

# *FIX MY SAXOPHONES! Inventive and Creative Teaching Techniques for Improving Young Saxophonists*

**2005 Midwest Clinic**

**59<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference**

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Gold Room, Congress Plaza, 11:00 a.m.

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**ABSTRACT:** The saxophone is one of the easiest instruments to play...incorrectly! This interactive clinic uses visualization, physics (the fun kind!) and a bit of humor to help you teach your saxophonists to improve their tone, technique and musicality.

## 1. Introduction

- a. Expressive quality of saxophone
- b. Understanding why our saxophones sound so bad
  - i. What is their role in band
  - ii. The saxophone is NOT a clarinet
  - iii. Easiest instrument to play...poorly
- c. Defining a solution to the problem
  - i. Identifying how our students learn best
  - ii. Utilizing our students "talent" for learning
  - iii. Determine if "traditional" pedagogy is always helpful

## 2. Playing Position

- a. The saxophone triangle and the tension tree
- b. The highs and lows of "marching band"
- c. Growing into your saxophone
- d. Easy fixes to improve hand and playing position
  - i. "Tell me your address"
  - ii. PLAY BALL!
  - iii. The purpose of the thumb hook?

## 3. Tone Production

- a. Air
  - i. Temperature
    1. Fogging a mirror
    2. Go ahead...blow your horn!
    3. The balloon trick

