

MATTHEW PROVINO and PHILLIP HERRERA

# 1) EQUIPMENT

## A) THERE IS NO STANDARD DESIGN

- Number of Valves
- Valve Placement
- Types of Valves
- Intonation of Partial/Overtones Series

## B) WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT A MOUTHPIECE

- Rim & Cup
- Deeper Cup = Less Articulate but Phat
- Shallow Cup = More Articulate but Thin
- Wider Rim = Allows for Wider Feel & Opening Up
- Narrow Rim = Higher notes are easier, but getting lower is hard
- Mouthpiece Setup MUST compliment tuba setup
- Does any of this information matter?
  - Nope, if don't have all the same tubas.

## C) IF YOU GET TO BUY A TUBA OR TUBAS...

- Call Phil or another tuba player to check out the horns. There can be a bad batches & model designs change year to year.
- Make sure your district knows that you may be sending them back!

# THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM

★★★★★

Keys to Switching Students to Tuba

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## 2) BREATHING:

THE SINGLE MOST  
IMPORTANT FACTOR  
TO LEARNING THE  
TUBA QUICKLY.

GUT-SQUEEZING AIR  
SUPPORT POWERS  
VIBRATION OF LIPS.

### ★ CONSTANTLY USE:

- Breathing Gym, Paper Tests, Flat-Back Breathing, Test Inhalation.

### ★ CONSTANT CHECKING:

- The amount of support.
- Make them blow out clothes out the bell.

### ★ Don't let them play soft.

That will lead to laziness  
& squeezing/pinching.

### ★ Lips will remain apart if

there is a tremendous  
amount of air passing  
through them.

## 3) EMBOUCHURE

- LIPS APART!!! Get them out of the way.
- DO NOT SAY BUZZ! Air Causes Vibrations of Lips.  
(Think of a flag flapping in the wind)

### A) "OOH" FTW!!! (NOT "BRRRRRR")

- If they blow saying "OOH" w/ corners down, the center of the lips open naturally. (Think: Toh-Doh, Tah-Dah).
  - Like having a jawbreaker in the mouth.
- By saying "Brrr", the lips squeeze together. Also causes puffing of the cheeks. (Cheeks can't puff if the center of the lips are open) This is the bad smile embouchure.

### B) BLOW THRU TUBA & BLOW OUT CANDLE

- Make them blow past the mouth, the mouthpiece, and 10ft past the bell for every note.
- Airplane/Motorboat lips to keep them loose to vibrate.

### C) WHEN ALL ELSE FAILS...

- Then break every rule. (Buzz) Get them successful first!
- BUT, hold them to the standards above afterwards.

## 4) AIR = TONE

### A) "HOLLYWOOD VS THE WORLD" A.K.A. NARROW VS "PHAT"

- You are in SCSBOA Country which is very much influenced by the Hollywood Sound

### B) TUBAS SHOULD NOT SOUND LIKE "BRRRRRRRR!"

- That's a sign that the lips are in the way - Open Up!

## 5) 3 SIMPLE STEPS

"WHAAA"  
BREATH

"DOH"  
MOUTH

BLOW BIG  
THRU TUBA