

ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS FOR BAND

COMPREHENSIVE BAND METHOD

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Band is... **M**aking music with a family of lifelong friends.

Understanding how commitment and dedication lead to success.

Sharing the joy and rewards of working together.

Individuals who develop self-confidence.

Creativity—expressing yourself in a universal language.

Band is... **MUSIC!**

Strike up the band,

Tim Lautzenheiser

Origins of the baritone can be traced to ancient Rome, where bronze and brass instruments called “tubas” often played at military and ceremonial functions. The baritone horn, also known as a tenor tuba, first appeared in Germany in the 1830s. It is the final version of Adolphe Sax’s “saxhorn baryton.”

The euphonium, closely related to the baritone, was also invented in the 1830s. The tubing of the euphonium is wider (more conically shaped) than the cylindrical tubing of the baritone. Both instruments have 3 or 4 valves and play the same pitches.

Baritones and euphoniums can be played using either bass clef (B.C.) or treble clef (T.C.) fingerings. They are important tenor or bass voiced instruments of the concert band. Baritones play solos and harmonies, and they blend well with other instruments.

John Philip Sousa, Percy Grainger and Alfred Reed are important composers who have included baritones in their concert band writing. Some famous baritone performers are Leonard Falcone, Brian Bowman and Rich Matteson.

HISTORY OF THE BARITONE

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THE BASICS

Posture

Sit on the edge of your chair, and always keep your:

- Spine straight and tall
- Shoulders back and relaxed
- Feet flat on the floor

Breathing & Airstream

Breathing is a natural thing we all do constantly. To discover the correct airstream to play your instrument:

- Place the palm of your hand near your mouth.
- Inhale deeply through the corners of your mouth, keeping your shoulders steady. Your waist should expand like a balloon.
- Slowly whisper “tah” as you gradually exhale air into your palm.

The air you feel is the airstream. It produces sound through the instrument. Your tongue is like a faucet or valve that releases the airstream.

Producing The Essential Tone

“Buzzing” through the mouthpiece produces your tone. The buzz is a fast vibration in the center of your lips. Your embouchure (*ahm'-bah-shure*) is your mouth’s position on the mouthpiece of the instrument. A good embouchure takes time and effort, so carefully follow these steps for success:

BUZZING

- Moisten your lips.
- Bring your lips together as if saying the letter “m.”
- Relax your jaw to separate your upper and lower teeth.
- Form a slightly puckered smile to firm the corners of your mouth.
- Direct a full airstream through the center of your lips, creating a buzz.
- Buzz frequently without your mouthpiece.

MOUTHPIECE PLACEMENT

- Form your “buzzing” embouchure.
- Place the mouthpiece approximately 2/3 on the upper lip and 1/3 on the lower lip. Your teacher may suggest a slightly different mouthpiece placement.
- Take a full breath through the corners of your mouth.
- Start your buzz with the syllable “tah.” Buzz through the center of your lips keeping a steady, even buzz. Your lips provide a cushion for the mouthpiece.

Taking Care Of Your Instrument

Before putting your instrument back in its case after playing, do the following:

- Use the water key to empty water from the instrument. Blow air through it.
- Remove the mouthpiece. Once a week, wash the mouthpiece with warm tap water. Dry thoroughly.
- Wipe off the instrument with a clean soft cloth. Return the instrument to its case.

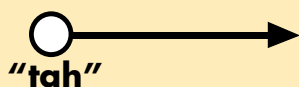
Baritone valves occasionally need oiling. To oil your baritone valves:

- Unscrew the valve at the top of the casing.
- Lift the valve half-way out of the casing.
- Apply a few drops of special brass valve oil to the exposed valve.
- Carefully return the valve to its casing. When properly inserted, the top of the valve should easily screw back into place.

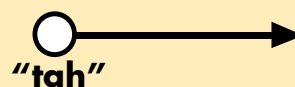
Be sure to grease the slides regularly. Your director will recommend special slide grease and valve oil, and will help you apply them when necessary.

MOUTHPIECE WORKOUT

Using only the mouthpiece, form your embouchure carefully. Take a deep breath without raising your shoulders. Begin buzzing your lips by whispering “tah” and gradually exhale your full airstream. Strive for an even tone.



REST



REST

Long Tone



To begin, we'll use a special "Long Tone" note. Hold the tone until your teacher tells you to rest. Practice long tones each day to develop your sound.

1. THE FIRST NOTE

Hold each long tone until your teacher tells you to rest.

G

○○○
1 2 3

"G" is played with **open valves**. Just rest your fingers lightly on the valves.

The Beat

The **beat** is the pulse of music, and like your heartbeat it should remain very steady. Counting aloud and foot-tapping help us maintain a steady beat. Tap your foot **down** on each number and **up** on each "&."

One beat = 1 &
↓ ↑

Notes And Rests

Notes tell us how high or low to play by their placement on a line or space of the music staff, and how long to play by their shape. **Rests** tell us to count silent beats.

Quarter Note = 1 beat
 Quarter Rest = 1 silent beat

2. COUNT AND PLAY

Count: 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &
Tap: ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑

3. A NEW NOTE

Look for the fingering diagram under each new note.

F

●○○
▲

The black circles tell you which valves to push down. "F" is played with **1st valve**.

4. TWO'S A TEAM

Count & Tap: 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &

5. HEADING DOWN

Practice long tones on each new note.

E

●●○

6. MOVING ON UP

Count & Tap: 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &

Notes In Review

Memorize the fingerings for the notes you've learned:

G	F	E	D	C
○○○	●○○	●●○	●○●	○○○

14. ROLLING ALONG

Go to the next line. ▼

Double Bar ▼

Half Note

1 & 2 &

Half Rest

1 & 2 &

15. RHYTHM RAP

Clap the rhythm while counting and tapping.

Repeat Sign ▼

1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &

16. THE HALF COUNTS

1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &

17. HOT CROSS BUNS

Try this song on your mouthpiece only. Then play it on your instrument.

Breath Mark



Take a deep breath through your mouth after you play a full-length note.


18. GO TELL AUNT RHODIE

American Folk Song

19. ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS QUIZ


Using the note names and rhythms below, draw your notes on the staff before playing.

F G F E F E D C D E F E F

Fermata  Hold the note (or rest) longer than normal.

27. REACHING HIGHER – New Note

Practice long tones on each new note.

Fermata 

A 

28. AU CLAIRE DE LA LUNE

French Folk Song



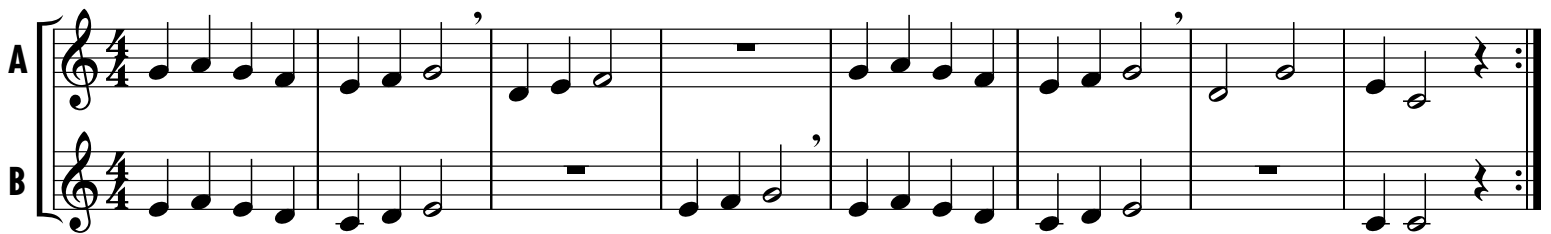
29. REMIX



THEORY **Harmony** Two or more notes played together. Each combination forms a *chord*.

30. LONDON BRIDGE – Duet

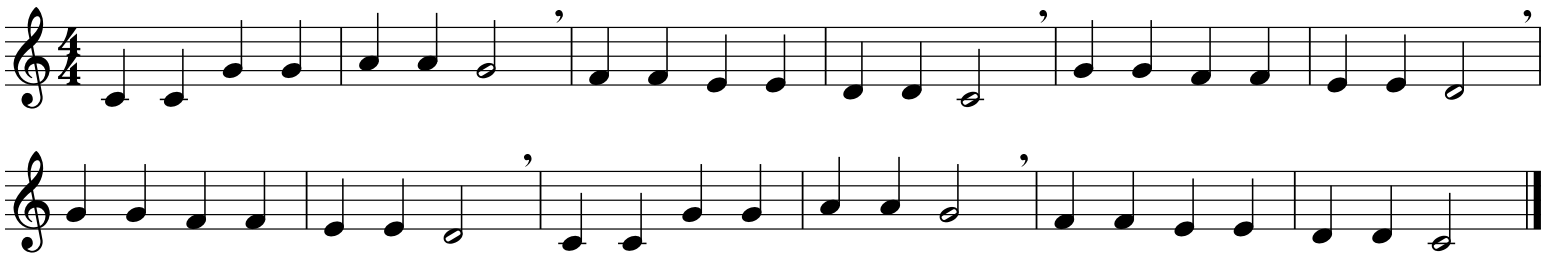
English Folk Song

A 

HISTORY Austrian composer **Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart** (1756–1791) was a child prodigy who started playing professionally at age six, and lived during the time of the American Revolution. Mozart’s music is melodic and imaginative. He wrote more than 600 compositions during his short life, including a piano piece based on the famous song, “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star.”

31. A MOZART MELODY

Adaptation



32. ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS QUIZ Draw these symbols where they belong and write in the note names before you play

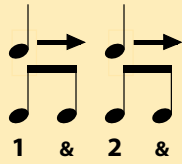




Eighth Notes



Each Eighth Note = 1/2 Beat
 2 Eighth Notes = 1 Beat
 Play on down and up taps.



Two or more Eighth Notes have a *beam* across the stems.



40. RHYTHM RAP *Clap the rhythm while counting and tapping.*

Clap

1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &

41. EIGHTH NOTE JAM

1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &

42. SKIP TO MY LOU

American Folk Song

43. LONG, LONG AGO *Good posture improves your sound. Always sit straight and tall.*

44. OH, SUSANNA

Stephen Collins Foster

HISTORY

Italian composer **Gioacchino Rossini** (1792–1868) began composing as a teenager and was very proficient on the piano, viola and horn. He wrote “William Tell” at age 37 as the last of his forty operas, and its familiar theme is still heard today on radio and television.

45. ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS QUIZ — WILLIAM TELL

Gioacchino Rossini