



The Midwest Clinic

International Band and Orchestra Conference

2021 DAY ONE CLINIC SERIES

*An Educational Initiative of The Midwest Clinic
Presented by Master Teachers of Beginning Instrumental Methods*

TRUMPET PEDAGOGY

From DAY ONE

Freddy Martin,
Michael Martin, Chris Martin, Clinicians

Wednesday, December 15 • 11:45am – 12:15pm

Friday, December 17 • 11:15 – 11:45am

MEETING ROOM W186



TRUMPET PEDAGOGY FROM DAY ONE

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RECRUITING: BUILDING A LARGER AND STRONGER BAND PROGRAM

GO AHEAD – BE A RECRUITER!

IT IS YOU THEY BUY! NOT BAND OR MUSIC OR THEIR FRIENDS. IT IS YOU!

SELECTING STUDENTS FOR TRUMPET

Remarks: The Trumpet – Good beginning – Great conclusion!
Check the student for physical impairments for playing trumpet.

- Check for the teardrop – pointed tissue hanging down from the upper lip.
- Check the embouchure for size and shape.
- Check for severe overbite or underbite.
- Check for ankyloglossia.
- Hand check for fingers, flexibility, strength.
- If all are OK, then, if you choose, do mouthpiece testing.

BEFORE THE FIRST SOUNDS ARE MADE

Remarks: Have a defined class method for entering the band room. A quiet, orderly beginning of class often leads to a clearly defined rehearsal. Pandemonium is not acceptable. These are expensive instruments that need proper care and maintenance! Take the time on Day 1-5 to set this standard. Students must be aware of their responsibility to themselves and others. Organize your class beginnings and disciplinary procedures.

THE INSTRUMENT ITSELF

The trumpet was first an elkhorn with a hollow end that flared slightly, used for war (2,000 BC). There have been some improvements over these years, depending on who is playing. The trumpet part-by-part: mouthpiece, tuning slide, valve slides, water keys, body, and case

BODY POSITION/BALANCE/POSTURE

- Proper posture allows for proper breathing—the more tension in the posture, the more complex the breath.
- Conversely, bad, sloppy posture will not allow for quality breath
- Finding the balance for the student is important
- Bad chairs require a lot of work to sit and breathe properly
- Most good beginning books have a posture hand position guide on the first page. That's a great starting point for your decision as to how your students will sit.

HAND POSITION

- The thumbs have it; if the thumbs are correct, then the hand position should be correct!

PRODUCING THE FIRST SOUNDS

- Begin with the mouthpiece alone. The instrument is safe in the case!
- Get older students to help demonstrate how to hold and handle the trumpet when the time comes to play the instrument. If not, please proceed one to three students at a time for safe beginnings.
- Place their non-instrument items on the stand (book, etc.). Then get the instrument.
- They have to learn to take the mouthpiece, then the body, and place the mouthpiece securely in the lead pipe. Then they can be seated.

EMBOUCHURE

- Proper set-up, proper tone.
- Corners as control tendons.
- Keep the set-up but no tension.
- Farkas Art of Brass Playing – look at the pictures of the great players' set-ups
- Firm corners, flat chin; not stressed, but just firm enough to keep the aperture focused, and thus the chin is flat.

MOUTHPIECE PLACEMENT

- Demonstrate the straw test.
- That places the mouthpiece in the correct position as far as center up and down and side-to-side.

AIR

- From the very beginning, take nice full relaxed breaths
- Tension is our greatest enemy in brass playing (huh? In life too)
- Using the air we took in – in a relaxed but consistent way– now use that warm, relaxed air to create a nice sound.
- As their tone improves, they become more dedicated to proper breathing

BUZZ

- Play pitches for them and have them hum. The aural experience of hearing the pitch will help them play the correct pitch.
- Place the mouthpiece correctly in the proper position
- Work to play the pitch given. By you, a keyboard, a piano, or a tuner but have a pitch for them to emulate.
- Now set the aperture so it is touching lightly and flow air.
- Speed the air up until a buzz is produced. No tension to start this first note and the others for the next few classes.

ARTICULATION

- Exercise – WHO, DO, TU
- Exercise – DO, DO, DO, DO
- Exercise – TU, TU, TU, TU,
- Exercise – Repeat the above on the mouthpiece with air only.
- Exercise – Repeat the above using a gentle buzz.
- Explain that WHO, WHO, WHO, WHO is not allowed and will cause difficulty as a habit later, so emphasize DU, TU.

FIRST NOTES

INSIST ON PROPER POSTURE, HAND POSITION, AND MOUTHPIECE PLACEMENT

- Concert Bb or D works great. The books do a good job with this. Use the first note in the method book you have chosen.
- We have done mouthpiece buzz for several classes and had older students come in today to help with the first instrument day. Now we can buzz a pitch, **not make noise!**
- Play pitches for them and have them hum. The aural experience of hearing the pitch will help them play the correct pitch. Please don't say, "OK everybody, here's number one on page 5," until they are ready.
- Treat the instrument and band class seriously and it will be taken seriously. Yes, use your personality, kindness, and gentle personality, but be specific.

RECOMMENDED METHOD BOOKS AND PRINT MATERIALS FOR BEGINNERS

Remarks: Please be aware that instruments do have personalities, as you will find with truly talented trumpet performers. They are intelligent, handsome, well-spoken, and much sought-after by everyone. Or that's what they think!

- The Band Director's Book Of Secrets – By Dr. Charles R. Jackson
- Rubank Elementary Book For Trumpet
- Buzzing Basics Recording – By Jim Thompson
- Arban For Trumpet – Selected passages as they develop
- Teaching Music Through Performance In Middle School Band
- A Complete Guide To Brass – By Scott Whitener

RECOMMENDED EQUIPMENT FOR BEGINNERS

Remarks: It is imperative that students have a quiet, safe, and comfortable place to practice. Their bedroom works great. Close the door. Use the music stand for proper posture and comfort.

- Bach 5c or equivalent
- Parents with patience
- Valve oil
- Slide grease
- Snake and mouthpiece brush
- Music stand for home practice (promotes proper posture)
- Recordings of great trumpet performers
- John Williams soundtracks

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Remarks: The trumpet is challenging! No one really knows whether the ego is developed because of the trumpet or it was dormant and the trumpet helped to develop it fully!

Good luck, and great teaching!

Freddy