



## **Teaching Beginner Trumpets**

**CLINICIAN:  
Dr. Gary Wurtz**

# **Texas Bandmasters Association 2014 Convention/Clinic**



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# **Teaching Beginner Trumpets**

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## **Who Am I? What qualifies me?**

- My career before college teaching
- Teachers I asked to contribute

## **What is this session's purpose?**

- Give the students good information
- How to deliver the information
- Setting them up for future success

## **What to do before the first class day**

- Trumpet vs. cornet
- Equipment
  - Brands
  - Care and maintenance
    - \* Insist on properly functioning equipment
    - \* Oil valves daily.
- Mouthpieces

## **Getting started**

- Posture
- Breathing
- Hand position
- Embouchure
  - Keep a "natural" face.
  - Best learned by demonstration
  - A checklist, if that's what you prefer
- The mouthpiece
  - Buzzing the mouthpiece- a controversial topic?
  - "Holding" it
  - Embouchure formation-keep it natural
  - Placing it on the mouth
  - Blow through the mouthpiece until the sound "catches"
  - How much is enough?
- Playing the trumpet
  - High buzzers and low buzzers
  - Keep that mouthpiece off of the red
  - The effectiveness of teaching a slight curl

## **•The daily approach**

- Modeling is imperative
- Believe in their ability to comprehend
- Repetition, repetition, repetition...then repeat

- Blow smoothly and strive for tone!
- Hear them play individually (the six second tryout!)
- Clear, concise correction
- Be consistent and persistent- micromanage (Bulloch)

**Misc. thoughts for success now and in the future**

- Give them numerous chances to be successful
  - The “6-second tryout”
  - Other games
  - More playing, less lecturing
- Don’t let them write in fingerings
- Modeling cannot be over-emphasized
- Use technology
- Have them sing or hum using their falsetto
- Believe in their ability to understand almost anything
  - Fingerings
  - Tuning tendencies
  - Voicing
  - Articulation
  - Releases
  - All scales! Progress by half step, not by key signature
  - Eastman counting system
    - \*Allows for counting any subdivision
    - \*Reinforces articulation
- Fingers must always go down strong and in rhythm. Fingering the instrument should be like a mini percussion instrument.
- There is no fast-track



Gary Wurtz is proud to be an artist for Schilke Music Products, and performs on the Schilke S33HD B-flat trumpet, S22HD C trumpet, P5/4 piccolo trumpet and E3L E-flat trumpet. This clinic is sponsored by Schilke Music Products of Chicago, IL.