

It's **STILL** All About the Bass!

Set Up Your Beginner Tubas for Success

Presented by Dr. James Land
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**Western Illinois
University**
SCHOOL OF MUSIC





The tuba section has been, and remains, the solid foundation of any strong concert band.

"So plays the tuba, so plays the band."

TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED

**THE TUBA'S
ROLE**

**GOALS FOR
TUBISTS**

**STARTING
YOUR
TUBAS**

**EQUIPMENT
AND
REPERTOIRE**

**COMMON
PROBLEMS
FOR
TUBISTS**

THE TUBA'S ROLE IN THE BAND



**PROVIDE A STRONG
HARMONIC FOUNDATION**



DICTATE THE TIME

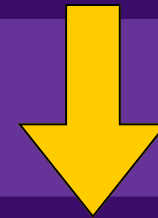


**ESTABLISH
DYNAMIC LEVEL**

GOALS FOR THE YOUNG TUBIST

The young tubist will be able to:

**SELF CORRECT
ERRORS IN THE
ENSEMBLE**



**Often, only one or
two tubists in the
ensemble**



**Development of
individual
musicianship**

**REPLICATE
CHARACTERISTIC
SOUND**



Sound is everything!



**Modeling and
listening**

because:

This is done through:



STARTING YOUR TUBAS

EUPHONIUM VS. TUBA

Where to start?

FACTORS TO CONSIDER

Availability of instruments
Size of student
Home vs. school instruments

START WHERE YOU WANT THEM TO END

(Begin on tuba if at all possible)

3 QUARTER VS. 4 QUARTER START



STARTING YOUR TUBAS

Excellence from Day One

POSTURE

Neck angle

Shoulder tension

Proper chair height

PLAYING POSITION

Piston vs. rotor

Front vs. top

Left hand position

REST POSITION

Where is the
tuba while the
teacher speaks?

Give students
time to pick up
the tuba properly

BREATHING

Proper technique

8 in, 8 out; 4 in, 4
out; etc.

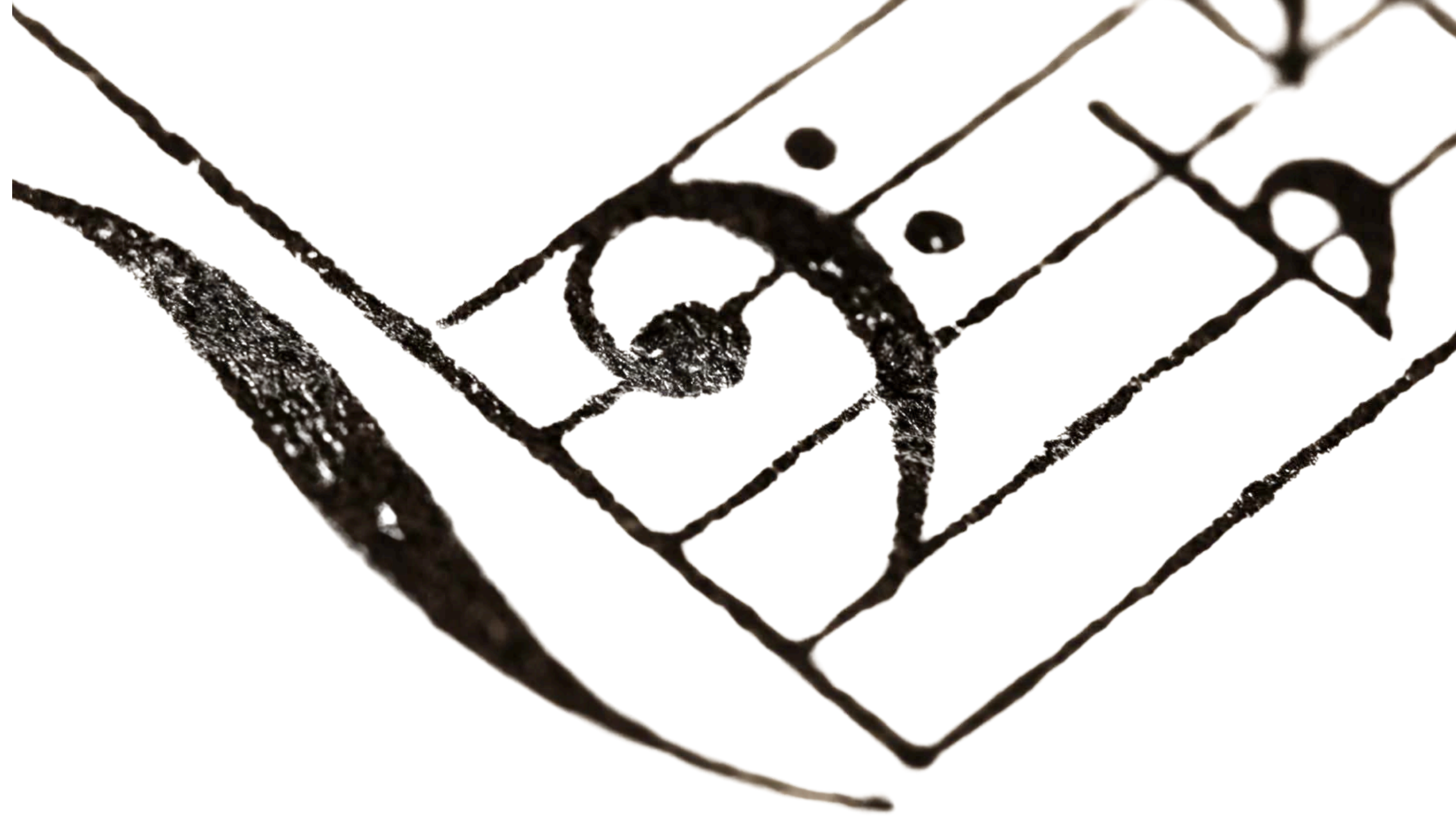
Quick breathing:
1 in, 12 out; etc.

BUZZING

Ensure they are
in the proper
octave

MODEL

Use pinky to add
resistance



EQUIPMENT & REPERTOIRE

Tuba Stands



- Improves posture and playing position
- Ensure tuba is perpendicular to the floor
- Have student sit on phone book, etc. if too short
- Is the student practicing with a stand at home?

RECOMMENDED STAND: BALTIMORE BRASS

BERPs



- Adds resistance to the buzz
- Practice buzzing
 - Mouthpiece only
 - Into a berp
 - With paperclip between mouthpiece and leadpipe
- Resistance helps center notes
 - Tuba playing still requires focused, energized air - just much more of it!

Mouthpieces



Beginner
Conn Helleberg



Intermediate
Schilke Helleberg



Advanced
Mr. P 5.0 or 8.8

Tubas



Beginner
Yamaha YBB105



Intermediate
Jupiter JTU1110



Advanced
Miraphone 186 (Bb)*
PT 6 (C)



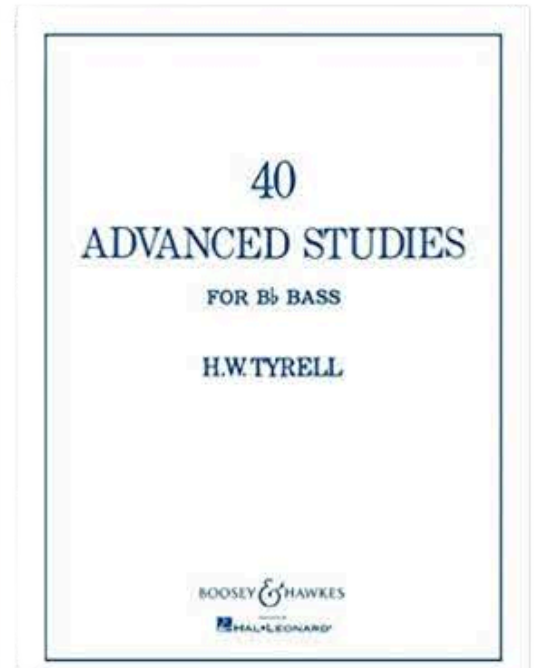
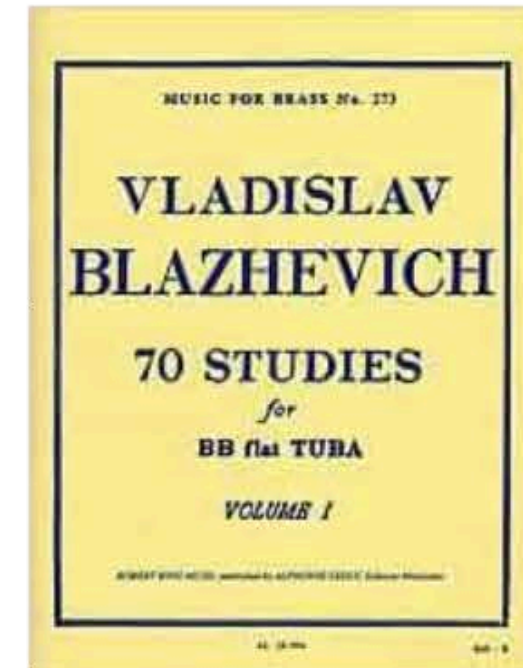
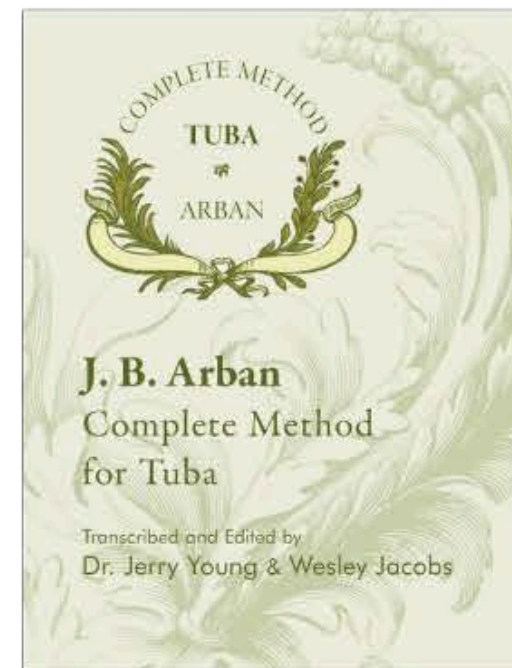
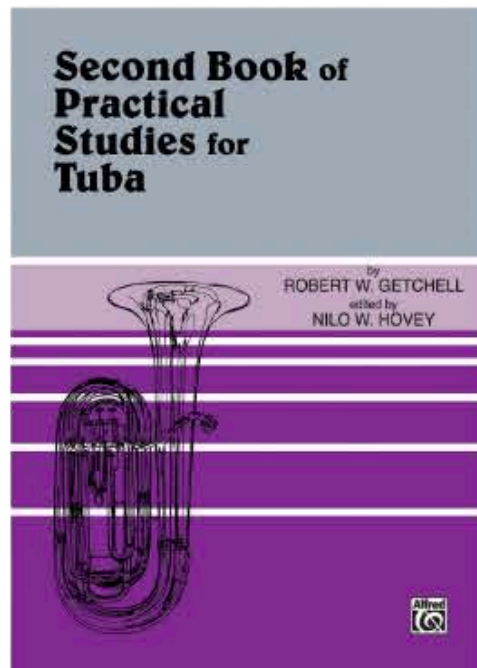
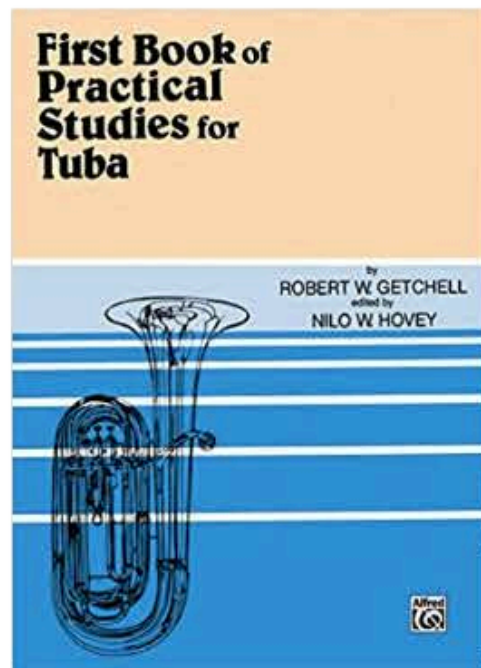
TUBA STORAGE

Create a system and uphold it!

"If you're not teaching it, you're letting it happen"



ETUDE & METHOD BOOKS



Beginner
Getchell

Intermediate
Bordogni

Advanced
Arban, Blazevich, Tyrell

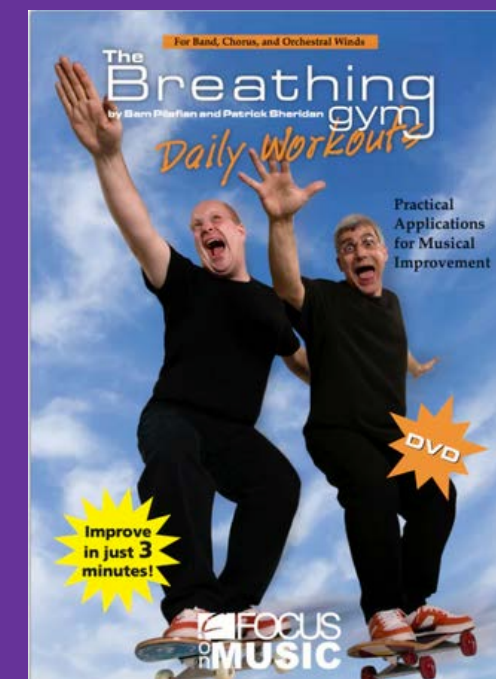
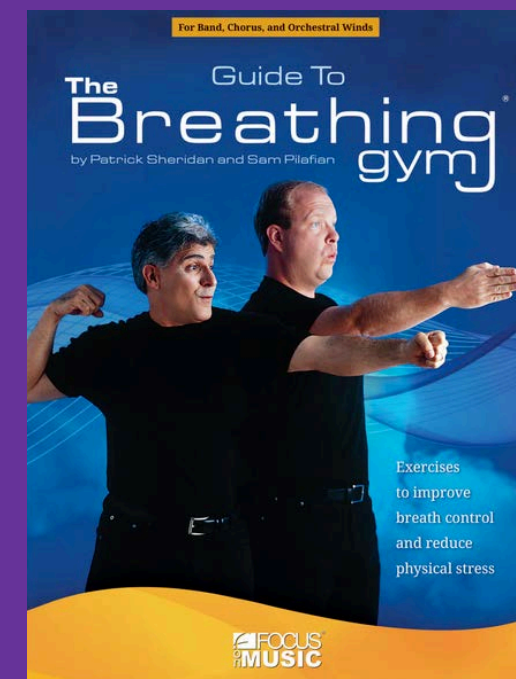
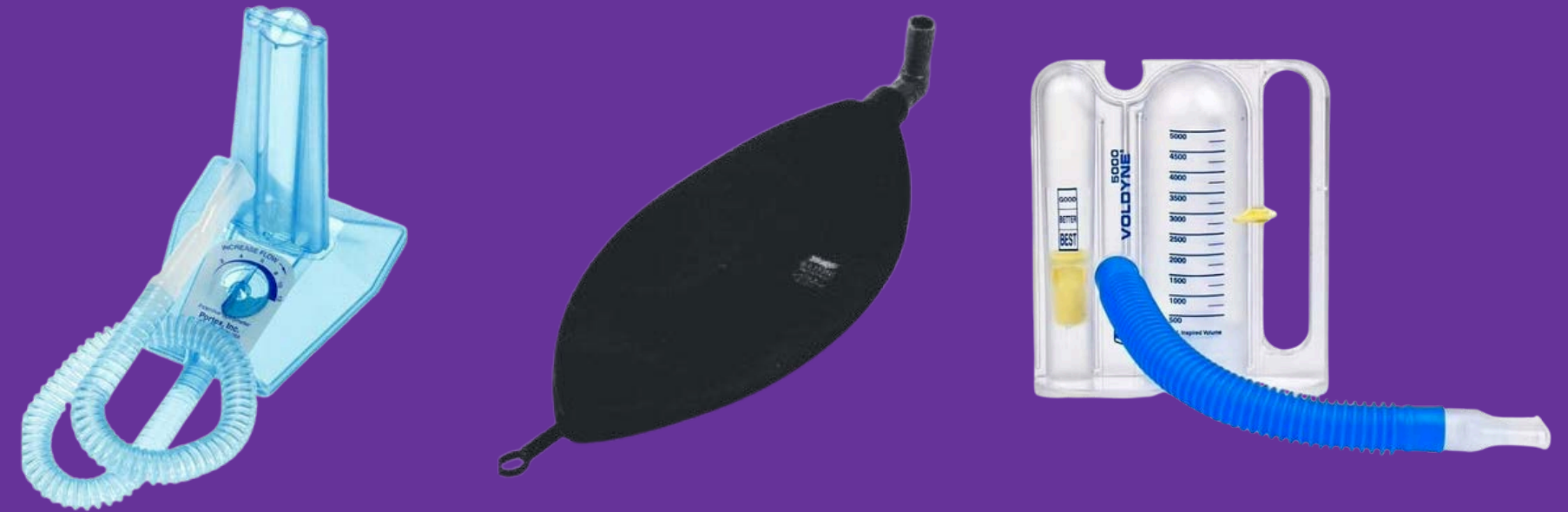


COMMON PROBLEMS FOR YOUNG TUBISTS

COMMON PROBLEMS IN YOUNG TUBISTS

AIR USAGE

- Not enough air
 - Balloons, Breathing Gym, incentive spirometer
- Air is too fast
 - Avoid terms like “relax” - replace with “loose”
 - Focus on getting the student to move the air at the desired speed naturally
 - “Sigh into the horn”
 - Breathe through the throat of the mouthpiece
 - Use “tidal wave” air



COMMON PROBLEMS IN YOUNG TUBISTS

POSTURE

- Make sure the student plays with a tuba stand
- Bring the horn to the student, not the other way around
 - Be aware of the student's neck and back alignment with the instrument

EXAMPLES OF POOR POSTURE:



COMMON PROBLEMS IN YOUNG TUBISTS

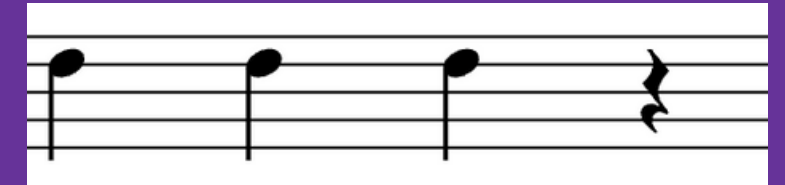
ORAL CAVITY SHAPE

- Oral cavity too small
 - Avoid “ee” vowel
 - Use “dah” rather than “tah” to maintain shape

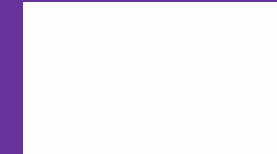
ARTICULATION

- Tongue interrupts airstream
 - Air never stops
 - Practice with wind patterns
 - Practice with slurs
 - Practice with half valves
- Imagine a ping pong ball on the tip of your tongue

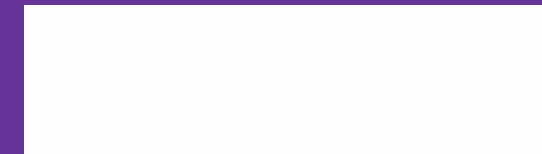
Normal



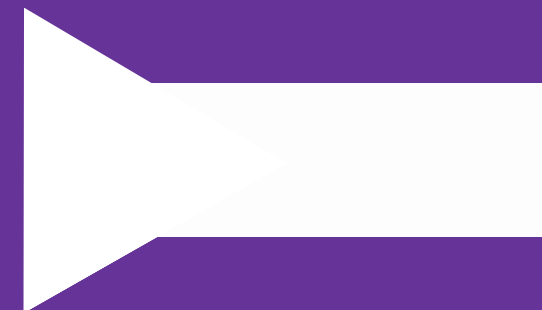
Staccato



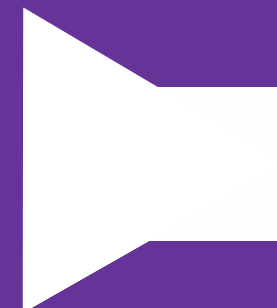
Legato



Accented



Marcato



Questions?

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