

***Buzzing Better the Band***  
**American Band College**  
**Michael Grose - University of Oregon**

**TubaPeopleTV Clips:**

- The importance of mouthpiece buzzing – **Arnold Jacobs**  
The proliferation of buzzing from 1955-1985 – **M. Dee Stewart**  
Skill development and transferability from the mouthpiece to the horn – **Dr. Greg Irvine**  
Stylistic growth, and skill development on the mouthpiece – **Judith Saxton**  
Imagination and imitation on the mouthpiece as a means to an end on the horn – **Charles Daellenbach**  
Mouthpiece buzzing and the use of imagination and imitation – **Lew Soloff**  
Becoming a “brass singer” – **Shawn Campbell**  
“Playing” the mouthpiece – **Dr. Keith Johnson**  
Buzzing on the mouthpiece ring – **Sondra Bell**  
Listening to Bud and Jake buzz, developing efficiency – **Gail Williams**  
Making vibrating lips the focus, NOT the quest for embouchure perfection - **Jacobs**

**Mouthpiece Playing (Buzzing)**

In general, mouthpiece playing (buzzing) should be done with a sense of musicianship rather than just to get through some type of drill forms. In other words, play melodies on the mouthpiece. This develops the musical side of the mind.

Mouthpiece playing is a wonderful way to develop better tone on the instrument, develop musicianship, and improve pitch. Become a connoisseur of great buzzing tone.

**Old Habits vs. New Habits**

Change or strangeness is a tremendous way to make progress because of the interruption to existing neural pathways. Such interruptions allow for new habits to be formed. What may not be possible on the instrument might be possible on the mouthpiece. **Transferring success from the mouthpiece to the horn is a great way to establish new and improved habits**, rather than reaffirming old poor habits (vis a vis “fighting” them). Due to the way we are wired as humans, **we cannot change existing habits, but we can replace them with new ones**. Mouthpiece work is a way to establish new success on the instrument, by focusing on the desired goal rather than re-enforcing the existing undesired habit.

**Additional Arnold Jacobs Resources**

**Publications:**

**Arnold Jacobs's Legacy: Sound Advice for Developing Brass Players** by **Gregory B. Irvine**, Scholar Publications

*A well written and comprehensive volume of Jacobs pedagogy which is specifically designed for public school educators, which includes a “trouble-shooting” guide for specific issues common in students.*

**Brass Singers: The Teaching of Arnold Jacobs** by **Luis Loubriel**, Scholar Publications

*A tremendously well-organized and easy to read treatment of Jacobs's indispensable Arnold Jacobs: Song and Wind* by **Brian Frederiksen**, WindSong Press Ltd.

**Also Sprach Arnold Jacobs compiled by Bruce Nelson, Polymnia Press**

*A series of pedagogical distillations based upon Bruce Nelson's many years of study with Arnold Jacobs. Each paragraph provides much to ponder and apply.*

**Arnold Jacobs the Legacy of a Master collected by M. Dee Stewart, Instrumentalist Publishing Company**

*This is the original Jacobs pedagogical volume. Mr. Stewart solicited and compiled numerous essays from leading brass players around the world discussing what each learned from Mr. Jacobs both as a teacher, artist, and person. It is currently out of print from the publisher, but available elsewhere.*

**Recordings:**

**Portrait of an Artist: Arnold Jacobs, Produced by Frank Byrne, Summit Records**

**Legacy of an Artist: Arnold Jacobs, Produced by Frank Byrne, Summit Records**

*Two CDs which highlight Mr. Jacobs's pedagogical philosophy and tuba performance artistry through master class audio clips, Jacobs's own practice tapes, and Chicago Symphony performance excerpts.*

**Online:**

**YouTube Channel - TubaPeopleTV**

*Through a series of interviews with many of his former students, TubaPeopleTV (TPTV) is dedicated to highlighting the pedagogy and professional stature of longtime Chicago Symphony principal tubist, Arnold Jacobs.*

**WindSongPress.com**

*Website dedicated to all things Arnold Jacobs, including book, CDs, pedagogical tools, and video clips of Mr. Jacobs.*

**#JakePed or #ArnoldJacobs**

*A series of Jacobs pedagogical quotes searchable using #jakeped or #ArnoldJacobs.*