

First Day Trumpet

Assembling the Instrument

1. Have students take instrument cases to another area of the room and set the cases flat on a table. If no table is available, students should put cases on the floor and sit or kneel beside their instrument.
2. Instruct students to gently open the case with the handle below the opening.
3. Students then carefully remove the instrument from the case with the right hand on the valve casings and then transfer the instrument to the left hand.
4. Have students gently insert the mouthpiece into the instruments with the right hand, giving it a slight turn to the right to make sure it stays firmly in place.
5. Students now carry the instruments to their seats. Do not allow students to "dangle" their trumpet off to the side. The trumpet should be carried perpendicular and in front of the student's body to avoid damaging the instrument.
6. Remind the students to be patient and not to play the instrument. They will be very excited at this point and it is easy for them to lose control.

Producing a Sound on the Mouthpiece

1. Students now remove the mouthpiece (twisting to the left) and place their trumpets gently on the floor. The horn needs to be lying flat,
2. Students slide out to the edge of the chair, sit up tall, and put their feet flat on the floor with shoulders relaxed, head straight and facing forward.
3. Ask students to put their lips together in a normal relaxed position as if saying "em".
4. The teacher now individually places the mouthpiece in the center of the lips of each student using half top lip and half bottom lip. Instruct the student to "buzz" into the mouthpiece.
5. Lips should not roll in or push out.
6. Keep student from pushing his/her head and lips against the mouthpiece.
7. Do not allow the student to puff out cheeks.
8. The chin is down and flat.
9. Breathe through the mouth.

10. Once the student can produce a buzz, have the student try to hold the buzz for four steady counts.
11. If a student has difficulty getting a sound, have the student try:
 - 1) buzzing without the mouthpiece
 - 2) blowing air faster
 - 3) pulling the teeth apart
 - 4) think about their tongue placement to make sure the tongue is not up and blocking the flow of air

Holding the Instrument

1. Students now reassemble their instruments and sit with the correct posture (as above).
2. Instruct the students to bring their instruments to their lips while holding the instrument in the left hand with their fingers wrapped around the valve casings.
3. The entire weight of the horn is supported with the left hand, arm, and shoulder.
4. Students then place their right hand thumb between the 1st and 2nd valve, curving the fingers and placing one finger tip on the top of each of the 3 valves. (A good illustration is to say that a tennis ball should fit in the palm of the right hand.) The wrists are straight but relaxed.
5. The little finger is placed on top of the finger ring.
6. The instrument is held parallel to the ground with the elbows away from the body.

Producing a Sound on the Instrument

1. As the student holds the trumpet, individually guide the mouthpiece to the center of each student's lip, adjusting the playing position and posture at the same time. Have each student play into the horn, trying to produce a G (Concert F).
2. Many students will produce the G automatically. However, some students will not have the strength to produce this pitch. If a C (Concert Bb) is the only pitch the student can play, (both pitches are open) do not force the higher pitch. With time and practice all students will develop the strength to get the G. Forcing high notes too soon will only promote poor playing habits.

3. Once the student can get an “appropriate” sound, the student tries the same procedure without the teacher’s help.
4. After each student has completed this procedure, the entire group sustains the pitch for 4 counts with the teacher maintaining an audible beat. Be sure to take time to help students who are having difficulty. Make sure that a steady pulse is maintained.
5. Constant and consistent reinforcement of these fundamentals at each class session will be necessary if students are to develop proper playing fundamentals.

Disassembling the Instrument

1. When the class has ended students return quietly to their instrument cases.
2. Students remove their mouthpieces twisting gently to the left and put them back into the case.
3. The cases can now be closed and latched. Do not allow students to put music or books in their cases, as anything extra in the case will damage the instruments.

Extra Considerations

1. Trumpet/Cornet
 - 1) Recommended mouthpiece: Bach 7C
 - 2) Although the trumpet has completely overtaken the cornet in popularity, the cornet, because of its smaller size and conical bore, can be a much better choice for beginning players. It is a much easier for a young student to hold and the tone is much easier for a beginning student to control.