

# Low Brass 101: Building a Sound Foundation

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Capital University Conservatory of Music

2010 Midwest Clinic

*Sponsored by Edwards Instruments*

This clinic is designed to give you some simple exercises and comments to make to your students that will elicit the sounds you want to hear. Each of the items listed below will be discussed and demonstrated. I've left out the descriptions and left space for you to "personalize" any of the ideas. Though each of the analogies was developed while instructing beginning students, I still use them with college age students today. The concept is the same, give the student a **simple** exercise or comment that is easily **remembered and duplicated**.

## I. Breathing

- a. The filter
- b. Air volume vs. air speed instruments
- c. What is compression?
- d. Bore size
  1. Small vs. large
  2. Trombone vs. Euphonium
- e. The airplane wing
  1. Deep sound in inhale
  2. The hurricane
  3. The shoulder myth
- f. Relax in and relax out
  1. Tension in air stream or body equals tension in sound
  2. The no push method
  3. "sigh"
- g. Air as the engine
  1. No note vs. missed note
  2. Bubbling brook or Mississippi River
  3. Tire analogy
  4. Air is to the brass player as gasoline to the car
  5. crinkle paper
  6. pinwheels
  7. Porsche air vs. truck air

## II. Embouchure

- a. Many air problems are misdiagnosed as embouchure problems
- b. Static device
- c. One embouchure, all ranges
- d. The frown
  1. Space between the lips vs. space between the teeth
  2. Rotten egg or yawning politely
  3. The amplifier
- e. The horse
- f. The camera shutter

## III. Mouthpiece Playing

- a. The coffee stirrer/straw for fittings
- b. Playing vs. buzzing
- c. The no finger method
- d. The horn as amplifier
- e. Three keys of mouthpiece playing
  1. Match pitch

- 2. Stability of sound
- 3. Tone of the sound
  - a. Vowels & singing
- f. Slurs as glisses
  - 1. Coming in for a landing
  - 2. The angle
  - 3. The itching nose
- g. 61/2 vs. 12C debate
- h. Play piano, sing, play mouthpiece, play the horn

#### **IV. Articulation**

- a. One place
- b. Tongue moves because it happens to be in the air stream
- c. Legato is air
  - 1. Bricks in the wall
  - 2. Long but articulated
  - 3. Touch of the tongue
  - 4. Blow the tongue out of the way
- d. The “Light Doodler

#### **V. Switching for Success**

- a. When to start Tuba
  - 1. Smaller sizes
  - 2. How Euphonium can help
  - 3. Building a tone concept
- b. Switching to Euphonium
  - 1. Why trumpet is a difficult move
  - 2. How Flutes can help
  - 3. Tricks for tone concept

#### **VI. What is a Bass Trombone and why do I need it**

- a. Bass Bone Basics
  - 1. Types
  - 2. Uses
  - 3. Best for the \$
  - 4. Who can succeed?

#### **Contact Info**

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#### **Recommended Text**

Caruso, Carmine	Musical Calisthenics for Brass	Belwin Mills
Bailey, Wayne	Brass Methods: A resource guide	McGraw Hill
Farkas, Philip	The Art of Brass Playing	Wind Music, Inc.
Everett, Thomas	An Annotated Guide to Bass Trombone Literature.	Brass Press
Farkas, Philip	The Art of Brass Playing	Wind Music, Inc.
Fink, Reginald	The Trombonists Handbook	Accura Music
Gallway, Green	The Inner Game of Music	Anchor Press
Horfacre, Marta	Teaching Trombone	Univ of S. Miss.
International Trombone Association.	Journal	ITA Press
Jacobs, Arnold	Song and Wind	Windsong Press
Johnson, Keith	Brass Performance and Pedagogy	Better World Books
Kleinhammer, E.	Art of the Trombone	Summy-Birchard Pub.

Knaub, Donald Trombone Teaching Technique  
Marsteller, Robert Basic Routines  
Remington, Emory Warm-up Studies  
Vining, David Daily Routines for Trombone  
Wick, Denis Trombone Technique

Accura Music  
Southern  
Accura Music  
Kaagarice Brass  
Oxford University

### **Recommended Web Sites**

**[www.capital.edu/](http://www.capital.edu/)**

Thomas Zugger with PDF warm-ups

**[www.euphonium.net](http://www.euphonium.net)**

Steven Mead, euphonium soloist

**[www.iteaonline.org](http://www.iteaonline.org)**

International Tuba-Euphonium Association

**[www.patricksheridan.com](http://www.patricksheridan.com)**

Patrick Sheridan Tuba soloist

**[www.slidearea.com](http://www.slidearea.com)**

Joe Alessi Principal Trombone NY Phil.

**[www.ita-web.org](http://www.ita-web.org)**

International Trombone Association web site

**[www.stantons.com](http://www.stantons.com)**

Stanton's Sheet Music in Columbus OH

**[www.griegomouthpieces.com](http://www.griegomouthpieces.com)**

Christian Griego Mouthpieces

**[www.hickeys.com](http://www.hickeys.com)**

Hickeys Music in Ithaca NY

**[www.rkingmusic.com](http://www.rkingmusic.com)**

Robert King Music, Boston, Mass

**[www.yeodoug.com](http://www.yeodoug.com)**

Doug Yeo Bass Trombone in the Boston Symphony

**[www.rkingmusic.com](http://www.rkingmusic.com)**

Robert King Music Sales

**[www.windsonpress.com](http://www.windsonpress.com)**

Publisher of Arnold Jacobs' books, music,

**[www.chisham.com](http://www.chisham.com)**

Sean Chisolm's Tubanet

**[www.trombonebarron.com](http://www.trombonebarron.com)**

Ron Barren Boston Symphony

**[www.trombone.org](http://www.trombone.org)**

Online Trombone Journal

**[www.tubanews.com](http://www.tubanews.com)**

Tuba News web site

**[www.edwards-instruments.com/trombone](http://www.edwards-instruments.com/trombone)**

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**Dr. Thomas W Zugger** is currently the Associate Professor of Trombone and Euphonium at the Capital University Conservatory of Music in Columbus, OH a position he has held since 1998. He spends his summers teaching at the International Music Camp on the border of Canada and North Dakota at the International Peace Garden. Prior to his appointment at Capital University, Dr. Zugger taught at Adrian College in Adrian MI and has also taught in the Walled Lake MI public schools.

As a trombonist and euphonium player, Dr. Zugger has performed extensively. He is currently principal trombone in the Newark/Granville Symphony as well as appearing with the Columbus Symphony Orchestra, ProMusica Chamber Orchestra, the Richmond (IN) Symphony, Jimmy Dorsey Orchestra, and at the 18<sup>th</sup> Macau China International Music Festival. He has performed in orchestras for national tours of numerous Broadway musicals and has backed many popular performers. Dr. Zugger also keeps a busy schedule as a clinician. Recent appearances include the Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic, seventeen state MENC conferences, The Big XII Trombone Conference, College Music Society Great Lakes Chapter Convention, Bowling Green State University Contemporary Trombone Festival, and many colleges and universities. Dr. Zugger is an artist/clinician for *Edwards Trombones*. His latest CD, *Dances and Dreams: recital music for trombone* was released in September 2009 on the Mark Record Label.

As a published composer and arranger, Zugger's works are regularly performed by artists nationally and internationally, and have been featured at both the International Trombone Association and International Clarinet Association annual conventions. He is a member of BMI and is listed in *Marquis' Who's Who in America* and *Who's Who in American Education*. He is on the International Trombone Association's ITA Press Board and the ITA literature review committee. His compositions are published through Brixton Publications, TAP Music, Warwick Music, and the International Trombone Association Press and by his own company [www.zuggermusic.com](http://www.zuggermusic.com).

Dr. Zugger holds degrees from the University of Michigan, Michigan State University, and a Doctorate of Musical Arts degree in Trombone Performance from The

Ohio State University. His primary teachers for trombone were Curtis Olson and Joe Duchi and for composition Ed Sarath and Jan Radzinski. He is an avid runner having complete 40 marathons and 3 ultra marathons. In his spare time he enjoys hiking, traveling and cooking with his wonderful and patient wife, clarinet professor Dr. Gail L Zuger.