Beginning Trumpet Solutions
Clinician: Zach Buie

Idaho Music Educators Association
2018 Conference/Clinic
February 1-3, 2018
University of Idaho
Moscow, Idaho
Fundamentals of Tone

- Wind
  - Breathing Gym Book & DVD
  - Swinging the racquet
  - Paper Airplane
  - Spirometer
  - Cyclic motion of air without suspension

- Vibration
  - “M” Face
  - Coffee stir straw
  - Buzzing (free and with mouthpiece)
  - Buzz simple lips slurs with a slight glissando
  - Buzz simple, smooth melodies (Twinkle Twinkle, Somewhere Over the Rainbow, The Christmas Song, America, etc...)

- Embouchure
  - 50/50 placement between top & bottom
  - Start in center, deviation can happen
  - Firm corners, flat chin, soft lips

Balanced Set-up

- Left Hand
  - Healthy handshake, don’t squeeze
  - 3rd valve slide ring position (they need to use it!)
  - Palm remains perpendicular to floor

- Right Hand
  - ‘C’ curve, thumb between 1st & 2nd valves, pinky above hook

- Arms
  - Elbows out from torso so ribcage isn’t constricted
  - Relaxed, a tense left hand sends signals through your arms and shoulders that you are about to lift a heavy weight

- Head
  - Lifted, “swan neck” – teach proper posture from the beginning without instrument

First Notes

- Have students play their first note without restricting them to one pitch.
- Low C or 2nd line G will probably sound - Gradually bring the class to the pitch that is predominant.
- Model, Hum, Buzz, Play - Routine, Repetition, Retention
- Flexibility - Speed of air flow, Tongue shape and function, Aperture size
  - Whistle
  - Blow on palm, Direct air to elbow
  - Airplane, Race car, Siren (vocalize then buzz)
  - Slur G down to C - Don’t feel hurried to slur up.
  - Call & response through each fingering (0, 2, 1, 12, 23, 13, 123)
  - Creative buzzing - melodies, matching rhythms, student-led

**Concept of Sound**

- Live examples, videos (keep a growing list of videos for each instrument)
- Vocabulary to reinforce concepts for positive & negative feedback – warm, open, full, rich, healthy, dark, vibrant, resonant ----- weak, brittle, unhealthy, thin, fuzzy, harsh, wimpy, tight, pinched, nasal, airy
- Singing is critical!
- Private lessons – If local teachers are unavailable, Skype makes the world a smaller place. Consider keeping a record of qualified teachers for different instruments to offer parents. Encourage them to consider lessons. Plenty of achievements are for the taking to those who put in that extra work.

**Articulation**

- Relative to pitch placement
  - A high tonal center will result in more cracked or missed notes.
- Connect the dots
  - The tongue interrupts the air without stopping it
  - Avoid taking staccato markings too literally
- Consistency in attack
  - All notes begin the same way regardless of length or volume
- Multiple tonguing
  - Slow and steady wins the race
  - Match the T and K tongue with simple rhythmic patterns
  - Increase tempo as the articulations match
  - As one pitch becomes consistent move on to changing notes.

**Technique**

- Scales
  - Slur and tongue
  - Memorize – muscle memory will improve sight reading
  - Simple mode of assessment – in person or SmartMusic
- Technical studies
  - Focus on time (Drum Beats+ app)
- Fermatas on selected notes to check air stream
- Pop valves down quickly (unscrew valve caps to hear clicks)

**Flexibility**

- Lip slurs
  - Listen for telegraphing
  - Move in time
  - Ease into leaps over one partial

**Intonation**

- Make sure slides are movable!
  - Don’t rely solely on them
- Play with a drone (Tonal Energy app)
  - Lock intervals and listen for overtones

**Routine**

- Establish a routine in class that transfers to at-home practice and allows them to demonstrate the following at the end of the first semester:
  - Proper breathing
  - Buzz freely
  - Acceptable tone supported with full breath
  - Tongue smoothly without stopping air
  - Flexibility on mouthpiece and instrument
  - Basic understanding of counting system
- More advanced routine will include (yes, even middle school)
  - Long tones
  - Flow studies
  - Scales
  - Technical studies
  - Etudes
  - Solos
  - Jazz literature & improvisation

Thank you for attending! Please contact me if you have any questions or have interest in setting up a masterclass/clinic for your students.

zachbuie84@gmail.com       www.zachbuie.com