THE ELUSIVE ENGOMATIC EUPHONIUM
(TIPS FOR THE BAND DIRECTOR)

Dr. Brian L. Bowman
Regents Professor
The University of North Texas

Wilford Room - Hilton
Thursday December 21, 2006 11:00 a.m.
Friday, December 22 8:30 a.m.
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Importance of the euphonium in the band world.
The euphonium is the most beautiful tenor soloist instrument in the band world.

- Difference between the euphonium and the baritone.
- Importance of tone quality development. (Euphonium means beautiful sound)

Basic euphonium (brass) teaching tips:

- **Tone quality:**
  - Embouchure basic formation: pitfalls.
  - Rim placement
  - Lack of "foundation"
  - Excessive movement
  - Clenched mouth (teeth)
  - Closed throat
  - Stretching the corners
  - Mouthpiece and visualizer use

- **Breathing**
  - Posture (standing and sitting-pillow)
  - Throat air vs. bottom-of-the-lung air.
  - Flow vs. support

- **Vibrato**
  - To use or not to use in the band section
  - How to produce (jaw or lip, hand, diaphragmatic)
  - When and how-to use

- **Benefits:**
  - Enhancing the musical shape of the sound.
  - Enhancing the ability to find the center of the pitch (intonation)
  - Preventing embouchure lock-down in the upper register.

**Golden rules of Vibrato**
1. Control the depth and speed
2. Be able to turn it off.

- **Technique**
  - Fingers – position (holding a pencil)
  - Rhythm – clarity of technique
  - Slow Practice – developing “lightening technique”

- **Articulation and the Tongue**
  - Release vs. attacking the tone
  - Three basic problems affecting articulation clarity, speed and control:
    1. Chewing (chin moving)
    2. Embouchure (“Kissing” the mpc)
    3. Arching the tongue (snake-like)
  - Declare Tongue Independence Day!
  - Practice difficult tongued passages on single notes, then the changing notes.
  - Practice Forte to develop consistently even tone quality.

- **Selection of equipment:**
  - Mouthpieces
    - Avoiding “c” or shallow cups.
    - Making sure that they fit the shank.
  - Valves
    - 3 or 4 (in a row or side action 4th)
    - Compensating or non-compensating
  - Bell up or bell forward
  - Finish, lacquer vs. silver
  - Extra equipment - mutes, soft cases

Conclusion: The euphonium is capable of truly enhancing the sound and musicality of your ensemble. Encourage students to participate in solo and ensemble events and become members of the International Tuba and Euphonium Association.

Assisted by members of the University of North Texas Euphonium Studio
Elisa Harvey, Adam Lessard, Jamie Lipton,
**Recommended Texts:**

*Guide to the Euphonium Repertoire: The Euphonium Source Book* - Indiana Press (NEW)


Lehman, Art/Werden, David - *The Brass Musician* Cimmaron Music Press

Miles, David - *An Annotated Bibliography of Selected Contemporary Euphonium Solo Literature by American Composers*. Tuba-Euphonium Press

Phillips, Harvey and Winkle - *The Art of Tuba and Euphonium* Summy-Bircher


Werden, David - *Scoring for Euphonium*. Tuba-Euphonium Press


**Web Resources**

A comprehensive site of articles, recordings, music etc for the euphonium: [http://www.dwerden.com/](http://www.dwerden.com/)


Compensating System: [http://www.dwerden.com/eu-articles-comp.cfm](http://www.dwerden.com/eu-articles-comp.cfm)


Sources of Music: [http://www.tubaeuphoniumpress.com/](http://www.tubaeuphoniumpress.com/)

**Euphonium Recordings:** Tap Music Company: [http://www.tapmusic.com/](http://www.tapmusic.com/)

**Mutes:**


Yamaha Silent Brass:


**Recommended Materials:**

**Warm-up and Embouchure Building**

Remington – Warm Up Exercises – Accura

Lin, Bai - Lip Flexibilities for all Brass Instruments – Balquhidder (Carl Fischer)

Colin, Charles – Advanced Lip Flexibilities - Colin

Johnson, Keith – Progressive Studies for the High Register – Gore

**Method and Etude Books**

Beeler, Walter – Method for Baritone (Euphonium) – Alfred

Voxman/Gower-Rubank Advanced Method-Leonard

Tyrell – 40 Progressive Studies – Boosey & Hawkes

Voxman – Selected Studies – Leonard

Arbans-Complete Method (Alessi/Bowman) – Encore

Fink, R – From Treble to Bass Clef – Accura

Kopprasch - Selected Studies for Trombone – Carl Fisher

Bordogni/Rochut - Melodious Etudes (vol 1.) – Carl Fisher

Clarke, H./Gordon – Technical Studies – Carl Fisher

**Duets:**

Voxman – Selected Duets (vol 1 & 2) – Rubank

Amsden – Celebrated Duets – Barnhouse

**Solos:**

See *Guide to the Euphonium Repertoire: The Euphonium Source Book* - Indiana Press (NEW)

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