

Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic  
Chicago, Illinois  
10:00 - 11:00am  
Thursday, December 19, 2024

Clinicians:  
Philip Sinder, Michigan State University  
Dr. Bill Waterman, Boise State University  
Dr. William Sutton, Northwest Missouri State University

-----  
TITLE: "Tuba and Euphonium Fundamentals and Daily Routines – Practical Hints and Exercises to Energize Students of All Ages"

SYNOPSIS/DESCRIPTION: Our clinic will provide helpful suggestions and exercises for building success in tuba and euphonium players from middle school to collegiate levels. With a focus on fundamental approaches to posture, buzzing, breathing, tone production, articulation, and aural skills, the panelists will explore pedagogical solutions to low brass basics. Those elements will be framed in an exploration of the nuts and bolts of a daily routine on euphonium and tuba, with examples drawn from several recent publications which the clinicians authored (through Mountain Peak Music). Our routines include a healthy balance of basics with a goal of including musicality at each step along the way. Attendees will come away with useful tools for enhancing their tuba and euphonium sections as well as unique and successful patterns and routines for players at all levels.

OUTLINE:

1. Welcome and Session Goals
  - a. Low brass kickoff
  - b. Clinicians' connection
  - c. Purpose
    - i. Enhance fundamentals for euphonium and tuba
    - ii. Importance and structure of daily routines
    - iii. Inclusion of musical playing at all stages
  - d. New pedagogically informed routines

## 2. Euphonium and Tuba Fundamentals and Practical Hints

- a. Posture
  - i. Euphonium vs. Tuba
  - ii. Sitting as you stand
  - iii. Impact of the size of instrument
  - iv. Music away from the instrument
- b. Breathing
  - i. Remain relaxed and natural
  - ii. Blow against and through the lips
  - iii. Strive for more airflow with less air pressure
  - iv. Musical connection
- c. Buzzing
  - i. Embouchure formation
  - ii. Helpful household items
  - iii. Quick reference approach and check
  - iv. Cantabile connection
- d. Tone Quality
  - i. Characteristic tones of euphonium and tuba
  - ii. Ingredients necessary to achieve your best sound
  - iii. The role of air in sound development
  - iv. Blending of sound
- e. Articulation
  - i. Clarity and Definition through full range
  - ii. Consistency
  - iii. Types of articulation
  - iv. Intentional variations
- f. Dynamics
  - i. Low brass airflow rates
  - ii. Maintain tone and control at extremes
  - iii. Push extremes a few minutes each day
  - iv. Impact of dynamics on intonation
- g. Flexibility/Control/Consistency
  - i. Work connections ascending and descending
  - ii. Build accuracy to top performance levels
  - iii. Importance of lip slurs
  - iv. Pattern fluency

3. Exploring Daily Routine Expectations
  - a. Wide variety of opinions and practices, highly individual approaches
  - b. Primary elements and goals in a daily routine
  - c. Ideal length and difficulty
  - d. Opportunities for musicality and building aural awareness
  
4. Selected content and exercises to develop a daily routine for euphonium and tuba
  - a. Ideal organization, progression, and ingredients
    - i. Strive to undertake entire routines
    - ii. Consider comprehensive format
  - b. Solo and duet routine exercises for maximum benefit
    - i. Advantages of collaborative fundamentals
    - ii. Positive educational uses in a lesson setting

5. Musical Examples

a. **Breathing/Long Tones**

i. Student Book: page 8, #2 (Basic) long tones

**2. Long Tones**

♩ = 80±

Inhale                      Play                      Inhale

6                      Play                      Continue to inhale over 4 beats

ii. Regular Book: p.82 #1C. (Duet Routine) Long tones and easy patterns

Canon: Player 2 begins when player 1 arrives at the X

♩ = 72 ±                      X

**1C.**

11

b. **Dynamics**

i. Student Book: p.23#3. (Flexibility) Dynamics

**3. Dynamics**

In this exercise, strive to play every pitch with a resonant, centered tone. Take fast breaths so you don't create large spaces between the notes. Count carefully to be rhythmically accurate in 5/4, and reverse the dynamics for extra practice.

♩ = 112±

6

**c. Articulation**

i. Regular Book: pp.35-36 #3D. (articulation) articulation

$\text{♩} = 144-160$

**3D.** 


**d. Low and Resonant**

i. Student Book: p.58 #5. duo (Duet) Low and Resonant

**5. Low and Resonant**

Match tone and dynamics. Strive for a relaxed feeling with generous air flow.

$\text{♩} = 80\pm$



e. Flexibility

i. Student Book: p.11#6 (Basic) Lip slurs

6. Lip Slurs

In this exercise, use half-valve technique to improve your slurs. To play with half-valves, depress any combination of valves only halfway down to add resistance (using more valves will add more resistance). Once you secure the pitch with the half-valve fingering, slowly return to the regular fingering for that series as indicated. Strive to make the transition from half-valve to regular fingering smooth, and don't forget to breathe well so you have plenty of air to execute the slur.

♩ = 100±

half-valve 0 half-valve 0

half-valve 2

ii. Regular Book: pp.62-63#5 (valve dexterity) lip slurs

♩ = 80±

5.

0 1 2-3

4 4 0 2 1 2 0 1-2 2-3 4 2-3 1-2

7 4 2-4 4 2-4 4 2-3 1-2 1 2 0

**f. Dexterity**

i. Student Book: p.13#7 (Basic) Valve technique (3 lines)

**7. Valve Technique**

Breathe as needed throughout and be accurate in finger technique. Put your fingertips on the valve caps—not your knuckles.

♩ = 100±

Inhale

6

Inhale

**g. Subito Dynamics**

i. Student Book: p.26#8 (Flexibility) Subito

**8. Subito Dynamics**

♩ = 96±

*p* *f* *p* *f*

6

*p* *f* *p* *f*

## h. Scales/Intervals/Arpeggios

### i. Regular Book: p.122#8a (Euph tuba Duet) scales

♩ = 72 ±

**8A.**

*mf*

*mf*

### i. Range

#### i. Student Book: p.27#10 (Flexibility and Accuracy) Range

**10. Range**

In this exercise, play three notes in one breath at a variety of tempos. Use a variety of dynamics and try reversing the patterns.

4

9

17

## 6. Closing Remarks and Questions