



## **Creating Excellence in Your Marching Winds**

**CLINICIAN:  
Bob Chreste**

**DEMONSTRATION GROUPS:  
Cedar Park High School Band  
Carolina Crown Drum Corps**

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# **Texas Bandmasters Association 2012 Convention/Clinic**



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# ***Creating Excellence in Your Marching Winds***

Carolina Crown Brass Section & Cedar Park H.S. Marching Winds

2012 Texas Bandmasters Association Convention

Who says you can't run a high school marching band like a world class drum & bugle corps? Through a "keep it simple" approach, you can quickly improve the quality of your marching band. In creating excellence with your marching winds, you should set up a very efficient and concise plan for your playing fundamentals. Strive to make the ensemble sound great on the simple exercises and encourage the students to apply those sounds to their show music. You can also use your show music to create new exercises for your fundamental package.

## **The Setup**

- The "mixed" arc/circle
  - Makes students more accountable and unable to hide
  - Easier to isolate sounds
- To met or not to met, that is the question
  - With metronome
    - Met placement should be behind the group
    - Should not be so loud that students try to compete with the volume
  - Without metronome
    - Students must learn to play with the conductor
    - "Put the feet with the hands and play with the feet"
- Stepouts
  - In marching band, you must move your feet as often as possible
  - Practice stepouts in different directions and with different step sizes
  - 2-step stepouts create a more realistic approach than a 1-step
- Set, Breathe, Play
  - SET the embouchure first
  - BREATHE in and take in as much air as possible
  - PLAY by moving fast air instantly on the downbeat

## **Breathing Exercises**

- The Breathing Gym
  - Increase air flow and stamina
  - Improve tone and breath control
  - Reduce body tension
- Breathing Tubes
  - Valve allows students to get a workout on inhalation
  - Valve allows students to create instrument appropriate resistance on exhale
- Old School Breathing
  - Long tones on air only with the instrument
  - Show excerpts on air

## **Long Tones**

- 8 ct/16 ct/7 ct tones
- Play in time with the feet
- Balance with your neighbors
- Slight embellishment to the release
- Take a breath for the release

## Flexibility/Technique Exercises

### Brass

#### Technique Exercises (Tech)

Trumpet/Horn Chreste

Tech #1

Tech #2

Tech #3

Tech #4

Tech #5

- Mix and match these exercises
- “Last phrase” concept

### Woodwinds

#### Technique Exercises (Tech)

Clarinet/Bass Clarinet/Tenor Sax Chreste

Tech #1

Tech #2

Tech #3

Tech #4

Tech #5

## Articulation/Style/Note Length Exercises

- Dah (brass), Dee (reeds) & Doo (flute)
- Keep articulation consistent throughout all styles and note lengths, unless it’s a special effect
- The three most used styles are staccato, tenuto & accented
- Work articulations/styles/note lengths in all appropriate instrument ranges
- Keep your short notes long enough so that they can create resonance
- Create double/triple tonguing exercises if necessary

## Show Exercises

- Create exercises that are based on show rhythms/dynamics
- Show exercises can be done on a unison note
- Have a tag ending where the actual excerpt is played

Carolina Crown Brass Staff – Matt Harloff (*Caption Head*), Michael Klesch (*Arranger*), Corey Alvaro-Futrell, Chad Brinkman, Bob Chreste, Ben Harloff, Barry Hudson, Ray Linkous, Steve Mason, Joe Padawan, Larry Shane, Ryan Summers, Donnie VanDoren, Marshall Woody

Cedar Park High School Band Directors – Steve Wessels, Bob Chreste, Evan VanDoren, Roland Chavez

For additional information on Carolina Crown, please visit: [www.carolinacrown.org](http://www.carolinacrown.org)

For additional information on the Cedar Park H.S. Band, please visit: [www.cphsband.org](http://www.cphsband.org)

For questions on this clinic, please email: [bob.chreste@leanderisd.org](mailto:bob.chreste@leanderisd.org)