

2007 Midwest Clinic – 61<sup>st</sup> Annual  
Conference

# **JUST SAY “OH”**

**IMPROVING THE SOUND, INTONATION  
AND RESPONSE OF YOUR BRASS.....AND  
YOUR BAND**

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South Orange – Maplewood School  
District  
Maplewood, New Jersey

Waldorf Room – Chicago Hilton  
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11:30am

# **JUST SAY "OH"**

## **IMPROVING THE SOUND, INTONATION AND RESPONSE OF YOUR BRASS.....AND YOUR BAND**

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SOUTH ORANGE - MAPLEWOOD SCHOOLS,  
MAPLEWOOD, NEW JERSEY**

### **I. OVERVIEW**

### **II. GENERAL TIPS**

- HOLDING THE INSTRUMENTS
- SITTING VS STANDING
- PRESSURE
- FUNCTION OF THE INSTRUMENT

### **III. INHALATION**

- HOW IT WORKS
- VISUALIZING YOUR INHALATION - INFLATION
- HEAR YOUR INHALATION

### **IV. FIVE STEPS TO PRODUCING A SOUND**

#### **STEP 1 - PLACE MOUTHPIECE ON LIPS**

- SLIDE MOUTHPIECE DOWN FROM MIDDLE OF THE NOSE  
TO THE PEAKS OF THE UPPER LIP

**\*\*\*\*\*RELAX EVERYTHING\*\*\*\*\***

#### **STEP 2 - INHALE BY SAYING "OH"**

- OPENS THE THROAT
- CREATES CUSHION FOR MORE LIP TO VIBRATE
- NO TENSION

#### **STEP 3 - TIME THE INHALATION**

- **1.....2.....3**                    **BLOW**
- NO HESITATION

#### **STEP 4 - EXHALE BY SAYING "OH"**

- KEEPS CUSHION

- KEEPS THROAT OPEN
- WARM AIR

### **STEP 5 – BLOW THROUGH THE INSTRUMENT**

- IMAGERY
- NO “FEEL”

#### **V. TONGUING**

- FUNCTION OF THE TONGUE – ARBAN BOOK
- TONGUE PLACEMENT
- TONGUING A NOTE

#### **VI. JOURNEY TO THE CENTER OF THE PITCH**

- HOW DO YOU GET THERE?
- HOW DO YOU KNOW WHEN YOU GET THERE?
- WHAT CAN YOU DO WHEN YOU GET THERE?

#### **VII. TRANSFER TO YOUR BAND**

- EVERYONE BREATHES TOGETHER SAYING “OH” – EVEN PERCUSSION!
- EVERYONE BLOWS TO A POINT AWAY FROM THEM
- “OH” AND THE WOODWIND EMBOUCHURE
- WORK WITH THE WOODWIND MOUTHPIECE ONLY
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Flute/head joint = A above the staff

Clarinet/mpc & barrel= top line F#

Alto Sax & Alto Clarinet/mpc = A above the staff

Tenor Sax & Bass Clarinet/mpc = G above the staff

Bari Sax/mpc = top space Eb

- TUNING

#### **VIII. ARTICULATION (STYLE) AND YOUR BAND**

- WWAS.....(WHAT WOULD ARBAN SAY?)
- “TOO” VS “TU”
- STYLE

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**I am very interested in how these ideas work for your students. Please feel free to contact me at [nb1331@quixnet.net](mailto:nb1331@quixnet.net) with your successes, challenges and questions.**

Nicholas Santoro is Supervisor of Fine Arts for the South Orange Maplewood School District in New Jersey. He has held administrative positions in East Brunswick, Newark and for the NJ Department of Education and was a high school band and orchestra director for 13 years prior to his administrative positions. He is Past President of the New Jersey Music Educators and Music Supervisors Associations and was Secretary for the National Council of Supervisors of Music Education. In 2004 Mr. Santoro received the Governor's Awards in Arts Education.

Mr. Santoro received his undergraduate degree from Rutgers University and his Masters in Music Education with supervisory and principal's certificates from Trenton State College (now The College of NJ). He studied trumpet with Alfred Weissman, Scott Whitener and Vincent Penzarella. He is the founder and conductor of the Central Jersey Wind Ensemble and Music Director for the Rutgers Alumni Wind Symphony. Active as a guest conductor, he has conducted the NJ All-State Brass Ensemble, NJ Region II Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band and various other ensembles throughout New Jersey.