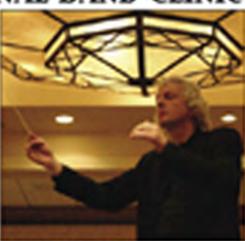


27th Annual Western International Band Clinic







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В

The American Bandmasters Association

A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to a Band Rehearsal

by M. Max McKee

From the time I was a very young child, my dad took me to his band rehearsals, pep band in the stands gigs, and even musical production prep. Little did I know that it was just the first "funny thing" that happened on the way to a band rehearsal.



Looking back to 1950, I realize that in that 55 year period I've luckily crossed paths with some of the most interesting and influential people in our business while learning the trade long before I even knew that I was interested in doing so. Many of those people made an enormous impact on my life and in major ways determined much of what Bandworld Magazine, the American Band College and Western International Band Clinic have become.

Some of those CONNECTIONS now serve as the foundation of our teaching in the ABC masters program and the ongoing re-presentation of important teaching concepts through Bandworld Magazine that otherwise would likely be lost to future generations.

Many of those CONNECTIONS were nothing more than fortuitous happenstance that subconsciously contributed to my later decision to become a band director, a publisher, and a teacher.



FUNNY #1 CONTINUES

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BW 2006

The American Bandmasters Association



A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to a Band Rehearsal

by M. Max McKee

- FUNNY #1 CONTINUED -



Below: Evans with clown. Emmett Kelly

In 1950, I was an 8-year old kid. That year my dad took me to see the Ringling Bros-Barnum and Baily Circus in Seattle, Washington. The director of the circus band was none other than Merle Evans, the famous trumpet player/conductor who fronted the band for 50 seasons. He had also been inducted into the American Bandmasters Association; so, at the 1987 convention in Tennessee (where my wife and I were making final preparations to host the next ABA convention in Ashland, Oregon), we met Merle while sitting on a park bench outside the hotel. We asked him about his days with the circus; coincidentally, at that very moment we saw the Ringling Bros-Barnum & Baily Circus trucks arriving for an appearance in Knoxville that evening. Merle, who had retired from the circus some 17 years earlier and was now over 90 years of age, suddently got very excited (like that excited 8-year old kid I was years before when I first heard his circus band) and said, "Wow! They're in town tonight; I'm going!!" And he did. He died just a few months later. A minor CONNECTION I'll never forget.



Funny how the circus image played such an important role in my early years. My dad was a band director and always had the Selmer Bandwagon Magazine (1954-1980) on the coffee table. It's famous logo was distinctive.



I can recall looking at those magazines and seeing the many (what I now know to be) useful articles by famous band directors. Over the years, I collected Selmer Bandwagon copies and have an almostcomplete set that, when complete, will be bound and placed in the American Band College Center for Research.



Bandwagon Magazine (#72, 1974)



Also on that coffee table was my mother's current copy of Etude Magazine (1899-1957), a publication with printed music (mostly for piano) that you could use immediately.

Most remarkable is the fact that the band pages were written by one William D. Revelli and were presented on the oversize pages of Etude Magazine.

Curious, isn't it, that when we started Bandworld Magazine in 1985 we decided to make it oversize and to include lots of useful materials and printed music? Probably all coincidental CONNECTIONS!

NEXT TIME: The Amazing Gunnison Music Camp CONNECTION

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BW 2006

The Future of the Bandworld



Dedication of the Sousa Statue

November 5, 2005 • Marine Barracks • Washington, DC

November 6, 2004 marked the 150th anniversary of the birth of John Philip Sousa. The John Philip Sousa Foundation and the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation jointly raised funds to commission and erect a statue of Sousa. The statue has been placed at the site of the new Marine Band facility in Washington, D.C. at a cost of approximately \$150,000. Noted artist, Terry Jones, was commissioned to sculpt the likeness of Sousa in his Marine Band uniform.





<u>Video Clip</u>:John Bourgeois about statue after Sousa Foundation meeting in Chicago.





Clay model being observed by the artist.









Lieutenant General G.R. Granite base arriving and then placed at Marine Barracks.

Marine Barracks Washington and "The President's Own" United States Marine Band unveiled an eight-foot bronze statue of John Philip Sousa at 1 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 5, the last day of the famous composer's day of the famous composer's sesquicentennial (150th) year.



Commissioned artist, Terry Jones, at

work on statue assembly in Pennsylvania foundry.



Lieutenant General G.R.
Christmas, USMC, (Ret.),
President of the Marine Corps
Heritage Foundation and
Colonel John R. Bourgeois,
USMC, (Ret.), 25th Director of
the U.S. Marine Band and President of John Philip Sousa President of John Philip Sousa Foundation, performed the unveiling. The statue, sculpted by renowned artist Terry Jones, is the first national landmark dedicated to Sousa.

Sousa's great grandson, John Philip Sousa IV at the dedication ceremony. Completed statue during the dedication ceremony.

"The concept I had for the John Philip Sousa statue was to make the statue as monumental as his music," sculptor Terry Jones said. The Marine Band worked closely with Jones to ensure accuracy of the detailed Marine Band uniform and Sousa's physical characteristics. The statue, which took eight months to sculpt, was bronzed at the Laran Bronze Foundry in Chester, Pa. Jones has sculpted other statues of historic American figures, including Ernest Hemingway, which stands in Key West, Fla., and General John Gibbon for Gettysburg National Military Park in Gettysburg, Pa.

The Sousa statue was originally conceived by Captain Kenneth R. Force, USMS, and supported by John Philip Sousa, IV, the composer's great grandson. Sponsorship of the statue was generously provided by Mickey Gordon, the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation and the John Philip Sousa Foundation. The statue stands inside the gates of the new Marine Barracks Annex and Band Support Facility in southeast Washington, D.C., which was dedicated in 2004 on the famous composer's 150th birthday.

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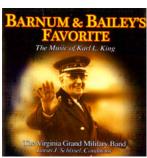
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MusiClips

by Ira Novoselsky

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<u>Iowa Band Law March (excerpt)</u>

by Karl L. King

Album Title: BARNUM & BAILEY'S FAVORITE- THE MUSIC OF KARL L. KING Recording: Virginia Grand Military Band/Loras J. Schissel, conductor

Publisher: Walking Frog Records WFR-338

Man cannot live by Sousa alone! It's about time we heard from the other American March Masters. A quality recording of Karl L. King has been long overdue. While many of King's finest marches are featured here, there are also some other musical styles represented in this collection. Don't let the title mislead you. In addition to the circus, King wrote music for community bands and school bands. The Virginia Grand Military Band has done a magnificent job in preserving the music of one of band's true pioneers. I highly recommend Barnum & Bailey's Favorite for your band listening library.



The Band Song (excerpt) by William Schuman

Album Title: BAND SONGS

Recording: Rutgers Wind Ensemble/William Berz, conductor

Voorhees Choir/Mary Kennedy, director Judith Nicosia, soprano Brian McIntosh, baritone

Publisher: Mark Masters 6000-MCD

The title says it all: This collection, from the Rutgers Wind Ensemble, has the common factor of songs throughout the recording. The songs may be with voice and wind ensemble (Ripley's Ferry & Heart of the Morn by H. Owen Reed); the songs could come from Stephen Foster (Foster's America by David Gillingham) or even a Psalm (Roger Nixon). One of the treasures on this superb recording comes from an unassuming, yet effective piece by William Schuman in his setting of The Band Song. Music of Grainger, Carroll, Maslanka & Bolcom is also featured. The series of recordings by the Rutgers Wind Ensemble are consistent, topnotch performances unmatched in excellence.

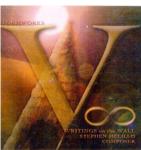
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The Future of the Bandworld

Musiclips by Ira Novoselsky

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Concerto for Violin, III (excerpt)

by Stephen Melillo

Album Title: STORMWORKS CHAPTER V: WRITINGS ON THE WALL

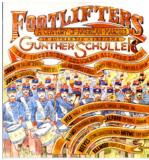
Music of Stephen Melillo - 2 CD set

Recording: The Central Band of the Japan Air Self Defense Force-Major Tetsuo Matsui, conductor

various soloists and choirs

Publisher: Music & Recordings available through stormworld.com

If you have not heard the music of Stephen Melillo before, you are in for something special. One doesn't merely hear the music of Stephen Melillo, one experiences the music of Stephen Melillo! This two disc set features several challenging and rewarding works from the Concerto for Violin (skillfully performed by Rieko Suzuki) to Kakehashi: That We Might Live, an hour plus tour de force for musicians, actors, and media you have to hear to believe! While these may be some of the most daring and involved works of Melillo, the composer has an extensive catalogue of band pieces for groups of varying sizes and demands. Writings on the Wall makes an impact very few recordings can match.



March Intercollegiate (excerpt)

by Charles Ives/Brion

Album Title: FOOTLIFTERS: A CENTURY OF AMERICAN MARCHES

Recording: The Incredible Columbia All-Star Band-Gunther Schuller, conductor

Bonus tracks by the Goldman Band-Richard Franko Goldman & Ainslee Cox, conductors

Publisher: Sony Classical SK-94887

It's great to see this reissue on the market, and it sounds fresher than ever! The additional selections from the JCPenney Bicentennial Musical Celebration are welcome extras and offer some unusual gems on the CD. Sousa is represented with six familiar marches plus a rarely heard extra from the Penney collection and two marches by Charles Ives also make an appearance. Of special interest is the only non-march, The Battle of Trenton (Hewitt/Elkus), a most imaginative military sonata from 1792. While Footlifters and the Penney collection may seem dated, the music is indeed timeless and a joy to hear again and again. Welcome back!

20 Years Ago in Bandworld Flute Embou-Sure by Phebe Kimball

It is my basic assumption that you will be teaching this concept to several elementary (or at least beginning) students at one time. I also assume that right now you have a flute (in its case) in front of you and that you will follow along step by step to carefully learn this concept.

THE HEAD JOINT

Do NOT put the flute together yet! Have each student pick up only the head joint, and holding it with both hands, place the embouchure plate securely in the natural indentation of the jaw. Ask the student to be sure he feels the lower lip covering 1/4 to 1/3 of the embouchure hole. If not, move up and down as necessary to achieve this feeling.

FORMING THE EMBOUCHURE

Now, demonstrate, using your own facial expression, by making a silent "WHEE". Ask each student to do so. This should pull the corners of the lips outward and flatten the lower lip which is resting on/over the embouchure hole. Immediately ask the student to add a "too" following the "Whee". WHEE-TOO should (1) set the embouchure and (2) give the feeling of properly starting the first tone.

THE FIRST TONE

Discuss the theory that air will be directed INTO the hole, NOT ACROSS it. The more directly the air goes into the hole, the more likely a clear and pleasing sound will result. Use the airstream as a pointer towards a spot on the backwall inside the the embouchure hole. (You can point to this area from the outside.) I call this FOCUS and use that term from beginners on. Only with FOCUS can a beautiful flute tone result. Take a deep breath. Re-form the embouchure (Whee) and blow (too). Demonstrate and ask each student to produce a tone. It should be A2 (second space A).

Testing each student you will encounter one of five predictable results:

#1--CORRECT RESULT More often than not, a reasonable tone results. Imitation of your tone and pitch will be automatically attempted. When it happens, it produces A2 and should sound like this:

EXAMPLE #1

#2--NO TONE, RUSHING AIR Air is going across, not INTO the hole.

EXAMPLE #2

#3--SOME SOUND-MUCH AIR Air is rushing over as well as into hole (splitting the tone) and out the sides of the lips. "Whee" embouchure is not being maintained.

EXAMPLE #3

#4a--WHOOF SOUND No tongue (Too) has been used to push air out. Eject air with tongue on roof behind teeth - "too" part of embouchure.

EXAMPLE #4a

#4b--THU SOUND Tongue going between teeth and, sometimes, lips.

EXAMPLE #4b

5a--HIGH PITCHED WHISTLE Blowing much too hard. Blow less and more directly into hole. Headjoint rolled in too far, causing hole to be covered too much.

EXAMPLE #5a

#5b--FLAT SOUNDING A2 Headjoint rolled "in" too far; hole covered too much.

EXAMPLE #5b

FLUTE BODY ASSEMBLY

Now, having tried to blow a sound using only the headjoint, it is time to put the flute together (not too difficult to do) and hold it correctly (very difficult to do). Students will not have much problem putting (1) the headjoint into the body and (2) adding the footjoint. (If joints are tight, lubricate them by rubbing on some graphite from a soft lead pencil or wash clean with a little soap and water. DO NOT use grease on flute joints.) A few reminders:

- 1. Avoid hand pressure on rod or keys.
- 2. Line embouchure hole up with first two keys on body.
- 3. Line foot joint up by having the key rod in center of last key on the body piece.

FIRST TONE AGAIN

Holding the flute securely with both hands, (left hand around the upper section of the flute body with no keys down and no attempt to achieve proper hand position) go completely through THE FIRST TONE steps again. Note produced should now be third space C#.

HOLDING THE FLUTE

This is often the hardest part of the first or second lesson. Take time to work carefully with each individual so that correct hand position begins at once. Use a mirror so student can "see" without moving flute out of position.

Use four points of suspension...the lips (& chin), the first finger of the left hand, the right thumb and the right little finger. Correct placement of the right hand is crucial and often ignored. Watch the right thumb! If the thumb goes too far forward under the flute, the wrist drops. Try placing the fingers of the right hand on the key without the thumb touching the flute. Next, add the thumb to the side of the flute so that it braces up the hand rather than holds up the instrument.

FIRST PITCHES

There are three pitches best learned on the flute in the beginning stages because they can be produced easily and they assist the student in learning to hold the instrument properly: Third line B natural, second space A, second line G. Review again the "Whee- too" embouchure. Learn these three notes. When they can be successfully played, you are ready to begin in a method book, preferably one designed specifically for flutes instead of the usual band method books.

Maximizing Contest Ratings (Part 2)

10 Years Ago in Bandworld

by Gladys Wright

Part 1 of this series is in the October-December issue (Vol. 21 #2).

How about band sonority? The band sound. This comes along last. Intonation, good tone quality, and proper breath support are the basic ingredients of sound and blend that the students need to produce this great sonority. Bob Wagner, University of Oregon from the 50's through the mid-70's, taught it this way: Have a clarinet and a comet play the same note. When it merges into one sound it is perfectly in tune and produces a sonority. The sonority of his University of Oregon Band at that time was truly great!

This is a gradual, on-going process which only takes a few minutes a day in rehearsal. The band participates in the listening and evaluation with different instruments and students involved each day. IT IS A CONCEPT.

How do I know I am selecting the best compositions? A good warm-up march is critical. It is the first thing a judge hears. Trying to be "arty" by putting the march at the end, replacing it with a short concert piece, or using a very exposed difficult march just puts more burden on your students. The warm-up march has been around for good reason for a long time. It is more relaxing and does what it is supposed to do: Warm up the band, build confidence, and give them an opportunity to get comfortable in the performing hall. Besides, let's face it, the march belongs to the band and should be played. CONTRAST between the two major compositions, like a contemporary and a transcription, is also recommended. Select numbers that emphasize the strong points and hide the weak (Don't use contest as a time to develop an inexperienced clarinet section by playing Poet and Peasant). The selections should be reasonable, technical challenges to the members. (Want to create real boredom? Select an easy technical number to "develop" tone, intonation, and phrasing.) Include these sections within a composition that also has twelve interesting technical and rhythmic actions. The contemporary selection should have demanding percussion parts. Even the grade 3 Festivo by Nelhybel has lots of exciting percussion parts.

Can the parts be adjusted? Within reason. For example, the following techniques are helpful, especially in transcriptions and overscored contemporary compositions.

- 1. Avoid excessive doubling of the melody.
- 2. Eliminate difficult technical passages in the back chairs. Give the players simplified parts that fit the rest of the parts and are easy to perform. (Example: Repeated 8th notes on a chord note for the 3rd clarinets in the allegro sections of Poet and Peasant by Von Suppe.
- 3. Take out trills, tremolos, and other ornamentation for secondary players.
- 4. Thin-out sections and watch for doubling of:
 - a. baritone/first trombone
 - b. saxophones/clarinets

- c. flutes and first clarinets.
- 5. Drop many of your flutes down an octave on the real high notes. A perfectly in tune octave sounds like one note anyway with the top of the overtone series merging into the complete sound. Keep the sound from being top heavy.
- 6. Don't overdo the percussion, especially in a transcription.
- 7. Substitute strong soloists for weak ones when necessary (i.e. a good clarinet is better than a poor oboe).
- 8. Often the 3rd clarinet is in a lower octave by itself with the 1st and 2nd clarinets playing together in the higher octave. Give the 2nd clarinets the 3rd parts and this will balance the sound and clean up the intonation. Higher notes carry better than lower notes which allows the first to carry the part easily.
- 9. Every student does NOT have to play every note. If a passage cannot be played properly simplify it. (Example: Play the first 8th note of the beat only in a fast technical 16th-note passage. It fits and the student can keep busy and stay involved with the music. The students with proper technique play every note.

Is there a magic seating arrangement? No, just individual preference. Some conductors like the brass blocked in the middle, some like them spread around. Clarinets, however, don't like trumpets blasting behind them. A well-rehearsed band can play in any reasonable seating arrangement. Just don't change at the last minute.

How long should the music be rehearsed before contest? Most directors use a month of dedicated rehearsal. However, sometimes this is what is called a "warm-up up number." After the contest, while the band is playing really well, many directors select some possible numbers for next year and read them, even playing one or two for a spring concert. They keep these compositions in mind and read them again the following winter. Such numbers can be worked up quickly and easily because many of the students had an opportunity to digest the music previously. Remember, preparing for contest takes a complete school year. You are always rehearsing the fundamentals of playing, listening, etc. You are only changing the music. If you spend too much time on a few numbers, students burn out. What about the director? If you go to rehearsal feeling you'll vomit if you have to listen to that tune one more time, then that was too much time spent!

How important is the band's image on stage? I have often told my students, "If you are flawless, you can play in your pajamas and get a top rating, but few bands are at that level." A good image sets the stage for a superior rating, so insist the band members dress carefully and well in their uniforms, sit properly and hold their instruments correctly. (Dressy dresses and suits just don't make the grade.) Only the contest numbers should be in the folio. Avoid tapping your feet, particularly high school musicians. The band should be dedicated and serious in the endeavor. "One rotten apple can spoil the barrel," so students need to help the director keep unpredictable personalities under control as well. The week of the contest:

- 1. This is the week you need to concentrate on your personal conducting.
- 2. Work for the whole concept of the compositions. Forget about the details and keep in mind the whole.

- 3. Rehearse at least once in an auditorium. Start the band, walk off, and listen for balance particularly between the sections.
- 4. Schedule a concert no less than a week before contest.

The day before the contest:

- 1. After the last performance, YOU CHECK to see that all the folios are there, putting them in the folio box for transportation to the contest site. This is not some thing to delegate.
- 2. Play through all the music (without stopping) for the last rehearsal. Use this time as a "dress rehearsal" giving explicit instructions on the next day.
- 3. Instruct the students to relax and get a good night's sleep so they will be fresh the next day. It is as important as an athletic event to do this.

Next time: Part 3 - The day of the contest.

Twelve Extra Weeks of Rehearsal

10 Years Ago on the Bandworld ASBDA Page

by Kenneth Williams

Think how great your band would be with FIFTY-NINE extra days of rehearsal each year. How about fifty-nine extra days to use for sectionals? Wow! That is almost twelve full weeks of EXTRA rehearsal. The extra days can be used for more in-depth study of music theory and history. Perhaps the extra time can be used to bring in guest artists to perform and be role models for your students. Just think of the possibilities...

No, this is not about year-round-school and it is not about adding more after school or evening practice. So where will the extra time come from? How will it happen? Let us observe two different band rehearsals and see if we find some answers.

It is Tuesday morning, 10:07 a.m.—the first bell rings and students begin to arrive. They enter Mr. Stevens' rehearsal room carrying instruments, book bags and music folders. They scramble to find an empty chair and push it to their spot. Grabbing a music stand and placing it in front of them, they begin to unpack their instruments. The instruments are put together and the cacophony of sound erupts as the individual noodling begins. Stragglers are still arriving.

10:09 a.m.—Jennifer and Susan are still standing by the door. The subject of their excited conversation? The new boy in the trumpet section. Mary and two other girls join them in their high-spirited conference. Through their giggles they are able to agree that the new boy goes on the list of Top Five.

10:12—the tardy bell rings. Toward the back of the room Bill and Tommy are struggling over a music stand. They both arrive at the stand at the same time and both have claimed rights to it. The boys' voices rise as they play tug-a-war.

10:15 a.m.—the roar of drums pervades the room. The percussion equipment is not setup yet, but all of the drummers have begun a relentless pounding of the drum nearest them. Two boys from the trombone section are enthusiastically helping with the pounding, their trombones still encased.

Billy is trying to take his book bag back from Tom. Tom feels that the bag is in the spot that belongs to his chair. Their shouts rise above the din of the drums.

10:17 a.m.—Mr. Stevens is standing at the front of the classroom trying to find his box of tiny screwdrivers. Bob is waiting patiently with his clarinet in one hand and a clarinet key in the other. Behind Bob are six other students, talking excitedly, waiting their turn with Mr. Stevens. Jim and Tina have candy money to turn in. Luke needs to buy a new reed for his sax. Billy has come down to complain that Tom took his book bag. Kamitris is trying to get her absence excuse signed and James has a note from his mother asking when the next Band Booster meeting will take place.

10:23 a.m.—The girls at the door have discovered the new boy's name; it's Kyle. Mr. Stevens goes into his office to get the sax reed for Luke. On his way he asks the social committee by the door to get ready for class. Reluctantly they move to find a chair and to get unpacked.

10:25 a.m. — Mr. Stevens returns to the podium, Luke has his reed. Mr. Stevens taps his music stand to gain the students' attention. The drummers are not aware that class has begun and Mr. Stevens has to shout to get their attention. Finally the class begins to quiet, the girls from the door are still scrambling around the room to find an unused music stand.

10:27 a.m.—There are eight flute players in the front row, but there are twelve chairs. Mr. Stevens asks that the extra chairs be moved out of the way. He begins to call the roll.

10:30 a.m.—Mr. Stevens gives the downbeat for the warm-up scale (Concert B Flat, of course). He stops to ask some of the students to join in the warm-up...

Hold on—STOP!

Have you ever observed a band class like the one described? Or perhaps you were in a band where this same scene played out every day. Or, just maybe, some of the events portrayed take place in your own classroom. Is this good or bad? No judgment will be passed here, but take note that, in the scene above, fifteen minutes of class elapsed before class really started.

Let us do the math. If you have a fifty minute period, five days a week...that adds up to almost fifty-nine class periods in a full school year. Fifty-nine class periods without music making. FIFTY NINE Days!

Can you do away with all of the tasks that Mr. Stevens is taking care of during that fifteen minutes each day?

Probably not, but there are alternatives and a more efficient use of class time.

Let us look in on Mrs. Wright's band class. It is Tuesday morning:

10:07 a.m.—The first bell rings and students begin to arrive. They enter Mrs. Wright's rehearsal room carrying instruments, book bags and music folders. The center of the room is bare. All chairs and stands are stacked neatly out of the way. As each student enters the room they deposit their book bags on shelves by the door. Their first task is to get a chair from the stacks by the wall and a music stand from the rack in the corner. They place their chairs and stands so that they will have an uncluttered and orderly work space for the rehearsal. The atmosphere is very business-like. The students work quietly as the stereo plays Mozart in the background. The students have learned to listen as they

set up because "Mrs. W" will ask some extra credit questions during class about what is playing on the stereo.

Mrs. Wright is at the door to remind students of the task at hand. Horns are unpacked and silent fingering of scales begins.

10:10 a.m.—The percussionists are quietly setting up the equipment needed for today's rehearsal. They know what equipment is needed because the day's rehearsal schedule is on the chalk board. By checking the part assignment list on the wall, each percussionist knows exactly which part she will play and is responsible for the needed equipment.

Mrs. Wright will fix Bob's clarinet later in the day. Bob will finger along during class. Mrs. Wright knows that fifty minutes of silent participation by Bob is not as negative as the loss of 500 minutes of student time ($10 \times 50 = 500$ or number of minutes X number of students) while she fixes his clarinet key.

10:11 a.m.—Students have reeds for their instruments because reeds are only sold before and after school, NEVER during class time. Luke forgot to buy a reed this morning and he knows that he should simply finger along as the band plays today. Luke also knows that his participation grade will be lowered as a result of his forgetfulness. Mrs. W will remind Luke to be prepared for tomorrow.

Candy money is turned in before or after school. The money goes into a sealed envelope with the needed information printed on the outside. It is dropped into a lock-box that will be opened by Mrs. Wright or a parent volunteer later in the day. Each envelope's contents will be verified and recorded.

10:12 a.m.—The tardy bell rings, fifteen seconds later Mrs. Wright raises her trumpet to her mouth and plays a short scale-wise melody, one measure long. Before Mrs. Wright finishes the first two beats of the first example all the students are listening intently. They know that she might call on individuals to mirror her example and each of them wants to be prepared. The class plays the melody back in unison. Mrs. Wright continues with another, changing the melody slightly. Sometimes she alters the rhythm or dynamics, sometimes the articulation. She shapes the contour of the line differently each time. She will change the tonal center by using chromatic alterations. The class responds in turn. Mrs. Wright repeats the fourth example giving her students an opportunity to use their ears and make the adjustments needed to mirror her example perfectly. At times she asks for a response using solfege syllables and good vocal tone. (If you can sing in tune you will be better prepared to play in tune.)

During the mirroring session Mrs. Wright has included some rhythms and articulations that will be needed in today's lesson. She smoothly moves the class to the scale studies and chorales that will lead to the first piece of the rehearsal. During the scale studies she makes marks on the class seating chart which she will transfer to her attendance register later in the day. She also initials admit slips placed on her music stand by the students who were absent the day before; they will retrieve them at the end of class. Mrs. W reads

the note from James' mother asking about the booster meeting. She will announce the booster information as a reminder to the whole class at the end of rehearsal. As the class moves quietly from the day's articulation study to the first chorale Mrs. Wright asks trumpeter Mary to describe the articulation style of the piece that was playing on the stereo during the set-up time. Johnny gains grade points for giving the right answer about the historic period of the Mozart piece. Then Carmen is called on to decide for the class how the first phrase of today's chorale will be shaped...

What is different in the second scene? There is no loss of rehearsal time for non-musical events. Even while the set-up is taking place the students are being engaged musically. From the first moment of entering the classroom each student has a very specific set of tasks to accomplish. From the sounding of the first note it is necessary for every student to use their ears and then their mind before responding with their instrument.

Non-musical activities are an unavoidable part of a successful band program but ALL can take place outside the rehearsal time. It is a "time issue." The task for the director is deciding when those non-musical activities will take place. The task is finding ways of streamlining the process so that it does not take the band director's attention during rehearsal time. It is deciding which tasks can only be done by the director and which can be delegated to others. Take control of the rehearsal environment and make changes that will benefit student and the director.

The two scenes were described to cause thought and inventiveness. There are hundreds of ways to make more efficient use of our precious rehearsal time. Often, time is lost without us being aware of the waste. Make MUSIC the priority for you and your students. With some thought and preparation you can restructure how and when events take place in your classroom and you can get twelve extra weeks of rehearsal time...FREE.

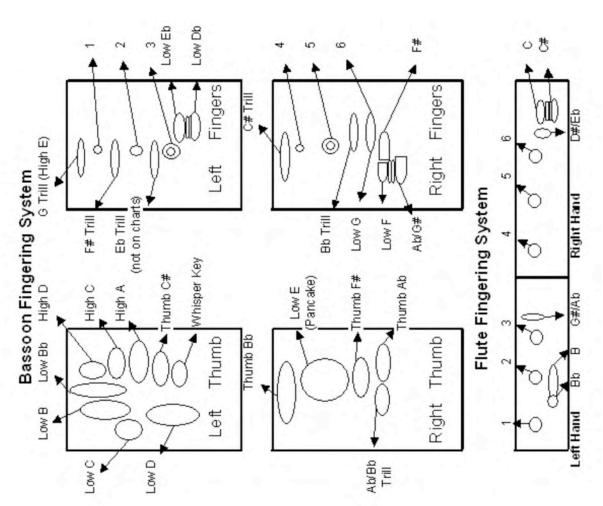
Transferring from the Flute:

Looking at the fingering system of the bassoon vs. the flute you will notice the same basic six-finger set-up. The major differences occur when comparing the use of the thumb. The embouchure will obviously be different but Many of the fingerings encountered while playing the bassoon are very similar to those on the flute. again the finger placement is similar.

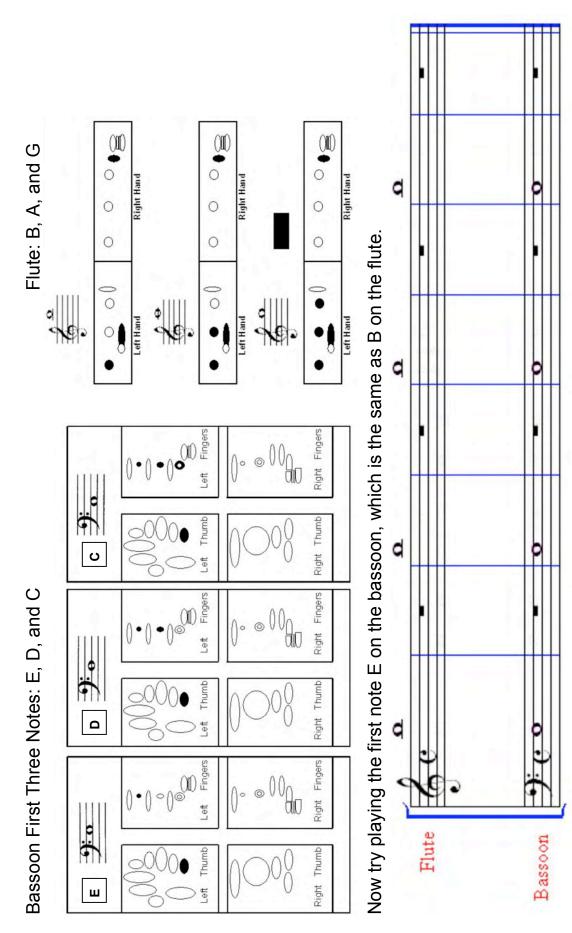
The best place to start comparing the two would be with the B on the flute and the E on the bassoon. They use basically the same fingering but do not read the same notes



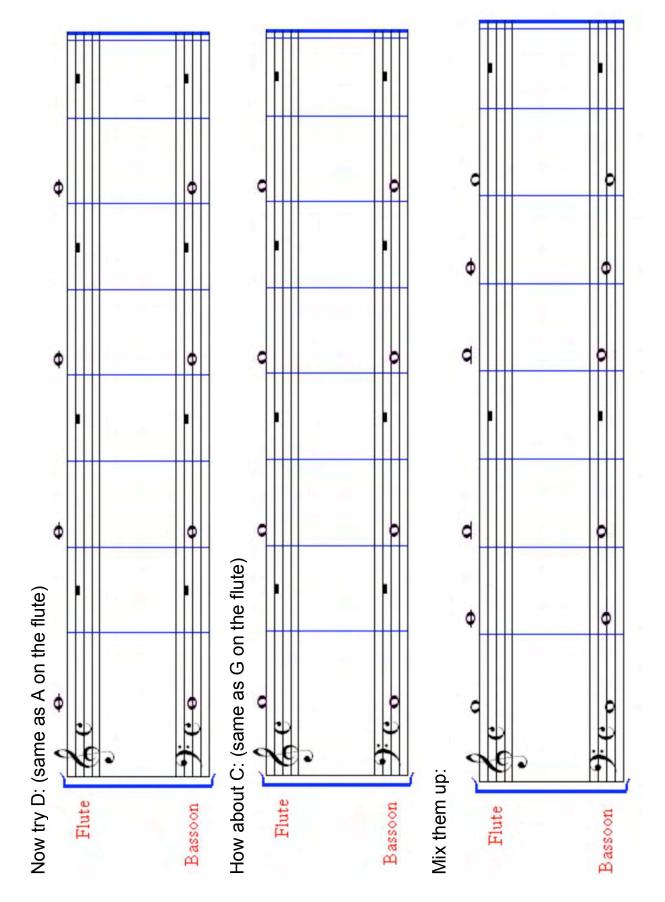
Notice the similarities between the fingering systems of the bassoon and the flute. Each instrument has the same basic finger placement of fingers 1-6. The thumb and pinky keys are different



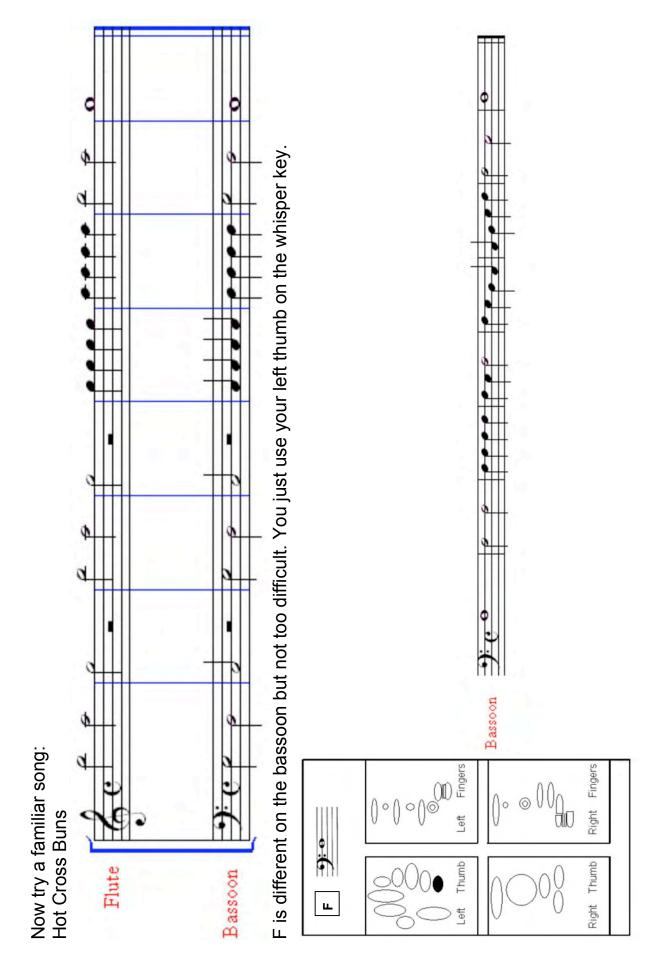
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Notice that the fingering is basically the same on both instruments. The thumb is down on both instruments as well as the first index finger. **These exercises are not to be played simultaneously. They are only used as a comparison.

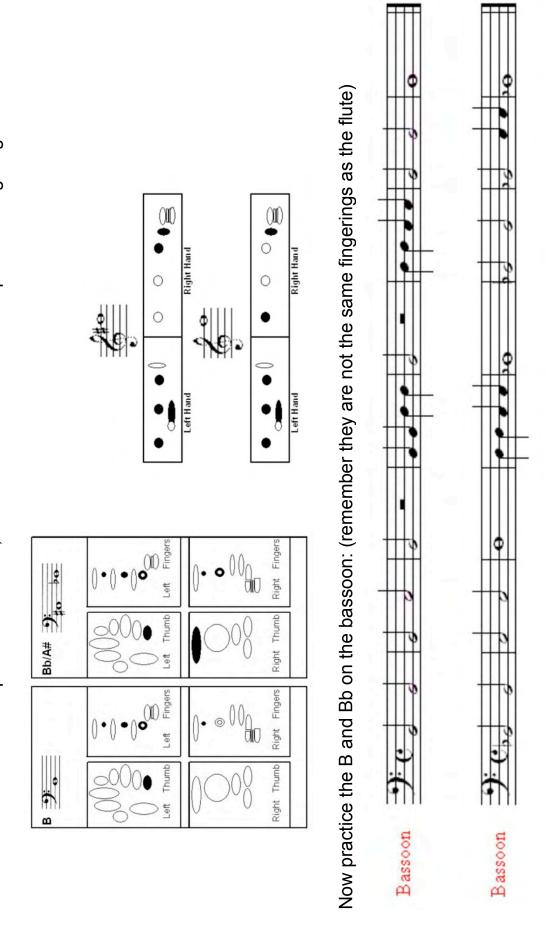


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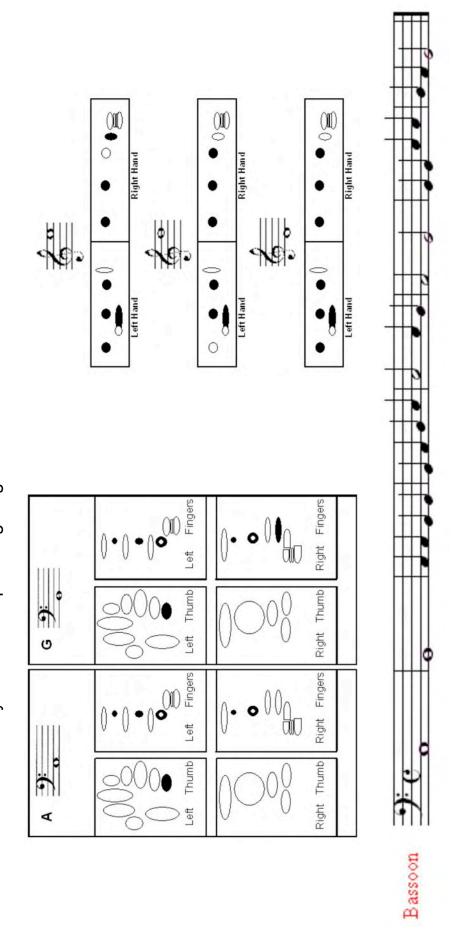


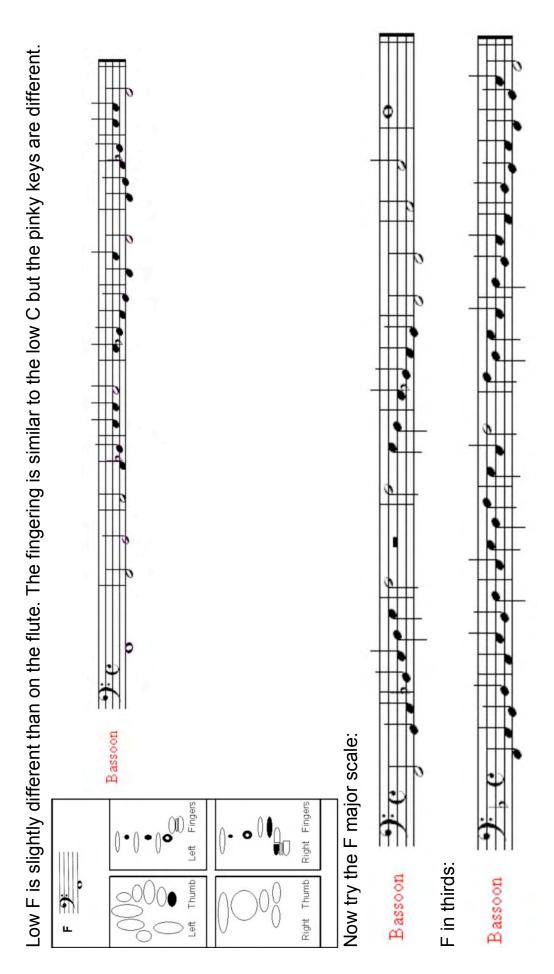
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The bassoon has a half step between hands, while the flute has a whole step. These fingerings will be different. The B and Bb have similar fingering patterns but beware of the difference between hands on each instrument:



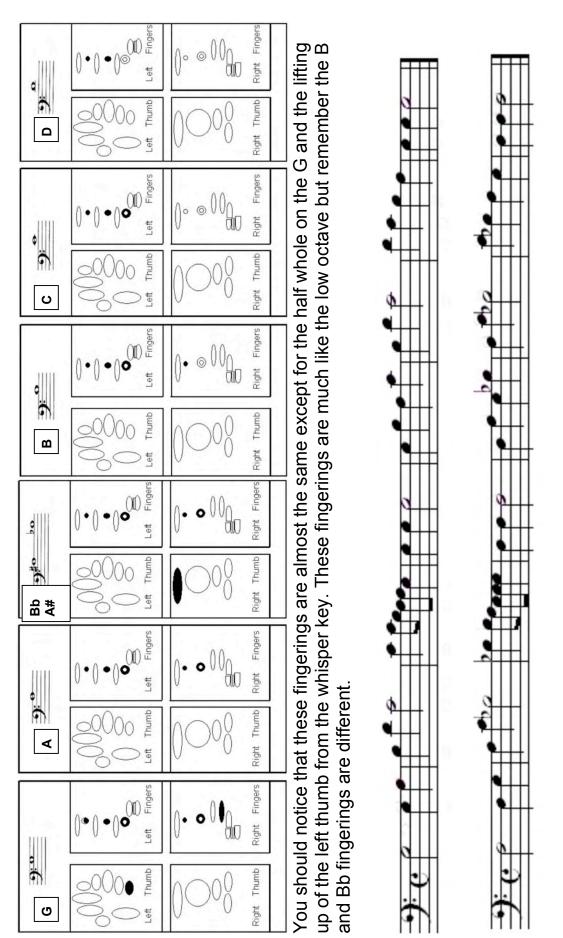
The next two notes are very similar. Beware of the lifting of the pinky on the flute and lifting of the first finger for the D on the flute. You may want to compare fingerings an octave lower as well.





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To get notes above the F they are played much like the lower octave with a few differences:

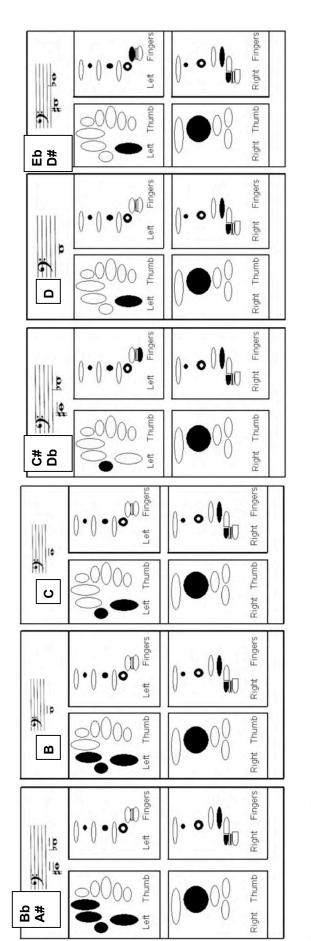


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The next note that is very important to know is Eb. (This fingering does not relate to the flute.) Right Right Thumb Thumb # B

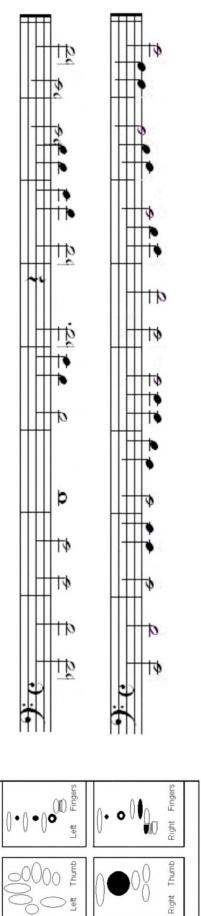
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The left thumb holds the key to many of the lowest notes on the bassoon. Low register of bassoon:



Try these exercises to learn the low register:

ш



Now you are ready to try a 2-octave Bb scale:



This is a good start for your switch to the bassoon you are well on your way to knowing many of the notes necessary to play the bassoon. At the end of the book there is a section on suggested method books for additional studies. Be sure to check the fingering chart and try to learn the entire chromatic scale on the bassoon.

Lesson 3: Holding the Tuba

The Quick Assembly

Another great thing about the tuba

Put the tuba together by putting the mouthpiece in the lead pipe. You're done! A **small** twist of the mouthpiece may help it not fall out. NEVER tap on it or jam it in. This is not necessary and may only damage it.

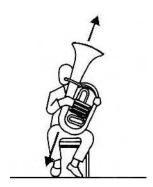
Posture

Posture is very important because it will help you utilize your breath.

- 1. Sit on your chair so your back is straight. This may be towards the front or more toward the back depending on what where the tuba rests.
- 2. Take a few deep breaths to help you adjust your body to sitting and breathing deeply.
- 3. Sit tall with your shoulders back and relaxed. Your feet should be flat on the floor.

Instrument Placement

- 1. Rest the tuba on your lap (the bell should point up!)
- 2. Position the tuba so the mouthpiece comes to you sitting up straight. Do NOT bend down to the mouthpiece. This may mean resting the tuba on your lap, chair, or on a tuba stand.



Bad Posture— His back is arched down so his mouth can meet the mouthpiece.



Good Posture--Resting the tuba on his lap helps bring the tuba up to his level



Tuba Stand--Helping adjust the tuba height



Hand Placement

1. Place your left hand where it is comfortable to hold the instrument. For most tubas, this will be on the tubing next to the bell.

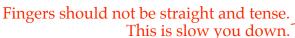
Do not grip the slides. This causes tension we do not want.

2. Your right hand fingers should be placed over the valves starting with your index finger. On some tubas, the fingers need to be placed away from you. For others, the right hand must reach around to the front of the tuba.





Fingers should be curved naturally over valves in order to push the valves straight down and not on an angle.





Resting position:

While not playing you have the these options:



On the lap

or

On the floor



While putting the tuba on the floor, there a few things to remember:



Don't step on the bell



Don't set the instrument on the valves and slides



Put the valves and slides toward the ceiling

Can you see the difference between good and bad posture in these pictures?



Leaning forward, backward and hunching over



Sitting up straight with mouthpieces at the proper level

Lesson 4: Let's play! Embouchure and Making a Sound



Your **embouchure** is the way your lips are put together to make a sound on your instrument. All instruments have a unique embouchure. This, along with breathing, will help you get the best sound possible.

It is easy to practice making an embouchure in the mirror so you can compare your lips to the pictures or the written descriptions.

The tuba embouchure is generally relaxed but you NEVER want to puff out your cheeks. Your cheeks may relax as you go into the low register, but that will be much later.

- 1. Say the word "OH". This will bring your lips together to form your aperture (the hole in your lips where the air escapes).
- 2. While holding the word "OH" say "OOO".
- 3. Then, pretend you have a small tube in between your lips and teeth (like a straw). Gently squeeze this tube so your aperture becomes a bit smaller. *There should be a small gap between your top and bottom teeth.*
- 4. Place the mouthpiece gently up to your lips. The mouthpiece should be centered.







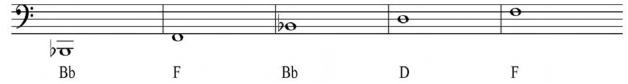
Too high

Too low

Just right

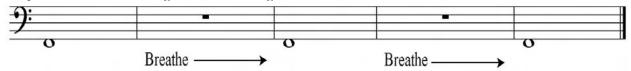
5. Take a large breath like we practiced and keeping your corners tight, blow the air quickly past the lips! Stay the word "TOH" and move the air.

Your first notes maybe any of these (with no valves pressed down)



Your goal is to hit the lower notes. Relax the grip on the "tube" at the center of your lips. This will help hit lower notes typical for the tuba. Relax only the center of your lips, never the corners allowing your cheeks to puff out.

Play this and don't forget to take a big breath.



Articulation

Tonguing on the tuba is easy! Place the tongue behind the top of the teeth (near your gums). Begin to blow air and then release the tongue. That is how you start the note. To tongue different notes, simply touch the tip of the tongue to the back of the teeth, as if saying the word "TOH" or "Ta". Make Keep the air moving into the instrument while saying "Ta-Ta-Ta". That is how you articulate on an F.



Your goal is to go at least 8 counts without breathing! You can do it!!! If not today, practice and you'll be able to soon!!

Possible Problems with Embouchures Using a mirror when practicing your embouchure will ensure it is correct.

No Tone, Rushing Air

Embouchure is not formed tightly enough.



 Air stream is restricted by a closed throat and/or raised tongue



 Reform embouchure (Oh, OOO, Squeeze the tube) and grip more firmly on the "tube".



■ Think "OH" to open your throat.

Thin or Pinched Tone

 Embouchure formed too tight or lips pinched together



Insufficient volume of air passing between the lips

 Loosen grip on the tube in the center of your lips



 Take in a deep breath like a yawn and push the air out rapidly

Gargled Tone

Lips not tight enough



 Lips folded over teeth causing a double vibration



Grip tube more firmly



 Do not allow your lips to curl over your teeth. More "OO".

Stopped or Intense Air

 The lips have pinched completely together



Exaggeration of the thin pinched tone

 When you set your embouchure, do not grip the tube so tightly.



 Allow your lips to be slightly more relaxed.



Do not puff your cheeks!

Puffing won't produce good sound

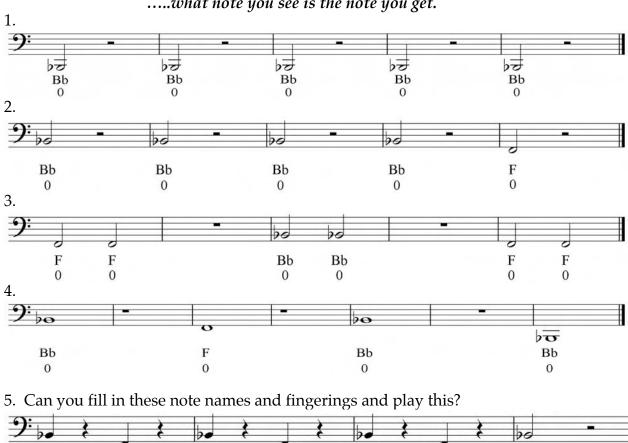


- Corners of the mouth should not have too much smile.
- The mouth and jaw should be in a natural position.
- Not too much "OO" pucker in the lips.

Muscle memory helps our lips learn what an F "feels" like verses a low Bb. Play these feeling the position of your lips.

Make sure you are hitting the correct pitch. Use a tuner to indicate what note you are playing or use some other instrument for pitch reference.

<u>Bonus Tuba Knowledge</u>: The tuba is a non-transposing instrument....what note you see is the note you get.





Lesson 5: Changing Notes Partials and Valves



On a brass instrument, there are two ways you can change notes:

- 1. with changes in our lips
- 2. and pushing down valves

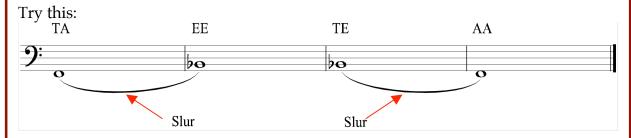
The first way mentioned is changing notes by the changes in our lips. What are these changes we make? We can tighten our lips and increase air flow. This will give us a higher note. We can loosen the center of our lips and it will give us a note lower in pitch.

Raise the pitch:

- 1. Change the syllable in your mouth from "AA" to "EE", raising the tongue.
- 2. Focus on "squeezing the tube" by tightening the center of your lips
- 3. Increase your air

Lower the pitch:

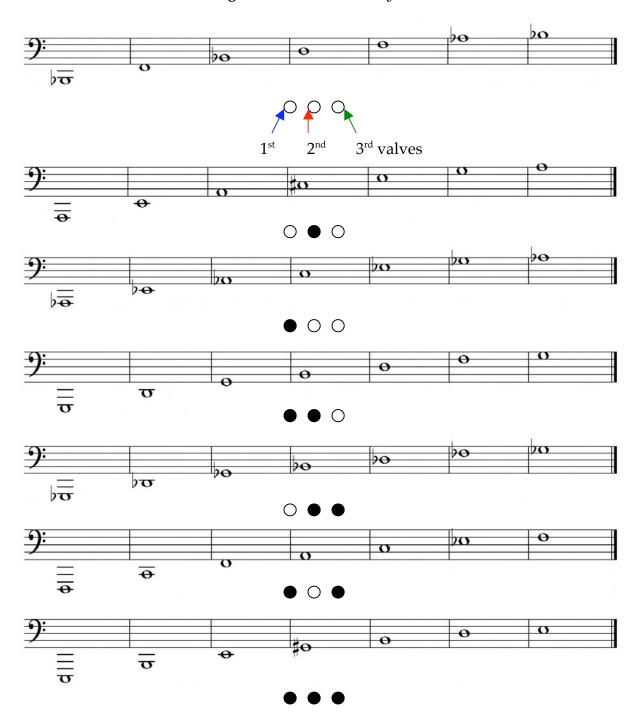
- 1. Change the syllable in your mouth from "EE" to "AA", dropping the jaw
- 2. Focus on not "squeezing the tube" as much by loosening the center of your lips
- 3. Încrease your air



A slur is the curved line that connects two notes of different pitch.

Here are all your notes that you can play by simply changing your lips and not moving your fingers:

Bonus Tuba Knowledge: These are notes on your harmonic series.



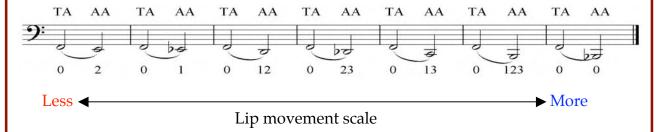
Some of these fingerings are "Alternate Fingerings". Always play the fingering that has the least amount of valves pushed down at one time.

The second way to change notes is to change fingerings. Sometimes you need to change the lips (as in a lips slur) as well as push fingers down.

High to lower notes = slightly relax the tube even if you push new valves down.

Try playing this (the fingerings are given for you) focusing on how the lips work as you change notes. The distance between notes (**intervals**) determines how much lip movement there will be.

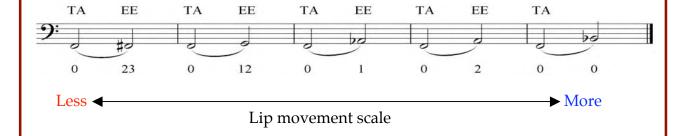
Larger interval (count the lines and spaces) = more lip movement. Small interval = small lip movement.



Low to high notes = squeeze the tube as you push new valves down.

Imagining squeezing the tube and increasing the air flow will help you reach the notes. The distance between notes (intervals) determines how much lip movement there will be. The fingers are written in for you.

Larger interval (count the lines and spaces) = more lip movement. Small interval = small lip movement.



Lesson 6: Reading Music

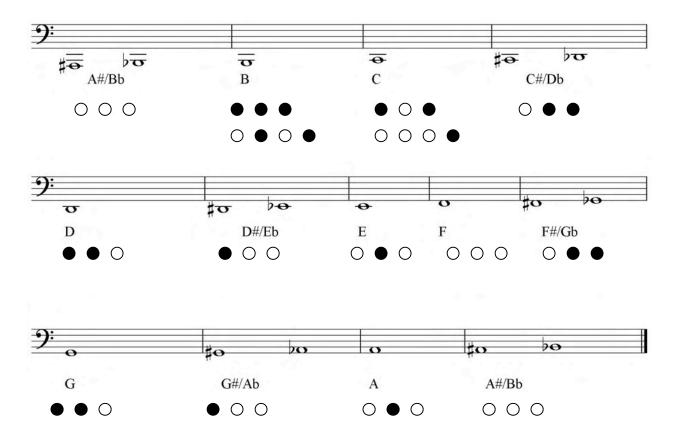


Every note on the staff needs a unique fingering to sound different. The combination of our valves and lip tension will help us choose which pitch to play. Now we need to get very comfortable knowing how to read the notes in order to play at the same time.

Here is your basic fingering chart for a 3 valve tuba:

**some tubas have 4 valves. Those fingerings are listed below

<u>Bonus Tuba Knowledge</u>: Two notes listed in the same measure are enharmonics: 2 notes that sound and are played the same, but look different!



Using the fingering chart, fill in the note names and the fingerings (1, 2, 12, 23, 13, 123), then play them!

Look! **The key signature**: This means that all B's and E's are flat.....don't forget the flat sign!!



Play the following exercises without writing the notes or fingerings in:



Fill in the note names and the fingerings (1, 2, 12, 23, 13, 123), then play!



Play without marking in the note names or fingerings.







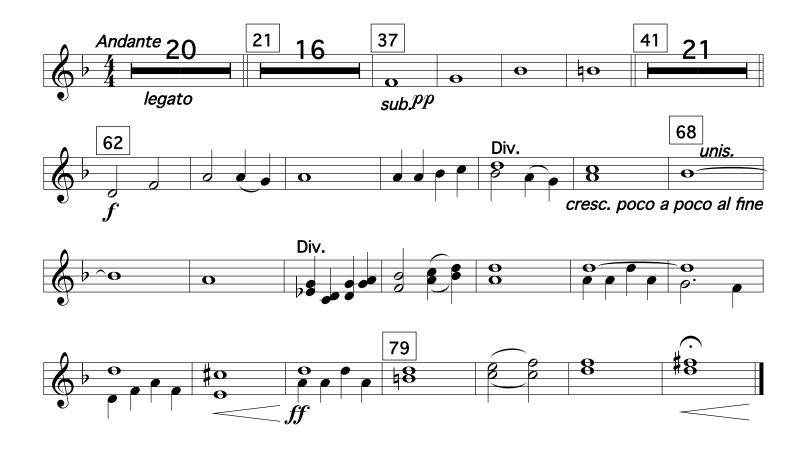






Oboe I & II

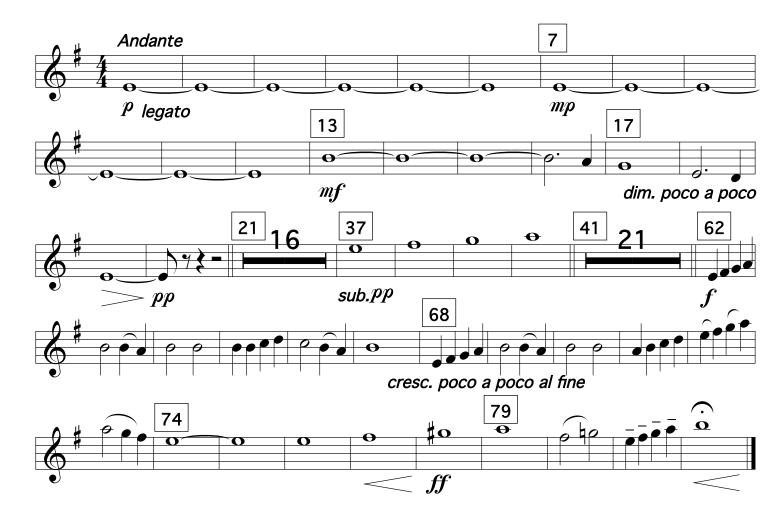
Let All Mortal





Clarinet I

Let All Mortal





Clarinet III Let All Mortal Andante 7 13 legato p mp mf 41 21 62 Sub.Pp 68

74

cresc. poco a poco al fine

·

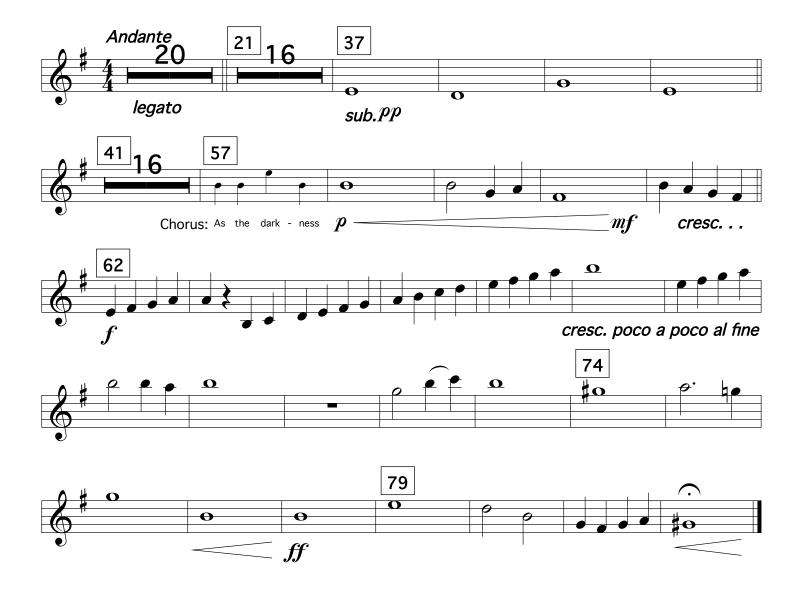
79

0



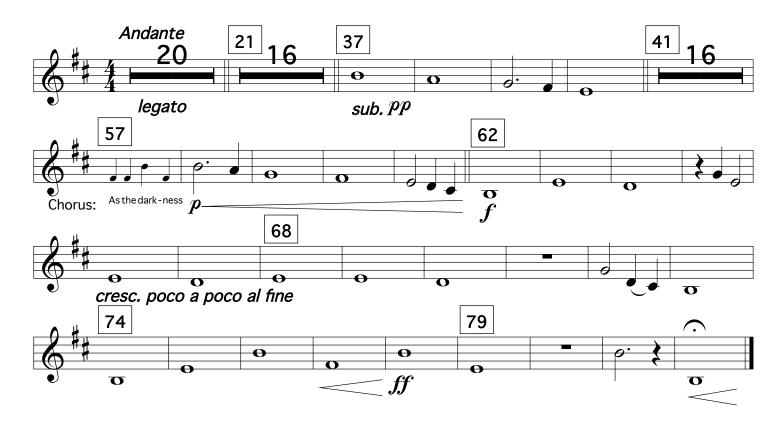


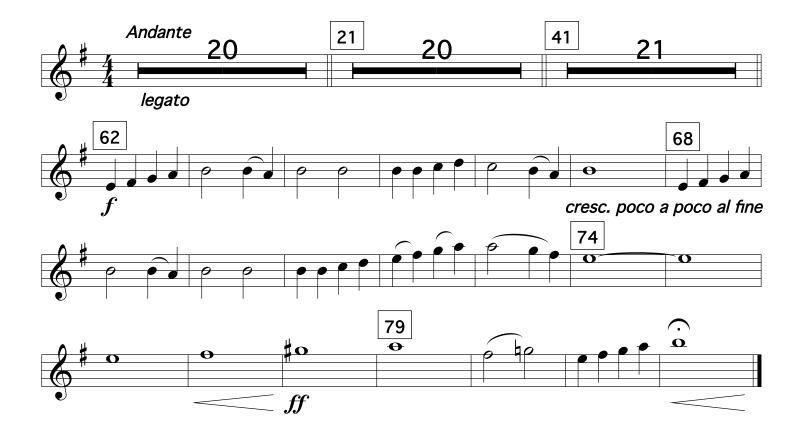




Baritone Saxophone

Let All Mortal

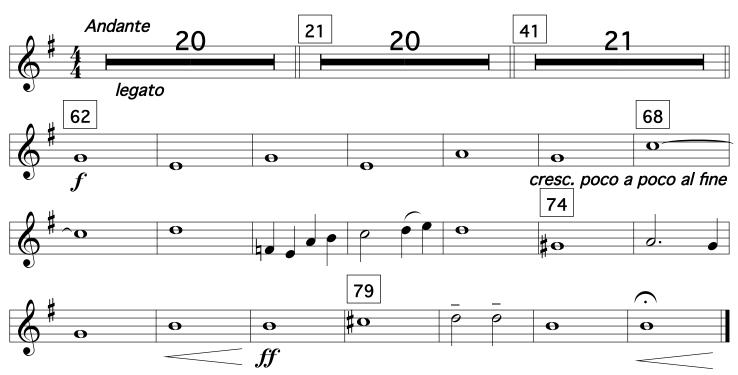




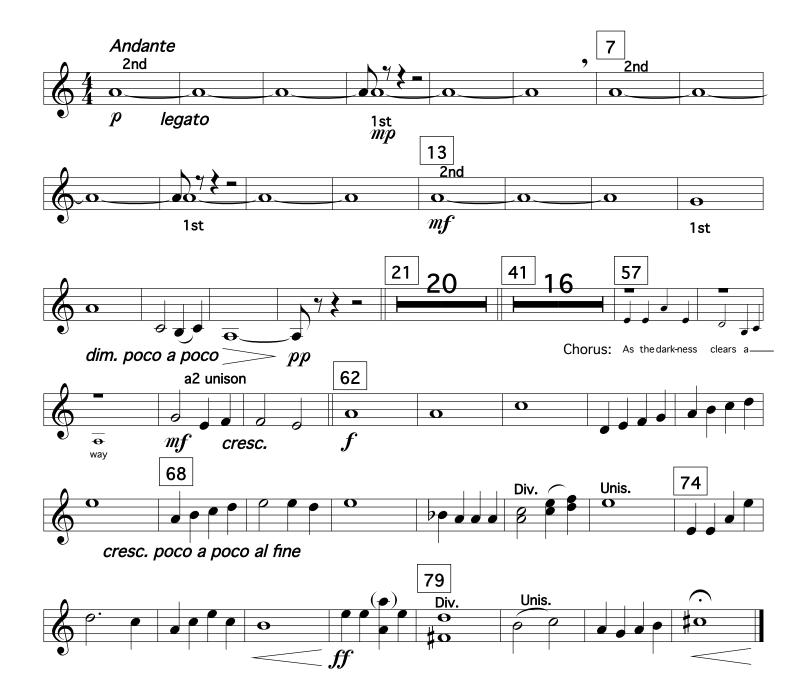


Trumpet III

Let All Mortal













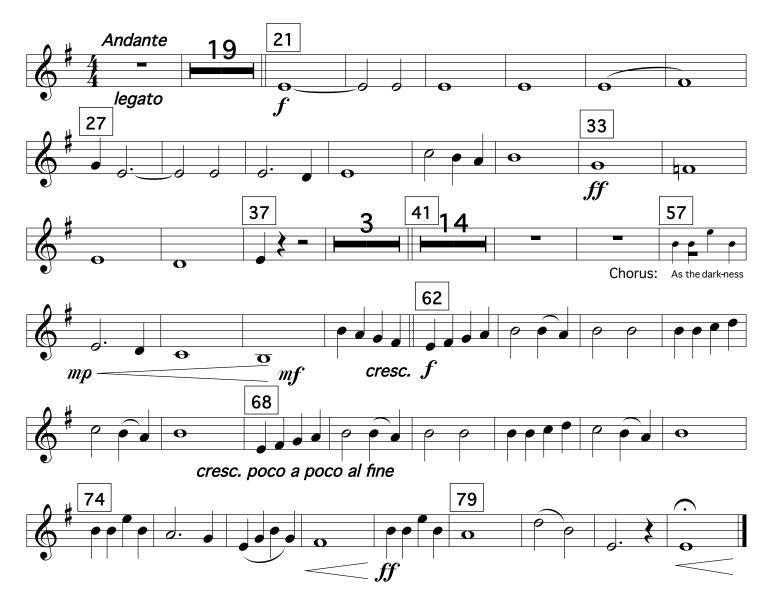
Trombone III

Let All Mortal



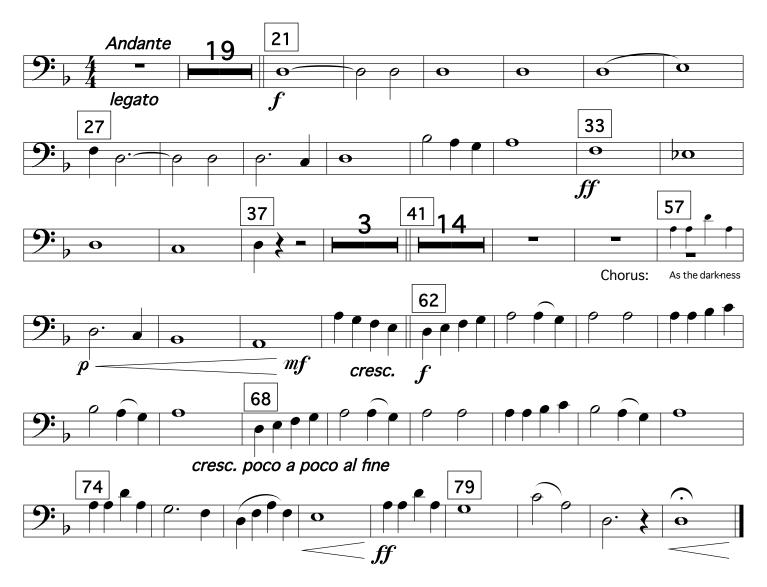
Baritone T.C.

Let All Mortal



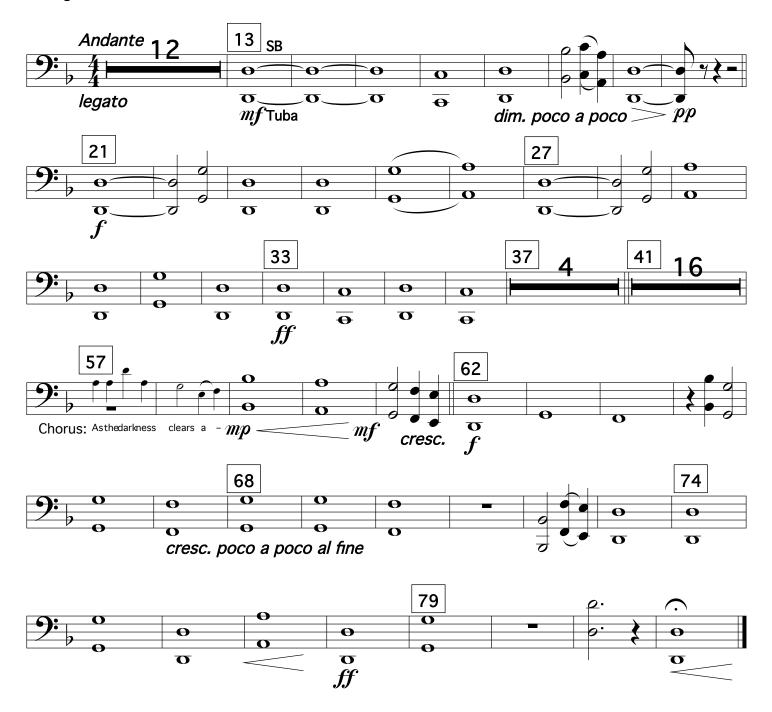
Baritone BC

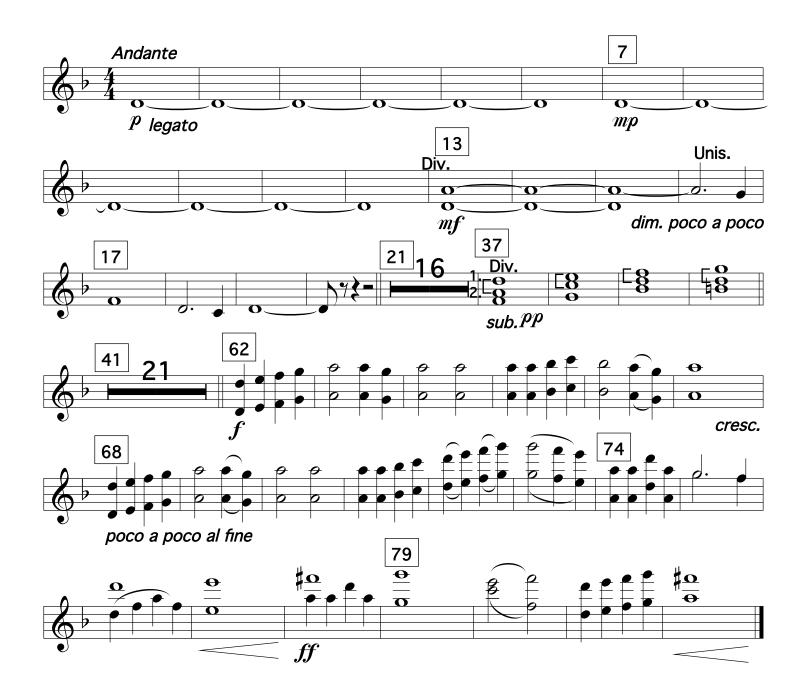
Let All Mortal



String Bass & Tuba

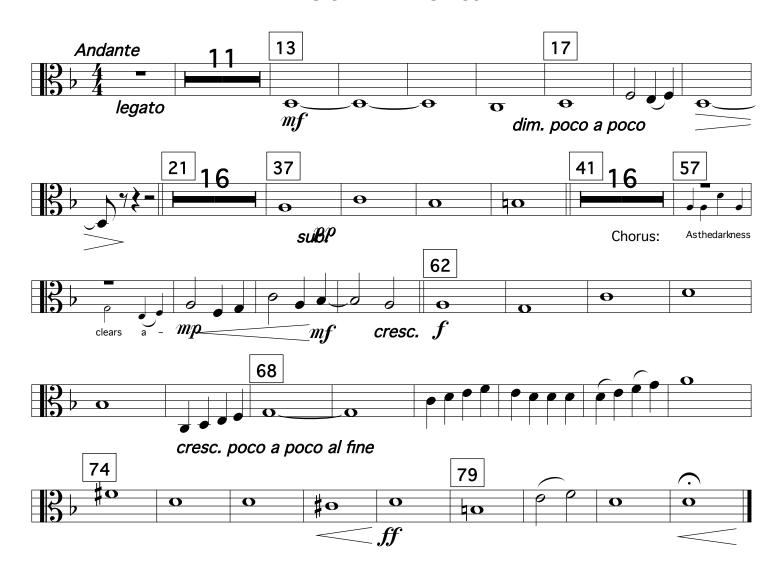
Let All Mortal





Viola

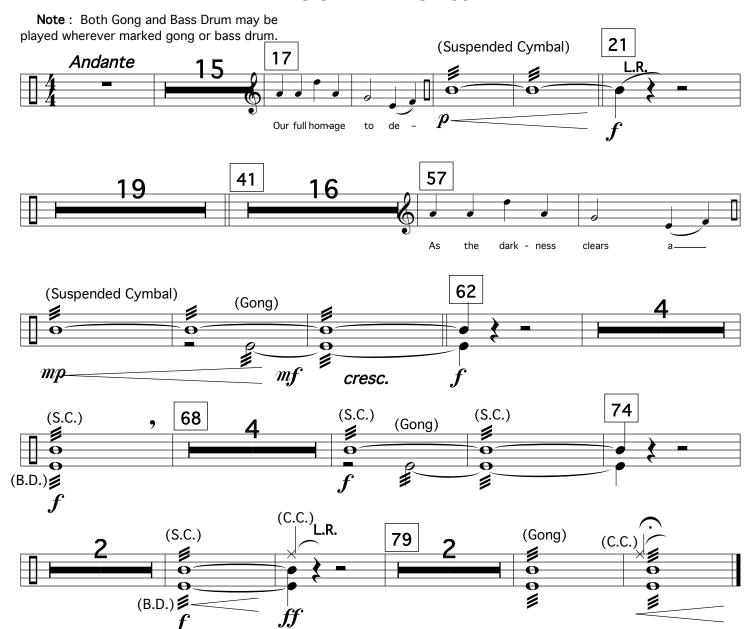
Let All Mortal





Percussion

Let All Mortal



Timpani

Let All Mortal



It's So Low on Samba Time 20 Years Ago in Bandworld

by Tim Lautzenheiser

The beginning of school was so exciting for the band; we had just returned from band camp and spirits were high. The excitement about all of the upcoming events was reflected on every student's face. (Except for our tri-tom player, "Boy-Bobby," who insisted on painting his face each day before he came to class.) Anyway, everyone could sense that this was going to be The Year for the band!!

Marching season was certainly not what we expected. The contests would have been much more fun if the entire band would have shown up, but it was still good in spite of the fact that three of our trumpet players brought their uniforms to one festival in the trunk of their car and then proceeded to lock their keys in the car. (We just stripped the cummerbunds and sashes off the percussion-ists on the sideline and pinned them over the trumpet players' blue-jeans and T-shirts. It sort of blended in!)

As marching season came to a close, we tried to forget those little slip-ups and focus our thoughts on the chance to get serious about playing our instruments in preparation for the solo and ensemble contest just ahead. Everyone in the band wanted to participate. It was really a thrill to see every hand in the band raised when asked if they wanted to perform a solo or be part of a small ensemble. Wow! This is what teaching music is all about! (Although we did have to remind the young musicians that if they weren't involved, they could not go on the spring trip to Florida. Details, details!) It was just heart-warming to know that they would all be bustling around the band room practicing the music in preparation for that BIG DAY of their advanced musical debut. (For me it was going to be the first chance to hear some of them actually make a sound on their horns...Yeh!!)

Although the schedule called for all of the music to be selected and small groups to be organized immediately after the Christmas concert, we were delayed somewhat due to the request of our School Board to play at Congressman Perrydimple's surprise birthday party: Special music, his favorite songs, his wife's favorite songs, his daughter-in-law's favorite songs, and a tune the Congressman wrote (all by himself) had to be rehearsed for the event, plus, of course, The Battle Hymn of the Republic, For He's a Jolly Good Fellow, and You'll Never Walk Alone. (The choir was to sing with us on two of these, along with his niece who is an aspiring young soprano.) This "required" ("You'd better be there or look for another job.") extra performance did cut into our intended schedule somewhat.

It would have been worth it, but they held the event at our local Ponderosa Steak House and the planning committee didn't allow enough room for the band to set up, so we circled around the salad bar. The choir had to stand back of the grill and it was kind of difficult to hear them over the popping grease. When Brent Clayhead took his "ride solo"

in Climb Every Moun- tain, he caught his trombone slide in the Tropical Fruit Fiesta. Even that would have been OK if he would have omitted the horns up glissando on the final chord. (To this day there is shredded coconut stuck to the ceiling just to the right of the Exit sign.) I still have second thoughts about including the guard in the "Birthday Showcase," and perhaps the scar on Mrs. Perrydimple's forehead will disappear in time. I just hated to tell the rifle squad they couldn't be a part of the festivities. Besides, Cindy Starstruck had ALWAYS caught that reverse quad spin in every performance. I still think she would have been in good shape if she hadn't been sitting on Marty Mongo's shoulders when she threw it. (Guess she figured she could get more height on top of a tuba bell.)

Well, finally, we were ready to get to solo and ensemble preparation. (Nobody was going to carry through on those idle threats of litigation from the Congressman's birthday gathering...even though IT WAS LOUD!) We did lose a few of the students who initially had indicated they were going to play but ended up with eleven solid performers out of 85 band members.

†1.Sarah Sweetbreath decided to play a flute solo, Love Is All I Know. Her boyfriend, Matt "Killer" Youngblood (All-State defensive end) was to be her accompanist (left hand bass line only). This could have been something special, but Matt was suspended from school for destroying a set of lockers with his fists when an English teacher threatened to fail him in "Poetry Performance." He was dismissed from classes with the understanding that he would be reinstated prior to spring football practice. (Sarah elected not to go ahead with her solo following this mishap. She said it was a protest action supporting Matt and the repossession of his complimentary sports car from one of the local athletic boosters.

†2.Two baritone sax players chose Gorilla Grunt (a novelty tune) for their solo...?...duet...?...actually it was a solo; they just played it together. Now this could have set a new standard, but they blew it with the judge because they wore ape masks into the performance room. Even that might have slipped through, but the bananas stuffed in the bells of their horns musically destroyed their chances. The fellas were disappointed; however, the listeners loved them because they shared the fruit with the audience at the end of the song. (I didn't see the judge crack a smile even once!....banana peels everywhere.)

†3.Steve Spotlight, our first chair trumpet, signed up but never did tell anyone what he was going to play. He paid his fees and everything and kept assuring everyone he was destined to be the star of the entire festival. I didn't give it a lot of thought because Steve was studying privately; I knew his teacher would handle everything with CLASS. At least I thought Steve was studying privately. (Later I found out he had quit his lessons seven months prior to New Year's because he said he knew more than the teacher and, anyway, he wasn't interested in tone as much as he was playing HIGH.) This particular performance was a real source of embarassment and I don't think Steve planned for me to be in the room during his solo. He started out (unaccompanied) with a non-metered version of Maynard Ferguson's Hey, Jude. After a couple of futile attempts at the high "F," Steve went through an Arban-like transition into our school fight song. Certainly the

most impressive part of his performance was the funky dancing he did while resting his lips. (Maybe next year.)

†4.The remaining seven performers made up the percussion ensemble. This worked out to be our pride and joy of the whole event. There was a bit of a dispute over the selection of music.... I just wouldn't stand still for the idea of playing the cadence sequence eight times in a row. That would have fulfilled the time requirement but since they couldn't find all of the equipment. Anyway, the issue was dropped and they accepted my recommendation. It's tough finding appropriate literature for such a unique instrumentation: 3 bass drums, 1 snare, two cymbals and a guiro. I finally found something which would work: Bombastic Intrada. We did have to do some minor transposition to include the guiro, and there was some part doubling on the bass drums. We were so close on this ensemble, but Norman Noteless forgot to bring the folders to the contest, so we copied the score at a fast-print shop and they all tried to read it from one stand. Even that could have been successful, except Ricardo Sanchez (our guiro player) became so engrossed in his "Mr. Mambo" hand motions, he knocked over the stand and music went everywhere. The ensemble had enough professionalism to go on playing and I jumped to the rescue and quickly gathered the music and put it back on the stand. It wasn't until later when we arrived at McDonald's that they told me I had not checked page numbers and everything was out of order. (That explains the long multistroke roll at the end.) I couldn't remember that ever being there in the original music. But Ricardo saved the day when he leaped in front of the group, did a complete circle spin, and cut off the roll while going into full splits as he shouted, "OLE!!!" It truly was a musical moment and the judge was SO impressed he didn't know what to do....REALLY...the man just sat there motionless... AWE STRUCK! In fact, he didn't move until Ricardo "cha-cha- ed" over and shook his hand. Mrs. Sanchez was quick to get a flash picture for our awards banquet. Everyone could see the PRIDE begin to swell in all of our percussionists and, as though it had been rehearsed, they all turned to the door and marched out playing our cadence sequence at full volume. You talk about impressive!! I think it is the first time a VI rating has ever been awarded in our state!!

The remainder of the school year, unfortunately, did not match up to our solo and ensemble experiences. We had to cancel the Florida trip based on some silly rule about not being able to take the students out of class for two weeks. It was sort of a blessing since we had only earned \$282.00 on our fund-raiser. We could have done so much better if the students had delivered the seafood instead of leaving it in the uniform room over spring break. (We'll never get the smell out!)

But next year is looking real good! Ricardo Sanchez is going to be the new Student Conductor and he has already selected some of the music he's interested in working on, including a full band transcription of...you guessed it...Bombastic Intrada! (We must get a videotape this time!) No doubt Sarah Sweetbreath is going to be in better spirits since Matt will be back in school with some sense of security about his education: They fired the English teacher! Already our two bari sax players are planning for next year's solo

and ensemble contest. They want to play Asleep in the Deep. (It's strange, but I did see a frogman's suit in one of their lockers.)

As for the rest of the band...well, we have come to grips with the fact that we all have to fail at something so we can succeed in the future. In that sense we are "on our way" since we have so much to correct. Congressman Perrydimple even submitted a bill to the House of Representatives on our behalf trying to appropriate funds for a trip to Hawaii for the band! He even wants to go with us!! Unfortunately his wife won't be able to travel with him due to the recurring blackouts she suffers from that most unfortunate head wound. But the Congressman said his niece would be available to travel in his wife's place. (His niece is really beautiful. Too bad she can't sing.)

Just when it seems like things couldn't get worse, something wonderfully unexpected always happens to allow us to see just what a great profession band directing really is. Why just last week, Mrs. Sanchez brought a big plate of burritos to our jazz band's fund raising dinner (A Night in Italy) and when our Principal took a bite of his burrito, he chomped right into a car key....you're right again...it was the key to Steve Spotlight's car trunk, so we now have three more uniforms to put in the seafood closet...I mean, uniform room.

Ah, yes....MUSIC IS MY LIFE!!!



BW 2006

The Bandworld Legion of Honor



Previous LEGION

Next LEGION

A special award of

The John Philip Sousa Foundation

The Bandworld Legion of Honor was established in 1989 to honor, over the course of a year, eight of the finest band directors in our business.

Recipients have taught for at least fifteen years, have maintained a very high quality concert band program, and have contributed significantly to the profession through dedication to bands and band music.

Each is honored at the annual Sousa Foundation awards ceremony during the Midwest Band Clinic in Chicago, Illinois.

Chairman of the Legion of Honor Committee is Robert E. Foster, University of Kansas, and Past President of the American Bandmasters Association.

Legion Laureates List Link



Jon Robichaud

Now in his 27th year of teaching, Jon Robichaud is Director of Band and Fine Arts Coordinator at Blue Springs South High School in Missouri. He holds both a BME and an MME from the University of Kansas. His marching band was invited to be in the National Cherry Blossom Festival Parade in Washington, DC and has made three apprearances in he Pasadena Tournament of Roses Parade. His concerts bands have received superiors every year since 1985.

Regarding factors shaping his career, Jon said, "I was impressed during my high school experience by my band director, Don Caneva and decided to make a career out of music. My education at the University of Kansas under Robert Foster continues to be source of inspiration."



Director of Bands at Waukesha North High School (Wisconsin) since 1984, Jim Doepke has taught in the public schools since 1974. He holds degrees from the University of Kansas, University of Wisconsin (Milwaukee) and Northwestern. His marching bands have captured the state championship on five separate occasions, have been in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade twice and will soon have made three appearances in the Pasadena Tournament of Roses Parade. His concerts bands have received superior ratings every year since 1988.

"I always challenge my students to be the very best they can be both as musicians and as people, and to always give back to their community and to their family."

Children's March • Grainger (excerpt)

Robert Foster Bio
Legion of Honor Chairman

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