

# 2025 CMEA Bay Section Conference

## Beginning Brass

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Slides



[bit.ly/beginningbrass](https://bit.ly/beginningbrass)

### I. Introduction & Philosophy

- **Focus:** First year instruction
- **Method:** Utilize the net approach
- **Perspective:** Not one correct way; everyone is different.

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### II. Instrument Selection & Preparation (Before Starting Instruments)

- **Selection:** Instrument aptitude tests (e.g., Conn Selmer, Jupiter Try-out Kit).
- **Physiological Considerations:** Teeth, jaw, lips, ear, hands, and arms.
- **Engagement:** Parent & Student Meetings/Interviews and a "Petting Zoo".
- **Fundamentals:** Practice Breathing & Air Use, Posture, Music Theory, and SEL.

### III. First Sounds

#### A. Mouthpiece Buzzing

- Use air starts to initiate the buzz.
- Lip Position: "mm" or the "b" of banana, "p" of pizza.
- Teeth Position: Finger width apart.
- Mouthpiece Position: 50/50 split (for most instruments).
- Buzzing Approaches: Hold MP in left hand (F Horn in right), use straws/stirrers, B.E.R.P.s, or leadpipe buzzing/Boba straws.

#### B. Tonguing

- Start them right away with the sound "Tu".

#### C. Instrument Specific Details/Differences

- **Trumpet:** Cheeks glued to your teeth.
- **Horn:** Mouthpiece position  $\frac{1}{3}$  bottom,  $\frac{2}{3}$  top lip; focus on hand position.
- **Trombone/Euphonium:** Tongue low, more relaxed.
- **Tuba:** Teeth open a thumb width, tongue low "tah," relaxed.

#### Notes:

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## IV. Beginning Exercises

- Call and response
- Long Tones
- Flexibility (Lip Slurs): Firm lips/fast air vs. looser lips/slower air.
- Tongue Position: Ah to ee.
- Air Use Exercises: Breathing gym, water bucket, ping pong ball, pinwheels, paper against wall, long note contests.

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## V. Common Problems & Troubleshooting

- **Fundamentals:** Issues with Lips, Teeth, Air, or Tongue.
- **Instrumental:** Spit valve issues, Valves & guides.
- **Player Issues:** Not tonguing (neck/body motion), Unstable/Airy sound, Notes too high/low.
- **Physiological Issues:** Dental challenges (overbite) or Lip Size.
- **Common Instrument Issues:** Broken/backwards valves/guides, Leaking/missing spit valve cork, Stuck items in tubing.

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## VI. Equipment & Accommodations

- **Mouthpieces:** One size does not fit all.
  - **Trumpet-** Bach 7c or 5c, Yamaha 11B4
  - **Horn-** Holton Farkas MC or MDC, Dennis Wick 5, Yamaha 30C4
  - **Trombone-** Bach 7c, Japan 48, 6 ½ AL
  - **Euphonium-** Japan 48, 6 ½ AL
  - **Tuba-** Conn Helleberg 120s, Schilke 66, Bach 25 (for younger/smaller students)
- **Oils/Lubricants:**
  - **Trumpet & Euphonium-** Al Cass or Blue Juice
  - **Horn-** Hetmans 11
  - **Trombone-** Yamaha slide lubricant
  - **Tuba-** Ultra Pure or Hetman

- **Instruments:** Consider durability, age, tone production, ease of use, local store, case, and budget.
  - **Trumpet-** Yamaha Advantage YTR-200ADII (strap options, semi-light)
  - **Horn**
    - F Single Horn- Yamaha YHR-314II or Jupiter JHR700
    - Double Horn- Yamaha YHR-567 or Holton H378 (Kruspe Wrap- smaller)
  - **Trombone-** Yamaha Advantage YSL-200ADII
  - **Euphonium**
    - 3-valve Eastman Baritone EBH311 - Brass (not silver) good hard case
    - 3-valve Besson BE157-1-0- case has backpack straps
    - 4-valve Yamaha JP174 (non-compensating)
    - 4-valve Eastman EEP421 (non-compensating)
    - John Packer JP 174 (compensating)
  - **Tubas** (in BBb)
    - Eastman EBB231 (¾ size, 3-valve) EBB226 (¾ size, 4-valve)
    - Miraphone 282 (¾ size, 4-valve)

## B. Accommodations

- **Instruments:** Plastic options (PTrumpet), holding supports (Ergo Brass), Nuvo instruments (JHorn).
- **Mouthpieces:** Considering material (plastic, gold plated) and size/shape (Wedge Mouthpiece).
- **Braces/Retainers:** Use "morgan bumper" vs wax; *a/ways* remove retainers.

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## VII. Cleaning & Other Recommendations

- **Cleaning**
  - Cleaning kits with snake and mouthpiece brush
  - Honest Alcohol Wipes 65% Alcohol for on-the-go cleaning
  - Spitballs (for a fast leadpipe/tubing clean)
  - Sterisol Concentrate (10 minute sterilization for mouthpieces)
  - Chemical Clean Rotation- Every few years if possible!
- **For Your Instrument Forgetters** (3 valve instruments)- PAMPET TruTra
- **Practice Challenges**
  - Practice mutes for students who have practice challenges (Pro Tec Liberty)
- **Mouthpiece Puller-** Ferree

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