

TUBA

A SEQUENTIAL GUIDE FOR MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL MUSIC STUDENTS

This guide is to help students who are looking to explore outside of their school ensembles and maybe toward majoring in music in college. Before starting these, you should have already learned all 12 major scales, chromatic scale, and be well-versed in counting rhythms. While this guide arranges fundamental, methods, and etudes in a pedagogical order, you will still need extra guidance from your teacher or private lessons.



NOVICE



INTERMEDIATE



ADVANCED/COLLEGE

(These books should be worked on simultaneously.)

◆ FOUNDATIONAL:

-  1. **"I Recommend" by James Ployhar & "Rubank Intermediate Method for BBb Bass"** - Good First Step/Remedial Book to ensure a proper foundation. Works in a natural range and does not overwhelm. Easy to establish success.
-   2. **"Rubank Advanced Method for BBb Bass" Books 1 & 2 by W.M. Gower & H. Voxman** - Great Second Step/Remedial Book. These books flow better to "Foundation to Tuba and Sousaphone".
-  3. **"Foundation to Tuba and Sousaphone Playing" by William Bell** - The perfect bridge to Arban. Starts in familiar keys and ranges and progress in a logical manner.
-   4. **"Arban Complete Method for Tuba" edited by Dr. Jerry Young & Wesley Jacobs** - The definitive foundational method book for brass instruments.

◆ WARM-UPS:

-  1. **JohnMcAllisterMusic.com Warm Ups** - Very Easy, but has nice YouTube audio accompaniments.
-   2. **"Lip Slurs for Tuba" by Deanna Swododa** - Basically Remington written for tuba.
-   3. **James Stamp/ H.L. Clarke - Selected Warm Up Exercises** - Selective trumpet lip slur warm ups make great daily warm ups for tuba. You can find selected exercises written out for tuba through google or in your private lessons.
-   4. **"The Remington Warm-Up Studies" edited by Donald Hunsberger** - Standard Warm Ups. Unfortunately it is written in trombone range, just drop everything down an octave for tuba. Great way to introduce reading and transposing notes in the high range.
-  5. **"The Bell Scales: William Bell Daily Routine for Tuba"** - Advanced, be comfortable playing at the top of the staff.

◆ ETUDES (STUDIES):

-   1. **"First & Second Book of Practical Studies for Tuba" Books 1 & 2 edited by Nilo W. Hovey** - Great Introduction to etudes. Easy way to start practicing different articulations and musical styles on each exercise.
-   2. **"40 Advanced Studies for Bb Bass" by H.W. Tyrell** - Progresses very well bridging Bell's Foundations and Arban's Method to etudes. (Technical)
-   3. **"Boris Grigoriev Studies for Tuba"** - There are a couple versions of Grigoriev etudes and all are very easy to progress through. These are a tad higher level of difficulty to the Tyrell etudes. (Lyrical)
-  4. **"The Legato Etudes for Tuba by Giuseppe Concone" by Wesley Jacobs** - Standard Repertoire for Tuba Etudes (Lyrical)
-  5. **"Marco Bordogni 43 Bel Canto Studies"** - AKA Rochut. Standard Repertoire for Tuba Etudes. (Lyrical)
-  6. **"Vladislav Blazhevich 70 Studies"** - Standard Repertoire for Tuba Etudes. (Lyrical)
-  7. **"C. Kopprasch 60 Selected Studies"** - Standard Repertoire for Tuba Etudes. (Technical)
-  8. **"Low Legato Etudes" Series by Wesley Jacobs** - Standard Repertoire for Tuba Etudes. (Low Range)
-  9. **"Low Etudes for Tuba" By Phil Snedecor** - Standard Repertoire for Tuba Etudes. (Low Range)

PREPARING TO BE A MUSIC MAJOR

MIDDLE SCHOOL/HIGH SCHOOL BENCHMARK TIMELINE



BEING A MUSIC MAJOR

The undergraduate music degree is the second hardest major at the university level. It is only for the most dedicated and the experience is nothing like high school music programs. The music expectation is that you have to best your fellow students to achieve success. Top university music departments are highly competitive environments. This guide is designed to aid and focus your ambition towards this goal.

PRACTICING

10,000 PRACTICE HOURS BREAKDOWN (Based off of 300 days per year)

5 HRS/DAY	6.6 yrs (1,500 hrs/yr)
6 HRS/DAY	5.5 yrs (1,800 hrs/yr)
7 HRS/DAY	4.7 yrs (2,100 hrs/yr)

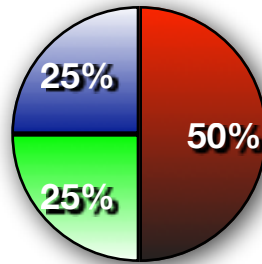
Malcolm Gladwell wrote that mastery occurs when a person achieves 10,000 hours of "deliberate practice". Top musicians practice beyond that mark. This chart gives you an idea of how much daily practicing is expected as a music major at a 4 year university.

THE TOTAL MUSICIAN

On top of knowing everything about your own instrument, you are expected to know:

- ★ **Vocal:** Ensemble/Sight Sing/Solfège, etc.
- ★ **Piano:** Read/Chords/Accompaniment, etc.
- ★ **Theory:** Dictation/Ear Training/etc.
- ★ **History:** Composers/Eras/Styles, etc.
- ★ **Emersion:** Attending Concerts & Recitals

Your music director will help you achieve these goals.



MUSIC MAJOR DAILY PRACTICE EXPECTATIONS

- Warm-Ups, Fundamentals, Methods, & Etudes
- Solo/Repertoire & Excerpts
- Ensemble Music

SUGGESTED PREREQUISITES:

DEDICATION & FISCAL UNDERSTANDING

Your friends and family will not understand how much time you will need to spend on music. Remember, a career in music will depend on you being better than everyone else musically (including music education majors). Any jobs you have must work around your school and practice schedule.

YOUR INSTRUMENT (MAKE SURE TO HAVE A PRO-MODEL INSTRUMENT)

You must know everything about your instrument: professional models and equipment, top musicians and recordings, styles of sound, and instrument doubling. Listen to orchestra standards daily and different recordings of the same piece to hear the different interpretations.

REPERTOIRE: STANDARD METHODS, ETUDES, SOLOS, & EXCERPTS

By your senior year in high school you should have already built up a collection of method books, etudes, solos, and orchestral excerpts. You should be playing chamber music with other top musicians in the area (they do not have to be your age, ask your band directors to help you form a group).

EXPERIENCE IN HONOR ENSEMBLES, MUSIC CAMPS, & FESTIVALS

Participation in All Southern and All State ensembles, top music camps, and top orchestras and ensembles in the area. You will be competing with the top musicians in the area.

PRIVATE LESSONS

Weekly lessons for a minimum of 2 years prior working on the repertoire above. Most music majors have had lessons since before middle school.

CHORD STRUCTURES & EAR TRAINING

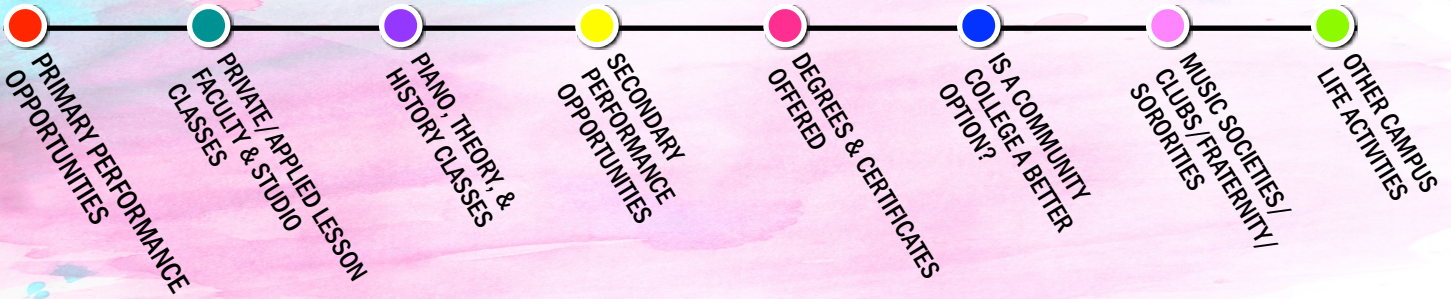
Basic music theory (key signatures and chords), interval training, and dictation.

ATTENDING CONCERTS & RECITALS

Student recitals are free, faculty recitals are inexpensive, and there are student rush tickets available for most orchestras. Seniors should be attending recitals and concerts monthly.

WHAT TO EXPECT AS A MUSIC MAJOR

THINGS TO EXPLORE AT SCHOOL OF MUSIC



THINGS YOU SHOULD DO: EVERY YEAR

- ★ Start to research schools you might be interested in.
- ★ Ask the faculty & staff at your school what it's like pursuing music as a career.
- ★ Keep your public social media presence clean and professional.
- ★ Audition for honor bands.
- ★ Take advantage of opportunities on campus, (camps, festivals, workshops, and concerts)
- ★ Prepare with a private lesson teacher for all auditions.

SOPHOMORE - JUNIOR YEAR

- ★ Follow & interact positively with the social media accounts of music departments & studios.
- ★ Take piano lessons if you never have.
- ★ Tour the campus & the music school specifically.
- ★ Know what is expected for the audition at all schools you are interested. Pick materials that you can use at as many schools as possible.
- ★ Mark all audition dates in your planner and practice with the end in mind.
- ★ Know the FAFSA Deadline & apply for all scholarships.

SENIOR YEAR

- ★ Contact studio faculty at your top 3-4 schools and ask for a sample lesson.
- ★ Reach out to ensemble conductors at your top 3-4 schools & ask to check out a rehearsal.
- ★ Get feedback from your music teachers & staff at your school about your preferred choices.

THINGS TO LOOK FOR:

IS THE SCHOOL BETTER FOR UNDERGRAD OR GRADUATE STUDIES

If there is a big population of graduate degree candidates, the less opportunities you will have to audition into the top ensembles.

PRIMARY PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES

There should be more than a single performance ensemble in your discipline. How many times do they perform? Do they record? Do they tour?

PRIVATE/APPLIED LESSON FACULTY & STUDIO CLASSES

Know who teaches private/applied lessons. There should be studio class that meets regularly.

PIANO, THEORY, & HISTORY CLASSES

Do they have professors teaching these or are they taught by grad assistants? You should know how many of each area is required.

SECONDARY PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES

You should know if they allow students to participate in other discipline ensembles like Jazz, choral, chamber, opera, etc. You should participate in these.

DEGREES & CERTIFICATES OFFERED

You should first know if the school is full accredited by NASM. How many degrees do they offer and or do they only offer certificates? Performance, Education, Composition, Musicology, Music Therapy, etc.

IS COMMUNITY COLLEGE A BETTER OPTION

If you are not at the level that is expected of incoming freshman, maybe honing your skills at good community college music program might be a better option.

MUSIC SOCIETIES/CLUBS/FRATERNITY/SORORITIES

There should be a few of these that are available to you. Music Fraternities and Sororities are usually much different from the social versions. All of these provide great opportunities for networking and professional advancement.

OTHER CAMPUS LIFE ACTIVITIES

You are in college, explore and enjoy all the experiences that will cease to exist once you leave college. Don't just lock yourself in a practice room.

BACHELOR'S DEGREE FOR MARCHING BAND DOESN'T EXIST

There is nothing wrong in participating in the marching arts, they can be a ton of fun. Just remember that you are there to focus on completing your degree.