

TROMBONE LESSONS

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The Atlanta Opera

Atlanta Symphony

Columbus Symphony

Macon Symphony

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help with:

Scales Arpeggios Warm-ups Sightreading Key Signatures

Emboucher Range Flexibility

Volume Tone Control



PRINCIPLES OF GOOD BRASS PLAYING

The most important aspect of playing a brass instrument is **SOUND QUALITY**. This is determined by good **Breathing** and **Emboucher** habits.

BREATHING: must be *natural*—no excessive lifting of shoulders; *deep*—breath all the way to the bottom of the lungs first;
energetic—you can't get a good sound on a half-pint of air;
relaxed—if the breathing isn't relaxed the sound will not be good.

EMBOUCHER: A good emboucher is made with an *open jaw position* (and the top and bottom teeth are fairly even);
the corners and chin should be *firm* (but not tight) so that the *lips* are actually very relaxed and free to respond to the breath--VIBRATE.

PRACTICE FUNDAMENTALS

LONG TONES: Play with as open, clear, and steady a tone as possible. Blow the sound out the bell, toward a target. Make the *attack* of each note solid & clean; the *release* open & noiseless.

LIP SLURS: There are only 2 things involved in a good lip slur: non-stop airflow & quick, smooth emboucher changes. Constant sound; emboucher does not stop vibrating.

FLEXIBILITY: Same principle as lip slurs but faster & moving around more. Some flexibility exercises skip partials.

TONGUING: Keep tongue relaxed.

MOUTHPIECE BUZZING: “Sing with the lips.” Learn to control the pitch. Always gliss.

SCALES: Practice slowly to listen for good intonation; alternate staccato & legato articulations.

TAKE PRIVATE LESSONS!