

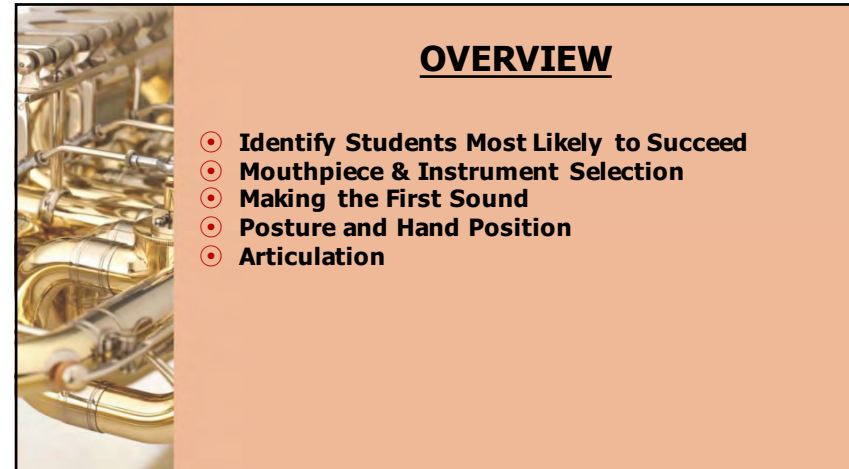


**Establishing the Proper Set-up  
for the  
Euphonium  
&  
Tuba**

*Presented by*  
**Charles R. Jackson, DMA**  
*Assistant Professor of Music*  
**Kennesaw State University**  
*Kennesaw, GA (Cobb County)*

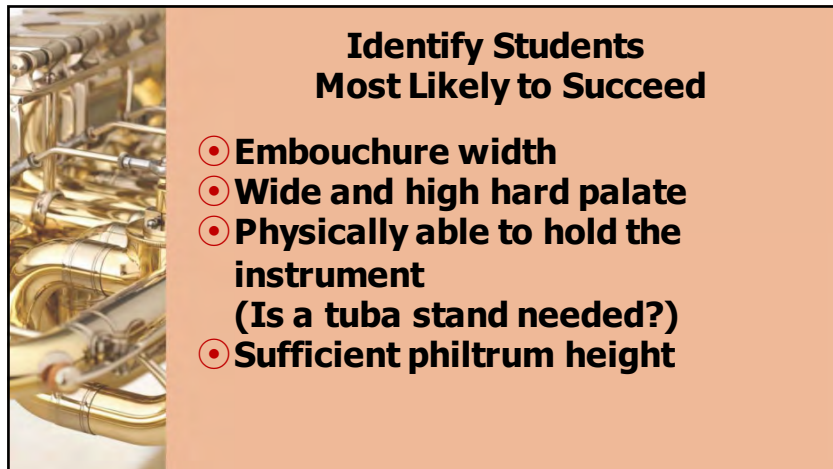
**Music for All Summer Symposium**  
*Wednesday, June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019*  
*Ball State University*  
*Muncie, IN*

[www.DrCRJackson.com](http://www.DrCRJackson.com)  
[zeppole3@gmail.com](mailto:zeppole3@gmail.com)



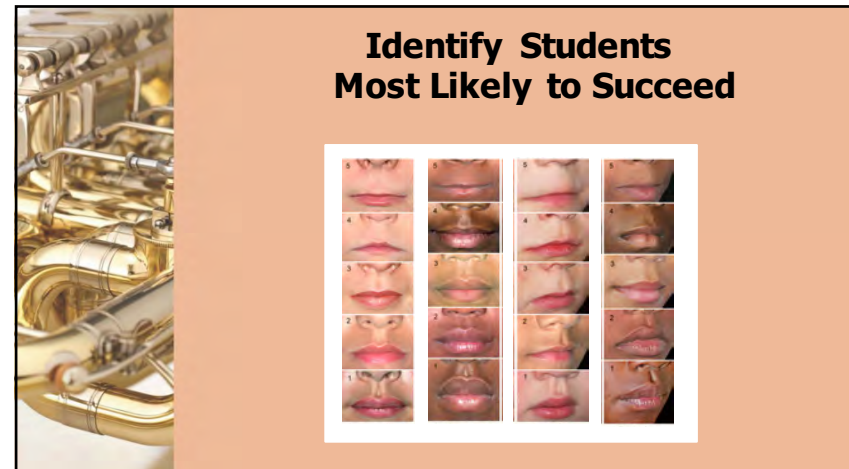
**OVERVIEW**

- Identify Students Most Likely to Succeed
- Mouthpiece & Instrument Selection
- Making the First Sound
- Posture and Hand Position
- Articulation





**Identify Students  
Most Likely to Succeed**

- Embouchure width
- Wide and high hard palate
- Physically able to hold the instrument  
(Is a tuba stand needed?)
- Sufficient philtrum height




**Identify Students  
Most Likely to Succeed**






### Identify Students Most Likely to Succeed

Check to see if the student has enough space between the bottom edge of the nose and the top edge of the top lip to properly place the Tuba or Euphonium mouthpiece.




Philtrum Height




### Identify Students Most Likely to Succeed

Use a tuba stand for students needing assistance with holding the instrument.




Even professional tuba players use tuba stands if needed!



### Identify Students Most Likely to Succeed

- Allow student to try the mouthpiece
- Relaxed embouchure
- Efficient use of air
- Student height and weight is not always a predictor of success.




### Mouthpiece Selection - Tuba

Mouthpiece should fit comfortably.  
**NO MOUTHPIECE IS PERFECT.**  
 For Tuba, a mouthpiece with the same or similar dimensions as a Bach 24 AW or Bach 18 will work fine for beginners.

In the third year, consider moving to something like a Perantucci PT-50 or PT-88 to help clarity and articulation in all ranges.


**NOTE:**  
 "Perantucci PT" is now referred to as just "Robert Tucci RT".  
 (Long story, lots of drama)



### Mouthpiece Selection - Tuba


Compared to the Bach 18, the Perantucci 88 has

1. Wider rim diameter
2. Wider and deeper cup
3. More of a flat rim width





### Mouthpiece Selection - Tuba

**Bach 18**



**Perantucci PT-50 or PT-88**

### Mouthpiece Selection - Euphonium


For Euphonium, a mouthpiece with the same or similar dimensions as a Bach 6 1/2 AL will work fine for beginners.

During the third year, consider moving to something like a Bach 5G.

Compared to the Bach 6 1/2 AL, the 5G has


1. Wider rim diameter
2. Deeper cup
3. More of a flat rim width
4. Wider throat
5. More open backbore

Large Shank  
Small Shank



### Instrument Selection - Tuba

Instrument size should be comfortable for the student (3/4 , 4/4) and a 4-valve model if possible.



## Instrument Selection - Euphonium

The 4<sup>th</sup> valve can be in line with the other three, or offset requiring the use of the left hand.



I personally prefer the in line compensating 4<sup>th</sup> valve for younger players due to less chance for damage.

## Making the First Sound

### Mouthpiece Placement for Tuba & Euphonium

- Generally, 2/3 top lip, 1/3 bottom lip.

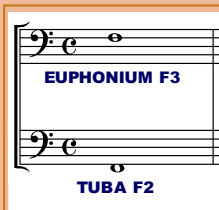


- Buzz should be the result of the air flow and should not be forced.



## Making the First Sound

-The first note varies with method books



- Starting on or near "F" is usually comfortable for beginners.


- Strive for good tone, steady pitch, and strong volume BEFORE moving on to the next note.

## Making the First Sound

### Teeth APART !




- Drop Jaw
- Keep the tip of the tongue low and forward.
- Some professional tuba players claim that their teeth are so far apart, and the tip of the tongue is so low, that they actually tongue on the backside of the lips.




### Making the First Sound

- ◉ Keep embouchure **TOTALLY FREE** of tension
- ◉ Begin with air only
- ◉ Increase air speed until the buzz naturally begins




### Posture



- ✧ Feet flat on the floor
- ✧ Shoulders down and relaxed
- ✧ Spinal Stretch
- ✧ Pads of finger tips on valve caps
- ✧ Right Thumb between 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> valves




**NOTE:** *I personally do not prefer the left hand placement in this photo.*




### Hand Position

- ✧ Left hand position will vary depending on the design of the tuba.
- ✧ Does the bell point to the player's left? → 
- ✧ Does the bell point to the player's right? → 
- ✧ Right hand finger pads on the valve caps.




### Other Considerations

- ✧ When not playing, lower the tuba to the floor between the player's legs. Keep the bell upward.




Arnold Jacobs




Jeff Anderson

- ✧ The euphonium should be held in the lap with bell upward when student is not playing.




### Other Considerations


- ❖ Some professional Tuba and Euphonium players might be seen resting the instrument on the bell. Don't do it!
- ❖ Some professional Tuba and Euphonium players drive over the speed limit. Don't do it!



Arnold Jacobs




Jeff Anderson



### Other Considerations

- ❖ During rehearsal, when students are not playing, encourage the habit of twisting the valve casing caps each day. This helps avoid frozen valve casing caps.
- ❖ Determine the appropriate placement within the ensemble.


**Does the performance stage have a proscenium?**



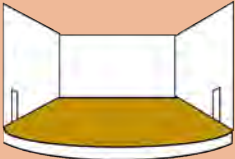
### Other Considerations

that Impact the Ensemble's TONE QUALITY and Balance


- ❖ Tuba and Euphonium sound can be totally lost if placed in the back of the ensemble on a stage with a proscenium.
- ❖ Place entire band in front of the proscenium if possible.



Performance Stage  
WITH  
a Proscenium



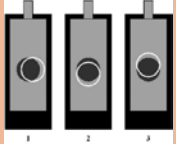
Performance Stage  
WITHOUT  
a Proscenium




### Other Considerations

that Impact Individual TONE QUALITY

- ❖ Young players may accidentally loosen the valve stem that could result in the misalignment of the valve guide.
- ❖ If air will not flow freely through the instrument, check the alignment of the valves, AND check to see if a valve guide has shifted position.
- ❖ Missing or excessively worn felts/pads can cause valve alignment issues.





**Other Considerations  
to Inspire Continued Interest**

In addition to the full band experience, create opportunities for students to participate in:

1. Tuba & Euphonium ensemble
  - Start a group at your school
  - Attend a TUBACHRISTMAS event if one is in your area.



**Other Considerations  
to Inspire Continued Interest**

**Dodgen Band Students at  
TUBACHRISTMAS**




**Other Considerations  
to Inspire Continued Interest**

**In a German Band, the Tuba is King!**



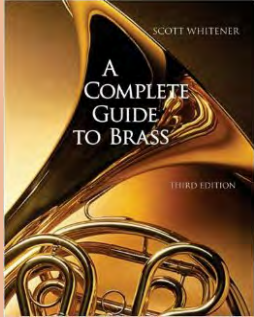
Dodgen Middle School Band  
Marietta, Georgia  
Cobb County Public Schools




**RESOURCES**

**A Complete Guide  
to Brass**

by Scott Whitener

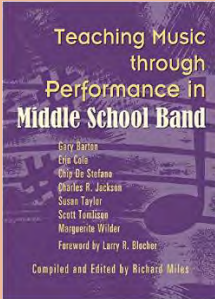





**RESOURCES**

**Teaching Music  
Through Performance  
in Middle School Band**

By  
Gary Barton  
Erin Cole  
Chip De Stefano  
Charles R. Jackson  
Susan Taylor  
Scott Tomlison  
Marguerite Wilder



**Chapter 4: Mastering Fundamentals**




**RESOURCES**

**The Band Director's  
Book of Secrets**

By  
Charles R. Jackson, D.M.A.

Available through:

Amazon Kindle	Ciando
iBooks	Gardners
Barnes & Noble	Baker & Taylor
Kobo	Vearsa
eSential	Copia
Scribd	



**Establishing the Proper Set-up  
for the  
Euphonium  
&  
Tuba**

*Presented by*  
**Charles R. Jackson, DMA**  
*Assistant Professor of Music*  
**Kennesaw State University**  
*Kennesaw, GA (Cobb County)*

**Music for All Summer Symposium**  
*Wednesday, June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019*  
*Ball State University*  
*Muncie, IN*

[www.DrCRJackson.com](http://www.DrCRJackson.com)  
[zeppole3@gmail.com](mailto:zeppole3@gmail.com)

