

TRUMPET AND CÔRNET

FIRST STEPS



MR GÖLDING



/brassblastuk

Starting your trumpet journey

Playing a musical instrument is one of the most rewarding things a human can achieve! Music is an international language and every culture and sub-culture on planet earth has it's own music, made for themselves by themselves.

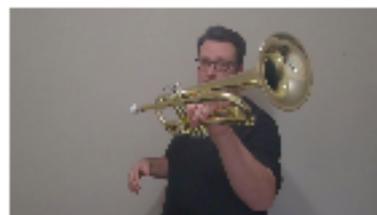
Learning how to play an instrument has been proved time and time again to really benefit children, improving a host of skills that have uses and positive impacts reaching far beyond the music making its self.

Brass instruments are interesting in many ways, from the outside they seem technical and difficult to understand but to the experienced brass player playing brass is the most natural thing in the world.

In this guide I will try to make your first steps as easy, simple and natural as possible.

How use this book?

This book links to youtube clips with via QR code (just open the camera on your phone and point it to the code to go to the link) or in PDF mode (reading online just click the picture next to the code to go to the link.



How do brass instruments make a sound?

Sound is vibration travelling through the air. When the vibration reaches your ears the brain performs a magical transformation of this sensation into the sounds we hear. A brass player vibrates his or her lips together and this in turn cause vibrations inside the instrument that create the wonderful noise of a brass instrument...in this case the trumpet!

Brass players call this lip vibration "**Buzzing**" or "**the Buzz**" and it really is the heart of becoming a brass player. As you will learn, no buzz can happen without air blown through your lips and into the instrument so these two elements **blowing** and **buzz** are the heart of trumpet, cornet and bugle playing.

With these two simple skills in place you can begin to take your first steps into the trumpet or cornet world!

What is a trumpet?

Trumpets are some of the oldest instruments around starting, life as a caveman's mobile phone! Made from hollow animal bones and wood the loud noise was a great way of getting peoples attention over long distances.

The first trumpets that we have made of metal still exist today and they were buried with Tutankhamen in 1352 BC in Egyptian pyramids.

Trumpets were instruments of war and the loud sound was used to get messages across battle fields. The sound of trumpets could be so loud that they even brought down the walls of Jericho.

The 96th Olympics featured a herald and trumpet contest.

In 1550 Italian Courts employed trumpet players to add prestige to their ceremonies, the bright sound straight from the battlefield went viral and spread across Europe, even Mary Queen of Scots employed a team of trumpeters in Edinburgh.

In 1607 a composer called Claudio Monteverdi composed Orfeo and this was the turning point from fanfares and battles to trumpets going the orchestra and become solo instruments in the Baroque period. Trumpet players became superstars and the skill of high note players was in high demand.

With the change of musical style and pieces using more complex key signatures trumpets became restricted and composers like Mozart used simple notes and fanfare like patterns.

In 1796 Haydn wrote a Concerto for trumpet that was to show off a keyed trumpet that was invented by Viennese court trumpeter and inventor Anton Weidinger.

The keyed trumpet didn't develop any further but by 1818 the industrial revolution brought new technology that helped the trumpet develop into the instrument that we know today.

The trumpet became an important instrument in the Orchestra with challenging parts in the music of Stravinsky, Mahler, Strauss and Berlioz. It was just in the orchestra where the trumpet was become more important again it was the vocal like sound that saw being used in Jazz with players like Louis Armstrong and Miles Davis.

Trumpets can be heard in lots of musical genres from Orchestra to Rock bands. Here are a few of the most famous players - Louis Armstrong, Harry James, Herb Alpert, Alison Balsom, Wynton Marsalis, Hakan Hardenberger and Timmy Trumpet...why not try searching them online?

The trumpet unravelled is 4 feet 10 inches that's the same as 2 Yodas!

Trumpets don't have to be made of metal, as well as plastic they can be made from bone, carbon, crystal and wood.

The most expensive trumpet was Dizzy Gillespie's that sold for \$55,000 at auction in 1995.

The car manufacturer Toyota even made a trumpet playing robot!

What is a cornet?

Cornet - the word itself comes from the French: "Cornette" which means little horn.

Across the world, most ancient civilisations have used some type of animal horn for signalling during their religious or military ceremonies.

The Roman armies used a horn named after the Latin word "bulculus", which means bullock. This is the origin of the name "bugle".

It is thought that the first time a brass bugle was used as a military signal was the Halbmondbläser, or half-moon bugle, used in Hanover in 1758. It was U-shaped (hence its name) and comfortably carried by a shoulder strap attached at the mouthpiece and bell. It first spread to England in 1764 where it was gradually accepted widely in foot regiments.

The cornet started life as a bugle and the 4 foot 10 long tube is conical (cone shaped) this gives it a softer more mellow sound compared to the cylindrical trumpet.

In 1820 rotary valves similar to those on a French horn were added to bugles and post horns which resulted in cornets being able to play chromatic scales.

The modern piston valve was invented and patented in 1838 by François Perinet. With this invention very quickly the cornet became an instrument that was capable of playing dazzling solos that you would normally expect to hear on instruments like the flute or violin. The first superstar of the cornet was Jean Baptiste Arban and in 1864 he wrote his Grand Method which is still an important book today.

By 1911 the composer Stranvinsky wrote challenging cornet solos in Petrushka and The Soldiers Tale.

Every traditional, British Brass Band is essentially a whole family of cornet type instruments, except for the trombones! Even the massive tuba is a giant cornet!

As brass bands grew in popularity the cornet became the lead instrument and was often featured in impressive solos.

In France small salon orchestras were used to help advertise larger concerts and the cornet was an important solo instrument in these groups, adding to its popularity. Soon these mini orchestras were popular across Europe and were often called "Palm Court Orchestras" in Britain.

Early jazz bands in New Orleans used cornets as they were heavily influenced by French music. Some of these early jazz stars were Big Biederbecke and Louis Armstrong. Why not search for these names and look at Brass Band music on the internet?

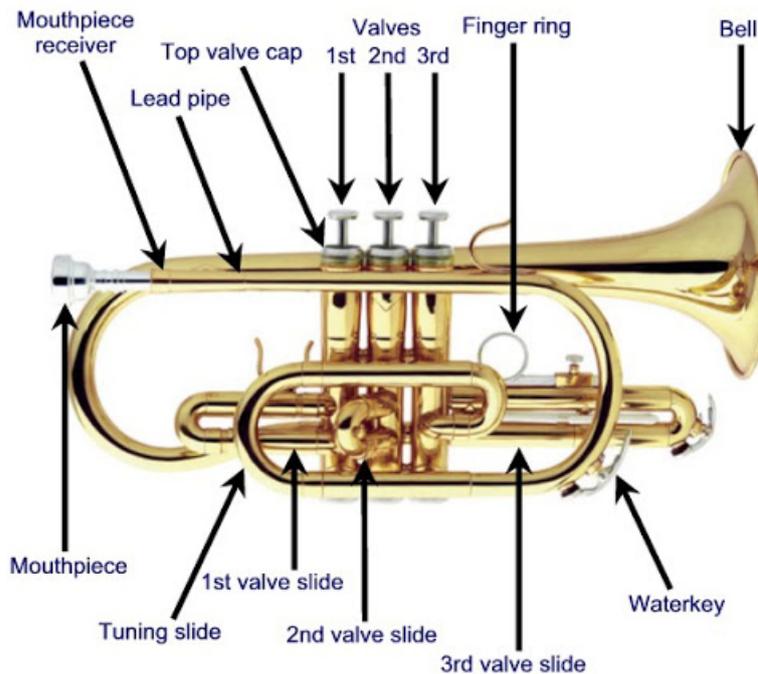
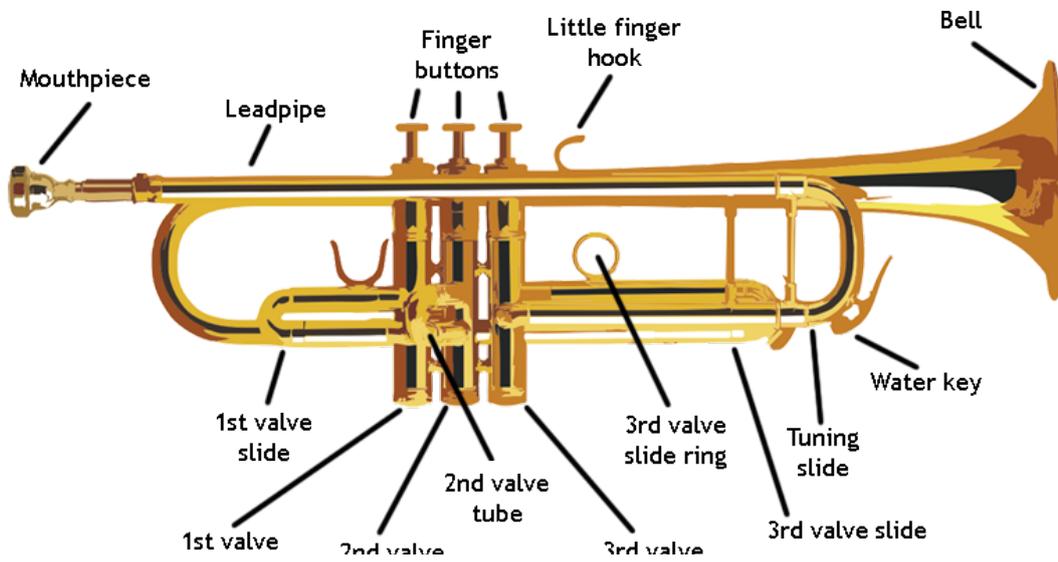
Looking after your trumpet



Putting the trumpet together

Remember if you have any problems with the trumpet, Mr Golding can fix it in the lesson!

Parts of the trumpet



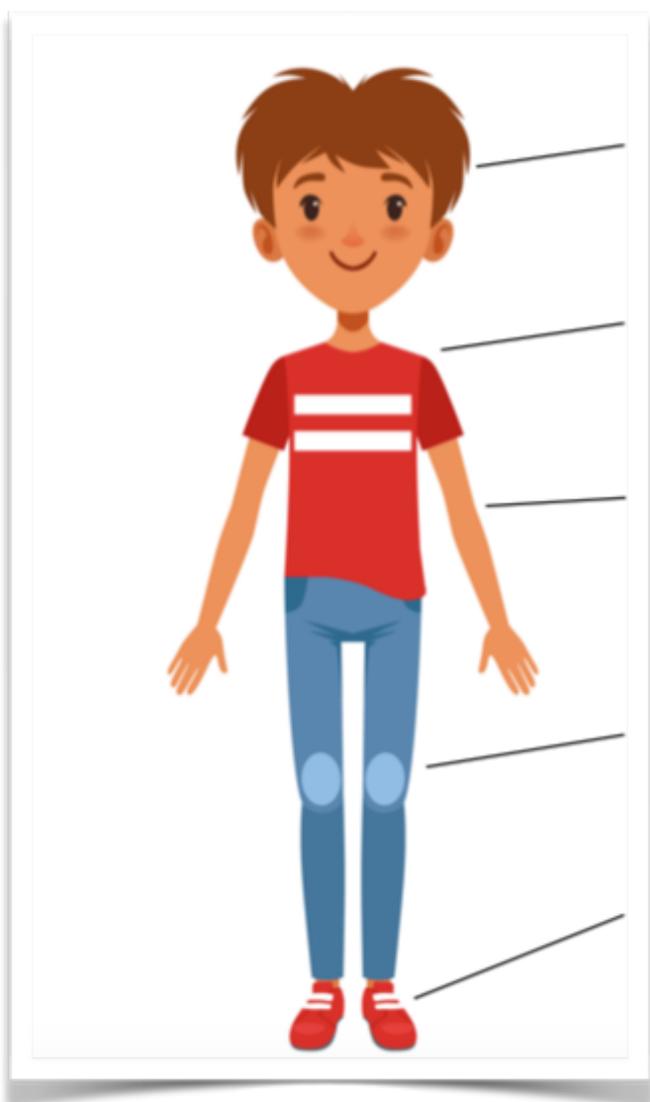
Good posture

“Good posture really matters when it comes to playing an instrument...”

That is true! but let's start at the beginning... What is posture anyway?

Basically posture describes how we hold our body...what position it is in, and how we hold our instrument, especially in relation to our body.

This includes everything from our toes to our head and all are just as important. When we are playing a brass instrument we are using lots of air, both breathing in and blowing out, so holding our bodies in a way that makes this as easy as possible is vital...it's also great for our general health and well being. Think about how important good, deep and controlled breathing is for our day-to-day lives! “take a deep breath!”. Controlling breathing and posture is also good for mindfulness and is used in meditation and yoga...so that's all good!



Your head is up straight and looking straight ahead!

This is really important because you need to slightly point your pTrumpet down and keep your head up to get the best sound!

Shoulders need to be relaxed and down... Lots of people think that by lifting their shoulders they will get a bigger breath...not so!..down and relaxed is best!

Arms are going to be holding your Trumpet but again relaxed is best.

Legs should be slightly apart, about the same distance apart as your hip.

Feet nicely flat on the floor!

How do I hold this thing?

It's important to get into the habit of holding the trumpet the correct way right from the start!



Your **Left Hand** does all the holding! it wraps around the valves.

Your **Right Hand** presses the valves.

We need to stand with good posture and the trumpet in a slightly down relaxed position.

Remember - Shoulders relaxed and elbows not tucked in!

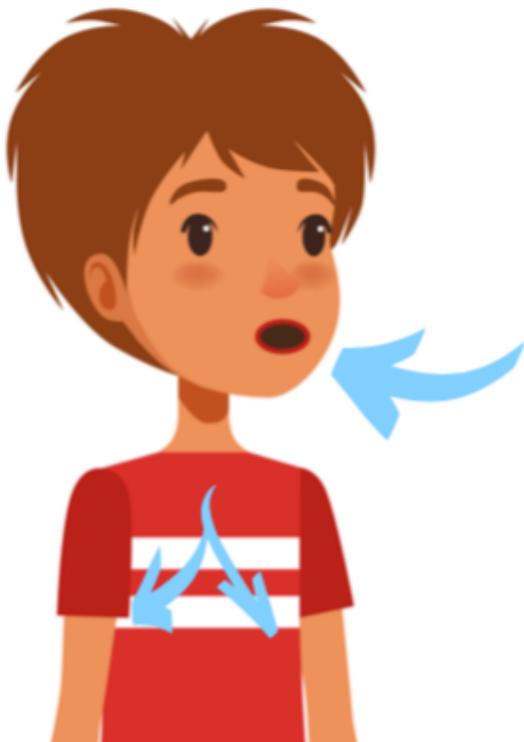


Breathing in and blowing out....

Everyone knows how to breatheright? so breathing is no problem.

Playing a brass instrument is all about blowing air out... so you will need some air to blow, a strong steady flow of air is what helps make the sound on all brass instruments.

Here are a few simple steps to getting a great breath in.....



Step 1

Breathe in through your open mouth and **not** your nose.

Step 2

Take a big, deep and relaxed breath in.

Step 3

Imagine the breath going deep into your body, feeling cool and refreshing.

Step 4

When your lungs feel full of air blow out through your lips..... a bit like blowing a candle out.

Did you Know?

The average person breathes in (and out!) over 8000 litres of air a day by taking around 20,000 breaths.

Slow Flow

Dangle a piece of paper in front of your lips. Fill your lungs with a big, deep relaxed breath and blow the paper so it ripples. How long can you make it ripple for? Maybe you can change the speed of the ripples?

Tower of Power

Put your pencil on the table (it needs to be a round one!). Fill your lungs with a big, deep relaxed breath. How far can you blow the pencil? You might need to do this in the floor if you get really good at it!

Buzzing

Let's get the air flowing

Remember when we talked about posture, looking straight ahead with head up straight? Now is the time this becomes important!

Look straight ahead, take in one of your big, deep breaths and blow some air at your fingers.

Keep your fingers a little lower than your mouth to get a downwards angle.

Now try a buzz

Whilst you are blowing slowly put your lips closer and closer together, as long as the air flow keeps moving you should get a buzz!

Always make sure you have a hole in the middle of your lips for the air to flow through, we call this the aperture! If there is no air flow there can be no sound.

If your buzz doesn't start straight away, adding the mouthpiece often helps.

Make sure the mouthpiece is following the same path as your air and that it's in the middle of your lips.

The mouthpiece should be central to your lips, both sideways and up and down.

Try not to press the mouthpiece too hard against your lips.

Buzzing Demo



Playing your first notes on Trumpet

1. Bring the trumpet to your mouth without moving your head from the good posture position, try not to bring your lips to the instrument.
2. Make a nice seal between your lips and the mouthpiece, just like when you were buzzing.
3. Also try to make the angle between your face and the trumpet the same as when buzzing, pointing down a little. You may not point as far down as the picture but that's OK.
4. A big breath in through the sides of your mouth.
5. Now buzz into the trumpet...we should have a great sound!
6. Practice some long, relaxed notes, if they come out different, that's OK, if they are all the same, that's OK too!
7. Concentrate on making a really nice sound.

Making your first sound



Putting it all together!

Now you can play some notes on the trumpet let's put your sounds to music! There are 6 backing tracks for you to play along to. In the first version I will play and you can copy straight after me. You could also use my notes and rhythms as questions and you make up answers.

Join in and make some notes...you can't play a wrong note, every trumpet note will fit, as long as you don't press any valves down.

See if you can make notes of different lengths, how many beats do your notes last?

Dancy Demo



Dancy Backing



Take it Easy Backing



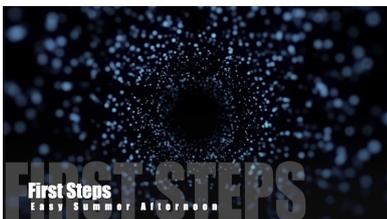
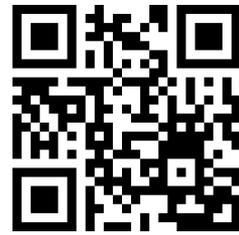
Easy Summer Backing



Funky Backing



Blues Backing



High, Middle and Low

Getting different pitches.

Pitch in music simply means how high or low a note is.

There are two ways a brass instrument can change its pitch, changing its length (valves) or harmonics. Let's start with "High, Middle and Low" or harmonics.

Remember that by changing the way you blow air and hold your lips you can get different pitches without using your valves?

We have to be able change the buzz we make with our lips, remember you can practice this on the mouthpiece?

Blowing

The type of air we blow really makes a difference to the pitch or how high or low a note is.

Slow, wide air helps make lower notes. Think about making a window steamed up in the Winter. Some brass teachers call this "hot" air because it's the kind of breath that we'd use to warm up our hands in the cold!

Fast, thin air will make really bright, clear, high notes. Think about the kind of breath you would use to put out a candle or blow an insect off your hand.

Another great tip if you are trying to play some higher notes is: "try the higher note first!". I hear lots of players always try the low note first because this is the "safe" or "easy" one, then they

try to add the higher pitch.

If you think about how full your lungs are when you have just taken in a great breath you will see that it is much easier to blow out fast air first and slow air second.

1, 2, 3, breathe, **High, Middle, Low**

(Also, you can think loud for high and quiet for low...this sometimes helps!)

Tongue position also helps - Think EEE for high notes Ahhh for middle and OOOO for low.

With our open middle notes (0 valves) we can play Shotgun by George Ezra - in the chorus play 2 middle notes where George sings Shotgun!

Listen, Sing, Buzz, Play

When you are playing the Trumpet or Cornet the closer you can get your buzz to the pitch you want to play the better the sound will be.

A great way to develop this skill is to listen to the note, sing the note, buzz the note on your mouthpiece then play the note on the Trumpet or Cornet.

When you see the following icons Listen, Sing, Buzz and Play

Listen

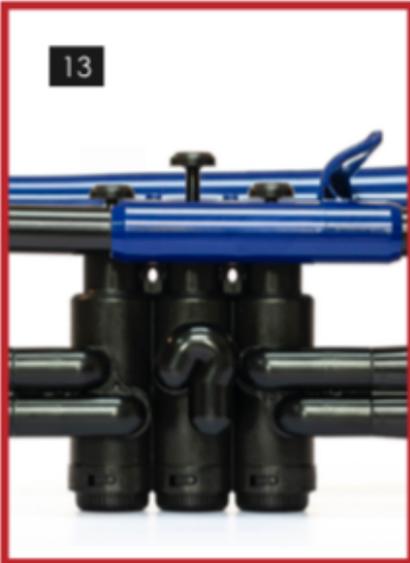
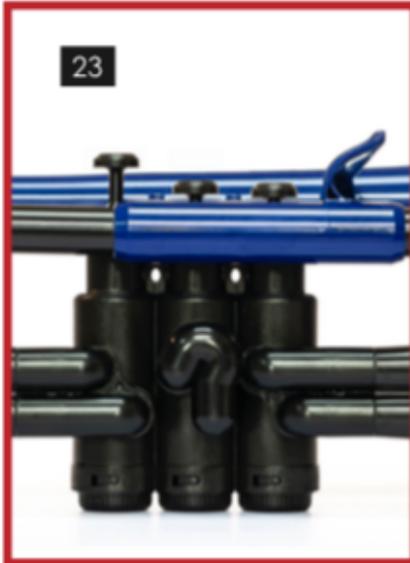
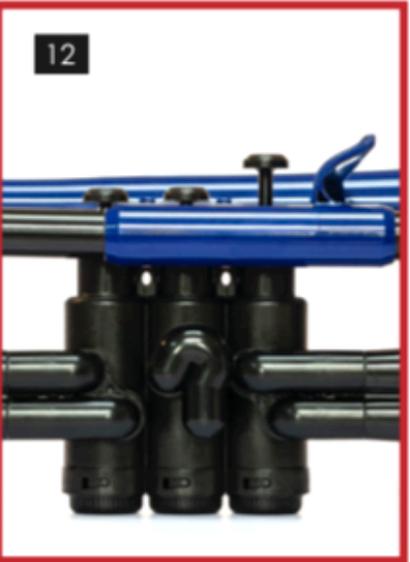
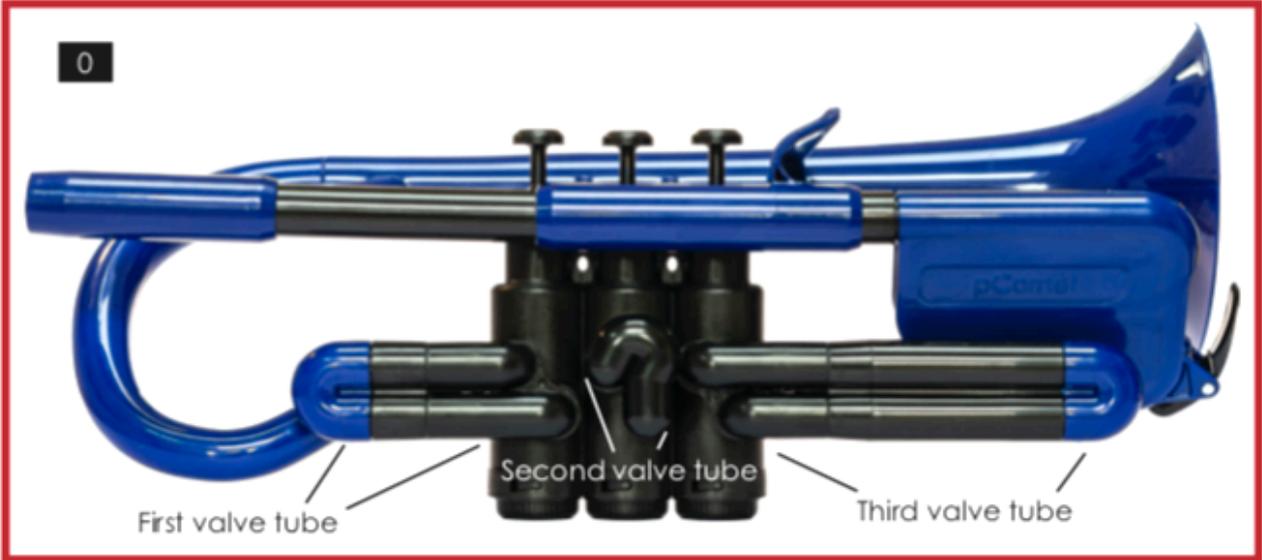
Sing - Sing the tune, say the notes and show the fingers.

Buzz - Lips and/or Mouthpiece.

Play



Valve combinations



Brass Gym

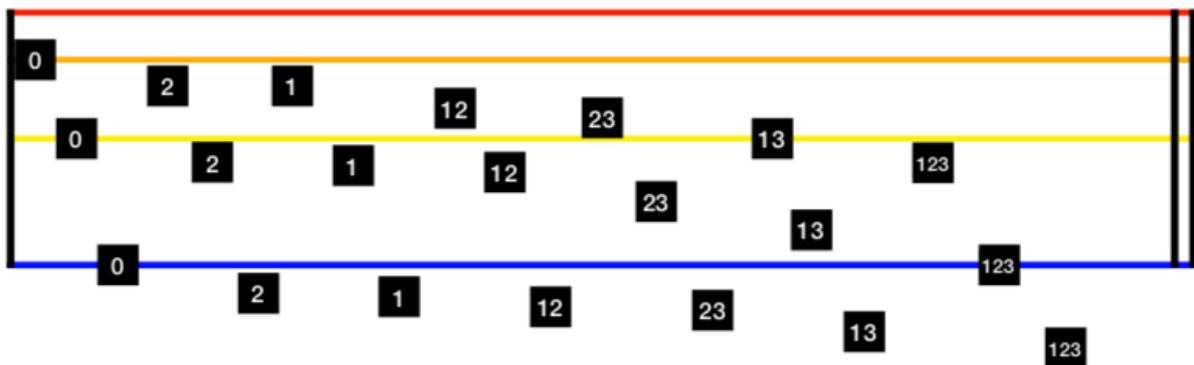
Brass playing needs both musical and physical training. This works best when music is in the driving seat!

I've developed a series of exercises to build your brass playing skills in both musical and physical ways together.

Like at any gym, doing a regular work out really helps to build your brass playing strength and stamina as well as honing your musical skills .

Doing BrassGym will also improve your sound and how many different pitches you can play!

Lets we'll play high, medium and low on every valve combination, starting on no valves, the shortest our instrument can be. Listen to my demonstration then join in. Notice how the "high, medium, low" pattern gets a little lower every time we add a little more tubing to our instrument.



Brass Gym Demo



Remember that if you listen, sing, buzz and play the exercise it will be even more effective in building your brass skills!

How to play tunes with BrassTabs: Ode To Joy

Always start by listening!

Here you can hear the tune being played with the backing track or the backing track on its own.

Ode to Joy Demo



Ode to Joy Backing



Now try singing the trumpet part, start with the backing track demo with trumpet playing then maybe just the backing track.

How about buzzing it on your mouthpiece, do the same routine as the singing above. Great! Did you notice that this tune has four main sections and a little introduction on the drums?

Sections one, two and four are exactly the same (apart from the last 3 notes), here is the BrassTab for these sections:



Sing and practice the valves whilst resting your mouthpiece on your chin. Then dive into playing the line. You could start slowly before adding the backing track?

How about section three?

Here's the BrassTab for that line of music...practice this in the same way then we'll bring it all together!

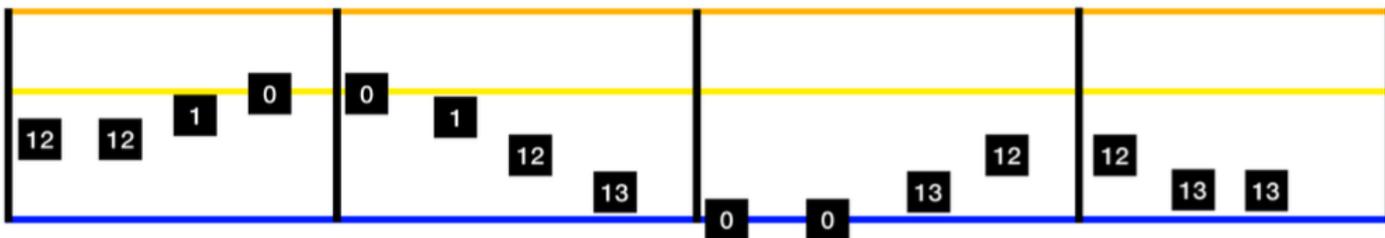
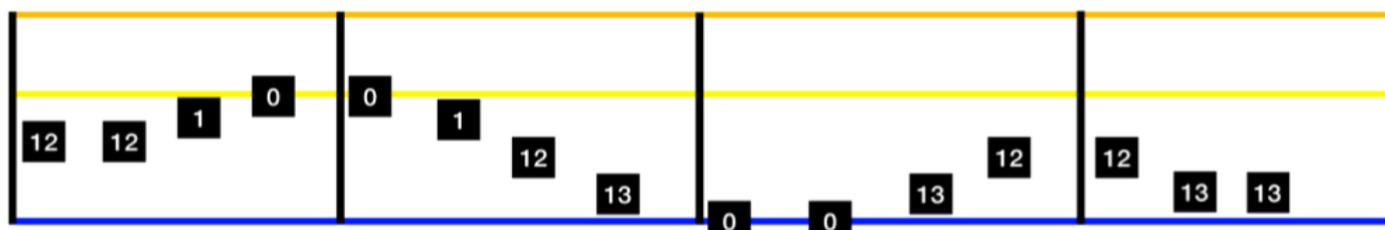


Ode To Joy: Bringing it all together!

Ok let's play the whole piece!

Remember to take a big breath and at the same time that I do in the video.

Don't forget to wait for the drum intro: Dom...Dom...dom dom dom dom



Who composed this tune, can you find out on the web?

Remember you can slow down the backing track by using the playback options and playback speed in youtube.

The Saints: a classic, swingy tune for brass

Can you use the way we learnt "Ode to Joy" to learn "The Saints"? Remember to start by listening!

Watch out for the little count in! Click..click..click..

When The Saints Demo



When The Saints Backing



0	12	1	0	0	12	1	0
0	12	1	0	12	12	12	13
12	13	0	0	12	0	0	1
12	1	0	12	0	13	0	0

Starting notes or Articulation

You might have noticed in the videos that I do something extra at the beginning of the notes, more than simply blowing air to make my lips buzz?

I use my tongue to help the note have a clear start. In brass we call this tonguing and how we start the note is usually called articulation.

You can do this too, try singing a tune using this sound "Taa" for every note. Now try a few mouthpiece buzzes, not singing but blowing with a "Taa" at the beginning of each blow. OK! let's add that to playing with a very quick "Taa" on every note. It's important that your tongue doesn't get in the way of the air you are blowing, so timing is important.

Make sure your tongue is never touching your teeth when tonguing, if it does it's too far forward in your mouth.

Once you feel comfortable "Taa-ing" your notes you can experiment with "Tee" for higher notes or "Toh" for lower notes. These sounds help get the right speed of air!

Structure or shape

Let's put lines one and two together to make the whole tune.

There is a little four count drum intro...boom, tap, boom...boom, tap then we are straight in.



Improvising

Improvising is really simple, easy and fun!

All it means is that the music has a space where you can choose what to play, usually as a chance to show off your creativity!

In this piece there is a space in the middle that is the same length as the whole of the tune, twenty four bars long, with four beats in each bar.

There are two easy ways to start improvising:

The first is simply playing the tune and making some small changes to it as you go along, playing around with the tune. This is how jazz improvisation started and how classical composers improvise.

The second way is to understand that if you choose notes with no valves down (open) then every note you play will fit. Now try adding valves 1 or 1&3 to add a bit of musical spice to your mix!

Next steps - We will now move on to reading notation but in the mean time have a look at www.brasstabs.com

If you want to annoy people see if you can learn to play Baby Shark from my video! these notes work with the original version on youtube!

Baby Shark



BrassTabs

You can find BrassTabs for lots of great tunes on www.brasstabs.com.

It's free to use so everyone can join in.

You'll find pop, R&B and other cool tunes to play with, just like being in the horn section!

