

Building a Quality Low Brass Sound

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Capital University

Conservatory of Music

Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic

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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. Relax in and relax out
 1. Tension in air stream or body equals tension in sound
 2. The no push method
 3. Speed Breathing the natural way
- b. Air as the engine
 1. Bubbling brook or Mississippi River
- c. The airplane wing
 1. Deep sound in inhale
 2. The hurricane
 3. The shoulder myth
- d. Arnold Jacobs *Song and Wind*
 1. Breathing tube

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II. Embouchure

- a. One embouchure, all ranges
- b. The frown
 1. Space between the lips vs. space between the teeth
 2. Rotten egg or yawning politely
 3. The amplifier
- c. The syllables
- d. The camera shutter

III. Mouthpiece Playing

- a. Playing vs. buzzing
 1. The horn as amplifier
 2. Tone of the sound
 3. Slurs as glisses
 4. The no finger method
 5. The angle
 6. The itching nose
- b. 61/2 vs. 12C debate

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IV. Building Range

- a. Build low to build high
 - 1. alternation
 - 2. coffee stirrer
 - 3. Nose itching
 - 4. Air stream angle
- b. Slurs
 - 1. Small sections
 - 2. All through the range
 - 3. Glisses

V. 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

VI. General

- a. Nothing on a brass instrument happens in a vacuum
- b. Mental focus music or self
- c. Beginning book alterations
- d. Accept some mess early

Contact Info

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Recommended Text

Caruso, Carmine	Musical Calisthenics for Brass	Belwin Mills
Begel, Rich	A Modern Guide for Trombonists	Self
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
Kleinhammer, E.	Art of the Trombone	Summy-Birchard Pub.
Kleinhammer/Yeo	Mastering the Trombone	Doug Yeo
Knaub, Donald	Trombone Teaching Technique	Accura Music
Marsteller, Robert	Basic Routines	Southern
Remington, Emory	Warm-up Studies	Accura Music
Vernon, Charlie	A Singing Approach to Trombone Playing.	Atlanta Brass Press
Vining, David	Daily Routines for Trombone	Kaagarice Brass
Wick, Denis	Trombone Technique	Oxford University

Recommended Web Sites

www.capital.edu/acad/cons/trombonepage.htm

Thomas Zugger with PDF download warm-ups

www.geocities.com/richardbegel

Richard Begel 2nd trombone Dayton Phil.

www.euphonium.net

Steven Mead, euphonium soloist

www.iteaonline.org

International Tuba-Euphonium Association

www.patricksheridan.com

Patrick Sheridan Tuba soloist

www.slidearea.com

Joe Alessi Principal Trombone NY Phil.

www.ita-web.org

International Trombone Association web site

www.stantons.com

Stanton's Sheet Music in Columbus OH

<http://www.indiana.edu/~trombone/masterclass>

Indiana University Trombone Page

www.griegomouthpieces.com

Christian Griego Mouthpieces

www.hickeys.com

Hickeys Music in Ithaca NY

www.rkingmusic.com

Robert King Music, Boston, Mass

www.yeodoug.com

Doug Yeo Bass Trombone in the Boston Symphony

www.miltstevens.com

Milt Stevens Principal Trombone National Symphony

www.rkingmusic.com

Robert King Music Sales

www.windsonpress.com

Publisher of Arnold Jacobs' books, music, breathing tools

www.chisham.com

Sean Chisolm's Tubanet

www.trombonebarron.com

Ron Barren Boston Symphony

www.trombone.org

Online Trombone Journal

www.geocities.com/irtconnection/IRT.html

Intonation Repair tool by Thomas Kociela

www.tubanews.com

Tuba News web site

www.edwards-instruments.com/trombone

Edwards Trombone Company

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Dr. Thomas W Zugger is currently Assistant Professor of Trombone and Euphonium at the Capital University Conservatory of Music a position he has held since 1998. Prior to his appointment at Capital University, Dr. Zugger taught at Adrian College in Adrian MI and was also an assistant band director in the Walled Lake Michigan public schools.

As a trombonist, Dr. Zugger has performed extensively, including appearances with the Columbus Symphony, *ProMusica* Chamber Orchestra, Ohio Valley Symphony, the Richmond, Indiana Symphony, and the Jimmy Dorsey Orchestra. He has performed in orchestras for national tours of numerous Broadway musicals and has backed many popular performers including Aretha Franklin, The Moody Blues, Barry Manilow, and others. Dr. Zugger also keeps a busy schedule as a performer and clinician. Recent appearances include the Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic, OMEA Conference, College Music Society Great Lakes Chapter Convention, Bowling Green University Contemporary Trombone Festival, University of Florida-Gainesville, Ohio University, Central Michigan University, and SUNY at Fredonia. Dr. Zugger is an artist affiliate with the Edwards Trombone Company

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 the American Society of Composers, Arrangers, and Publishers and is listed in Marquis Who's Who in America 2005. He is on the International Trombone Association's ITA Press Committee and also frequently contributes literature reviews to the ITA journal through the ITA literature review committee. His compositions are published through Brixton Publications, TAP Music, Timber Ridge Publications, Warwick Music, and the International Trombone Association Press. 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.

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