

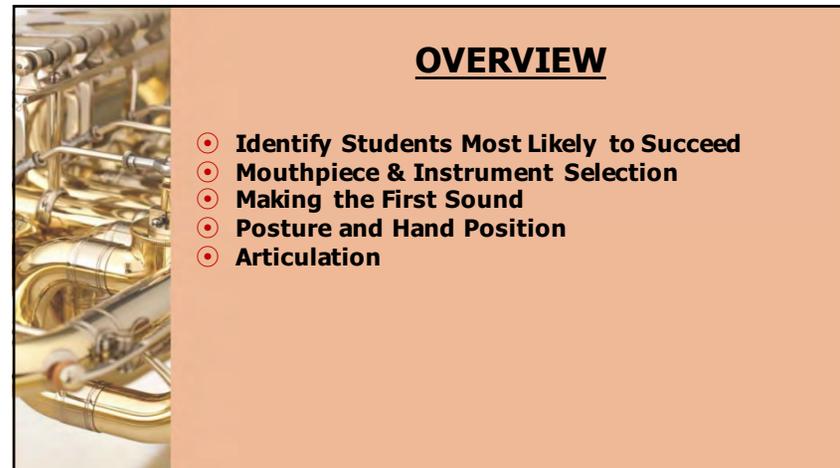


**Establishing the Proper Set-up
for the
Euphonium
&
Tuba**

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

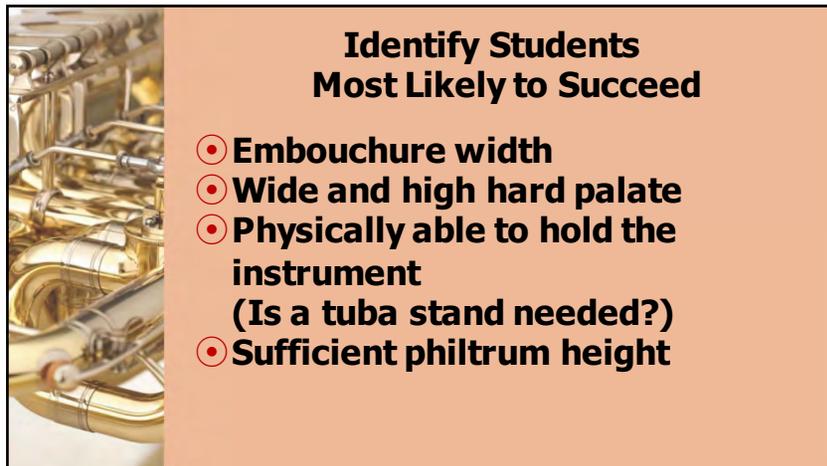
Music for All Summer Symposium
Wednesday, June 26th, 2019
Ball State University
Muncie, IN

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OVERVIEW

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



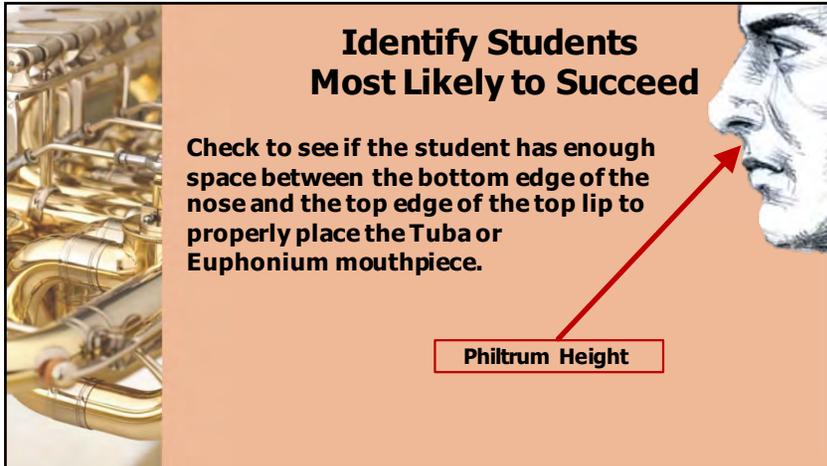
**Identify Students
Most Likely to Succeed**

- **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**

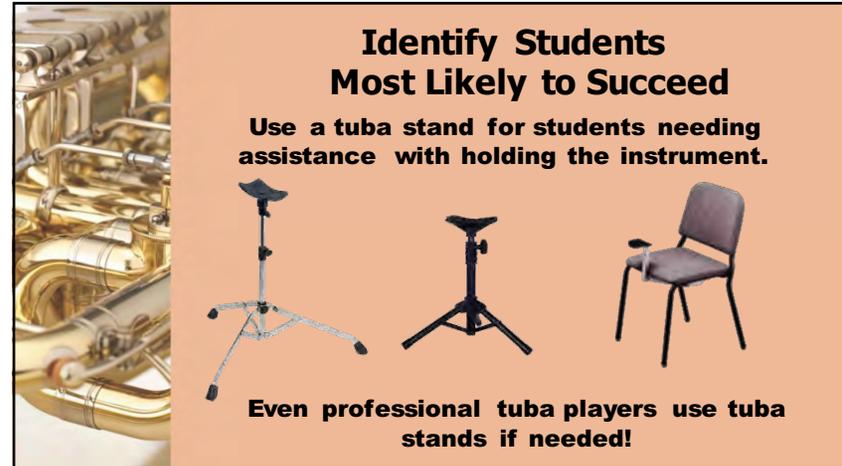




Identify Students Most Likely to Succeed

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 4th 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 4th 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.

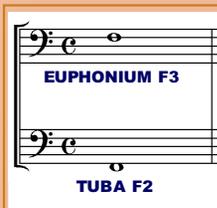


- Buzz should be the result of the air flow and should not be forced.



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 1st & 2nd 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
- ✧ The euphonium should be held in the lap with bell upward when student is not playing.  Jeff Anderson



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.**

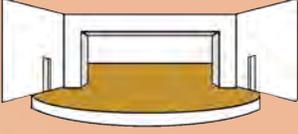
Does the performance stage have a proscenium?



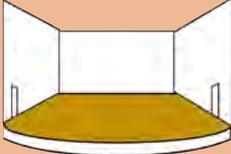
Other Considerations

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



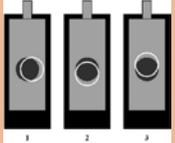
Performance Stage
WITHOUT
a Proscenium



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**

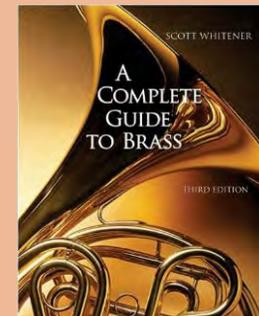
In a German Band, the Tuba is King!



RESOURCES

**A Complete Guide
to Brass**

by Scott Whitener

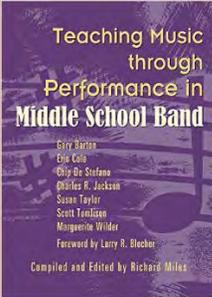




RESOURCES

**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



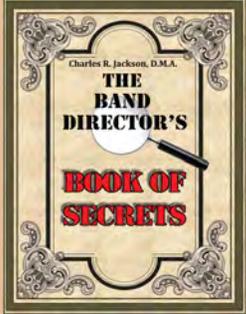
RESOURCES

**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
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