do they have in common?"*

HOW DO I DO THIS IN CLASS?

Actions

- Mileage out of musicianship!
- Full group “small piece” work
- Jump “back” to small pieces regularly
- Teach the students what to listen for
- Move around the room
- Full group / small group / individual
- Give others “task” while you go down the line



Every Kid Every Day

Don't forget percussion!



HOW DO I DO THIS IN CLASS?



Other Activities

- FlipGrid/ Google Classroom
- Student Mentoring (w/older students)
- Digital Masterclass

HANDOUT

WHAT DO I DO WHEN I HEAR THAT?

76TH MIDWEST BAND AND ORCHESTRA CLINIC
DECEMBER 19, 2022- 12:15PM
MCCORMICK PLACE W181

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NOTES

- Students should have a mirror/front-facing camera on their music stand & have various examples of a "model embouchure."
- If not using music stands, have big mirrors in strategic locations around the room and send students to look at their embouchures while they play.

FLUTE

CONCERN	POSSIBLE CAUSE OR SOLUTION
No Sound	Aperture not aligned with tone hole Tool: <u>Pneumo-Pro</u>



Thank You!

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