

# **Building a Quality Low Brass Sound**

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### **Capital University Conservatory of Music**

### **Indiana Music Educators Conference**

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This clinic is designed to give you some simple exercises and comments to make to your students that will elicit the sounds you want to hear. Each of the items listed below will be discussed and demonstrated. I've left out the descriptions and left space for you to "personalize" any of the ideas. Though each of the analogies was developed while instructing beginning students, I still use them with college age students today. The concept is the same, give the student a **simple** exercise or comment that is easily **remembered and duplicated**.

#### **I. Breathing**

- a. The filter
- b. Air volume vs. air speed instruments
- c. What is compression?
- d. Bore size
  - 1. Small vs. large
  - 2. Trombone vs. Euphonium
- e. The airplane wing
  - 1. Deep sound in inhale
  - 2. The hurricane
  - 3. Darth Vader
  - 4. The shoulder myth
- f. Relax in and relax out
  - 1. Tension in air stream or body equals tension in sound
  - 2. The no push method
  - 3. "sigh"
- g. Air as the engine
  - 1. No note vs. missed note
  - 2. Bubbling brook or Mississippi River
  - 3. Note begins with the inhale
    - a. wind up and follow through
  - 4. Tire analogy
  - 5. Air is to the brass player as gasoline to the car

#### **II. Embouchure**

- a. Many air problems are misdiagnosed as embouchure problems
- b. Static device
- c. One embouchure, all ranges
- d. The frown
  - 1. Space between the lips vs. space between the teeth
  - 2. Rotten egg or yawning politely
  - 3. The amplifier
- e. The horse (stalled motor boat)
- f. The camera shutter

#### **III. Mouthpiece Playing**

- a. The coffee stirrer/straw for fittings
- b. Playing vs. buzzing
  - 1. The horn as amplifier
  - 2. Tone of the sound
    - a. vowels & singing
  - 3. Slurs as glisses
    - a. coming in for a landing
  - 4. The no finger method
  - 5. The angle
  - 6. The itching nose
  - 7. Drive by Tromboning
- c. 61/2 vs. 12C debate

## **VI. Posture**

- a. Trombone
  - 1. Hanging the horn
  - 2. The triangle
  - 3. Finger tips
  - 4. Chin level
- b. Euphonium
  - 1. Balance the horn
  - 2. Cradle with left hand
  - 3. Horn to you, not you to the horn
  - 4. Bottom to the left top to the right and vice versa

## **IV. Articulation**

- a. One place
- b. Tongue moves because it happens to be in the air stream
- c. Legato is air
  - 1. Bricks in the wall
  - 2. Long but articulated
  - 3. Touch of the tongue
  - 4. Blow the tongue out of the way
- d. The “Light Doodler”

## **V. Building Range**

- a. Build low to build high
  - 1. alternation
  - 2. coffee stirrer
  - 3. Nose itching
  - 4. Air stream angle
- b. Slurs
  - 1. Small sections
  - 2. All through the range
  - 3. Glisses

### **Contact Info**

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### Recommended Text

Caruso, Carmine	Musical Calisthenics for Brass	Belwin Mills
Bailey, Wayne	Brass Methods: A resource guide	McGraw Hill
Begel, Rich	A Modern Guide for Trombonists	Self
Farkas, Philip	The Art of Brass Playing	Wind Music, Inc.
Everett, Thomas	An Annotated Guide to Bass Trombone Literature.	Brass Press
Farkas, Philip	The Art of Brass Playing	Wind Music, Inc.
Fink, Reginald	The Trombonists Handbook	Accura Music
Gallway, Green	The Inner Game of Music	Anchor Press
Horfacre, Marta	Teaching Trombone	Univ of S. Miss.
International Trombone Association.	Journal	ITA Press
Jacobs, Arnold	Song and Wind	Windsong Press
Johnson, Keith	Brass Performance and Pedagogy	Better World Books
Kleinhammer, E.	Art of the Trombone	Summy-Birchard Pub.
Kleinhammer/Yeo	Mastering the Trombone	Doug Yeo
Knaub, Donald	Trombone Teaching Technique	Accura Music
Marsteller, Robert	Basic Routines	Southern
Remington, Emory	Warm-up Studies	Accura Music
Vernon, Charlie	A Singing Approach to Trombone Playing.	Atlanta Brass Press
Vining, David	Daily Routines for Trombone	Kaagarice Brass
Wick, Denis	Trombone Technique	Oxford University

### Recommended Web Sites

**[www.capital.edu/](http://www.capital.edu/)**

Thomas Zuger with PDF warm-ups

**[www.geocities.com/richardbegel](http://www.geocities.com/richardbegel)**

Richard Begel 2<sup>nd</sup> trombone Dayton Phil.

**[www.euphonium.net](http://www.euphonium.net)**

Steven Mead, euphonium soloist

**[www.iteaonline.org](http://www.iteaonline.org)**

International Tuba-Euphonium Association

**[www.patricksheridan.com](http://www.patricksheridan.com)**

Patrick Sheridan Tuba soloist

**[www.slidearea.com](http://www.slidearea.com)**

Joe Alessi Principal Trombone NY Phil.

**[www.ita-web.org](http://www.ita-web.org)**

International Trombone Association web site

**[www.stantons.com](http://www.stantons.com)**

Stanton's Sheet Music in Columbus OH

**[www.indiana.edu/~trombone/masterclass](http://www.indiana.edu/~trombone/masterclass)**

Indiana University Trombone Page

**[www.griegomouthpieces.com](http://www.griegomouthpieces.com)**

Christian Griego Mouthpieces

**[www.hickeys.com](http://www.hickeys.com)**

Hickeys Music in Ithaca NY

**[www.rkingmusic.com](http://www.rkingmusic.com)**

Robert King Music, Boston, Mass

**[www.yeodoug.com](http://www.yeodoug.com)**

Doug Yeo Bass Trombone in the Boston Symphony

**[www.miltstevens.com](http://www.miltstevens.com)**

Milt Stevens Principal Trombone National Symphony

**[www.rkingmusic.com](http://www.rkingmusic.com)**

Robert King Music Sales

**[www.windsonpress.com](http://www.windsonpress.com)**

Publisher of Arnold Jacobs' books, music, breathing tools

**[www.chisham.com](http://www.chisham.com)**

Sean Chisolm's Tubanet

**[www.trombonebarron.com](http://www.trombonebarron.com)**

Ron Barren Boston Symphony

**[www.trombone.org](http://www.trombone.org)**

Online Trombone Journal

**[www.geocities.com/irtconnection/IRT.html](http://www.geocities.com/irtconnection/IRT.html)**

Intonation Repair tool by Thomas Kociela

**[www.tubanews.com](http://www.tubanews.com)**

Tuba News web site

**[www.edwards-instruments.com/trombone](http://www.edwards-instruments.com/trombone)**

Edwards Trombone Company

Dr. Thomas W Zuger is currently the Associate Professor of Trombone and Euphonium at the Capital University Conservatory of Music. Prior to his appointment at Capital University, Dr. Zuger taught at Adrian College in Adrian MI and was also an assistant band director in the Walled Lake Michigan public schools.

As a trombonist and euphonium player, Dr. Zugger has performed extensively. He is currently principal trombone in the Newark/Granville, OH symphony as well as appearing with the Columbus Symphony, *ProMusica* Chamber Orchestra, the Richmond, Indiana Symphony, Jimmy Dorsey Orchestra, and at the 18<sup>th</sup> Macau China International Music Festival. He has performed in orchestras for national tours of numerous Broadway musicals and has backed many popular performers including. Dr. Zugger also keeps a busy schedule as a clinician. Recent appearances include the Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic; the Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Maryland, North Dakota, Tennessee, Pennsylvania, Maine, New York, New Jersey, Virginia and West Virginia state MENC Conferences, College Music Society Great Lakes Chapter Convention, and many colleges and universities. Dr. Zugger is an artist/clinician for Edwards Trombones.

As a published composer and arranger Zugger's works are regularly performed by artists nationally and internationally, and are published through Brixton Publications, Timber Ridge Publications, Warwick Music, and the International Trombone Association Press. He is listed in *Marquis Who's Who in America* and *Who's Who in American Education* and is on the International Trombone Association's ITA Press Board. Dr. Zugger holds degrees from the University of Michigan, Michigan State University, and a DMA from The Ohio State University.

Dr. Zugger is also an avid marathoner having completed 30 marathons and 3 ultra marathons to date. He is now running for the American Cancer Society team. In his spare time Dr. Zugger enjoys hiking, photography, and traveling with his wonderful and patient wife, clarinet Professor Dr. Gail L Zugger.