

TROMBONE

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TROMBONE 101


Overview



- ◆ Recruiting Trombone Students
- ◆ Identify Students Most Likely to Succeed
- ◆ Beginning Months of Instruction
- ◆ Embouchure Formation and Development
- ◆ Tone Production
- ◆ View MRI of Single Tonguing
- ◆ Maintain Interest and Accelerate Progress
- ◆ Resources

TROMBONE 101


**Challenges for Inspiring
Interest for the Instrument**



- ◆ The size of the instrument and the size of the case can discourage students, and their parents, from pursuing study on the trombone.
- ◆ Important to actively promote the many “cool” things the trombone can do and its importance in an ensemble.
- ◆ Not as much media attention to the trombone on television commercials when compared to trumpet and sax.

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**Challenges for Inspiring
Interest for the Instrument**



Allow students to hear a live performance:

- ◆ provide a live solo performance during the orientation period.
- ◆ Provide a live performance with other instruments.

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Challenges for Inspiring Interest for the Instrument

Personal Contact with the Instrument

- ◆ Allow students to hold and touch the instrument.
- ◆ Allowing students to attempt making a sound on the instrument might not be a good idea.
 - ❖ Much more difficult to produce a pleasant initial sound on a wind instrument compared to strings or voice.



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Identify Students Most Likely to Succeed

- ◆ Check philtrum for space between the bottom edge of the student's nose and the vermilion border of the top lip.
- ◆ Confirm ability for two thirds / one third mouthpiece placement. (See Joe Alessi Photo)

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Identify Students Most Likely to Succeed

Joe Alessi
Principal Trombone
New York Philharmonic


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Identify Students Most Likely to Succeed

Check arm length...

- Ability to reach lower positions.
- If needed, slide extenders are available.
- Students with oligodactyly on either or both hands can do very well on trombone!


TROMBONE 101
Beginning Months
of Instruction



Posture & Breathing


- ✧ Feet flat on the floor
- ✧ Shoulders down and relaxed
- ✧ Spinal Stretch
- ✧ Breathe in through the mouth, and then exhale without hesitation

TROMBONE 101
Beginning Months
of Instruction




Instrument Assembly

Hold the bell section and slide section at an angle to each other as shown below.




TROMBONE 101
Beginning Months
of Instruction




Instrument Assembly

Slowly slide the bell onto the slide so that the bell rim does not accidentally dent the slide.





TROMBONE 101
Beginning Months
of Instruction



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TROMBONE 101
Beginning Months
of Instruction

Hand Position

- ✧ Discuss the difference between an “L” and “V” position of the slide and the impact on the left hand and wrist.
- ✧ Right hand: Two fingers above and two fingers below the slide.
- ✧ Use finger tips for maximum extension.
- ✧ Grip slide brace near the bottom.

TROMBONE 101
Embouchure Formation
and Development

- ✧ Relax
- ✧ Relax
- ✧ Relax
- ✧ Avoid placing the mouthpiece too low on the embouchure.
- ✧ Avoid squeezing lips together and pressing them into the mouthpiece cup.

TROMBONE 101
Embouchure Formation
and Development

MUSIC STAND PLACEMENT

- ✓ Trombone students should not share a music stand.
- ✓ Music stand should be placed to the student's right.
- ✓ The hand slide should be aligned with the middle of the music stand desk.
- ✓ Don't allow students to play with their slide underneath the music stand.
- ✓ Don't block the bell with the music stand.

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Embouchure Formation and Development

- ❖ Keep corner focused toward the mouthpiece and not pulled back into a smiling position.
- ❖ Keep air moving while tonguing, don't stop the air before releasing the next note. Use a strip of paper or Inspiron to assist if needed.

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Tone Production

- ❖ Avoid clenching teeth. Work for a relaxed jaw.
- ❖ Airflow: Warm, fast air; unrestricted.
- ❖ Keep tip of the tongue low and forward to create a clean release with full tone at the very start of each pitch. (see video)

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Tone Production

MRI of tonguing on the alveolar ridge.




The image shows a sagittal MRI scan of a human head and neck. The tongue is positioned against the alveolar ridge (the ridge of bone in the mouth behind the upper teeth). A video player interface is overlaid on the image, showing a play button and a progress bar. The text '1. Slurred Exercise' is visible in the bottom left corner of the video player.

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Tone Production

- ❖ Make certain that the water key is secure and covering the water hole. Carelessly tossing the trombone in the case can result in a bent water key.
- ❖ The wet shiny part of the lips should not be visible.



TROMBONE 101

Maintain Interest and Accelerate Progress

A Great Exercise to Focus on Many Important Concepts


- ✓ Alternate positions
- ✓ Glissando
- ✓ Dynamics (*p*, *mp*, *mf*, *f*, *ff*)
- ✓ Crescendo
- ✓ Decrescendo
- ✓ Accents
- ✓ Legato
- ✓ Staccato
- ✓ Slurs
- ✓ When and when not to use the tongue on a slur
- ✓ Fermata



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Maintain Interest and Accelerate Progress

A Great Exercise to Focus on Many Important Concepts

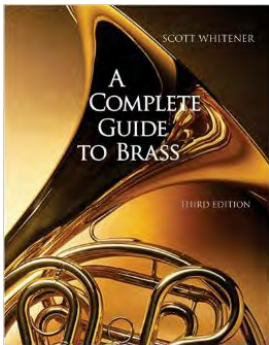




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Resources

A Complete Guide to Brass

by Scott Whitener

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Resources

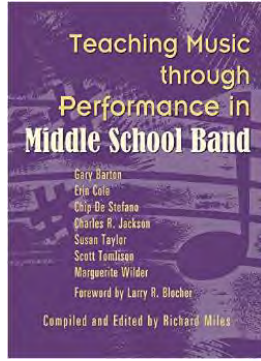
Teaching Music Through Performance in Middle School Band

By

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

Foreword by Larry R. Blecher

Compiled and Edited by Richard Miles



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Resources



**The Band Director's
Book of Secrets**
By
Charles R. Jackson, D.M.A.

Available through:

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