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HOW TO BUILD A BRASS MANSION!!!

“The steps to making the perfect low brass player!”

The Foundation

- a. Posture-
 - i. Body needs to be in a good position to move good air
 - ii. Horn should be in good spot relative to the position of the student’s embouchure.
 - iii. Euphonium players may consider using a pillow.
 - iv. Try to have different size tubas to fit various heights of students
- b. Proper Embouchure
 - i. Both lips inside the inner rim.
 - ii. Best place may not be in the center. Look for natural aperture
 - iii. Teach students to buzz efficiently: Three ways the lips can buzz
 - 1. top lip buzzes bottom
 - 2. lips buzz together
 - 3. bottom lip buzzes top
- c. Breathing
 - i. Fogging the window versus cooling the ramen
 - 1. Fogging the window creates a relaxed inhale and exhale
 - 2. Promotes the most resonant sound

Proper Building Materials

- d. Sound
 - i. Correct oral cavity compression with firm embouchure
 - ii. Warm-up
 - 1. Long Tones
 - 2. Lip Slurs
 - iii. Equipment makes a huge difference
 - 1. Mouthpiece sizes
 - 2. Euphonium vs baritone; compensating vs non-compensating
 - 3. BB flat versus CC tubas
- e. Technique
 - i. Scales
 - 1. Major and minors with arpeggios
 - a. 12 weeks for one key per week
 - ii. Etudes

1. Euphonium Method Books: Rubank Elementary and Advanced Method, Arban, Voxman, Slama 66 Studies, Melodious Etudes by Bordogni/Rochut, Steven Mead Presents: Performance Studies and New Concert Studies
2. Tuba Method Books: Rubank Elementary and Advanced Method 40 Progressive Studies by Tyrell, 70 Studies by Blazhevich

f. Musicality

- i. Tunes i.e. nursery rhymes etc. from memory
 1. Promotes good intonation and phrasing
- ii. Dynamics
- iii. Tempo (rubato)
- iv. Vibrato-for the more advanced player

Hiring the Best Builders

g. Listening

- i. recording (streaming services, YouTube)
- ii. Live concerts and recitals

h. Practice! Practice!! Practice!!!

- i. Promote Private lessons
- ii. Daily Practice
 1. Earn the occasional off day
- iii. Have a goal for each session

Enjoy your New Mansion

- i. Find a place to perform (churches, nursing homes, libraries, school recitals)
- j. Promote chamber music
 - i. Duets, quartets, etc.