

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

Ancient Roman instruments used during military and ceremonial occasions were called “tubas.” Actually, these bronze or brass instruments were ancestors to the trumpet.

For centuries, several attempts were made to invent a bass instrument for the brass family. These instruments included the serpent and the ophicleide. The modern tuba, featuring 3-5 valves, was developed in the 1820s. Tuba bells either point straight up or curve forward (a recording bass). In 1898, John Philip Sousa developed the sousaphone for marching bands.

The tuba family includes the BB \flat Tuba (the most common), EE \flat and E \flat Tubas, F and C Tubas. Tubas are the important bass foundation instrument of the concert band. They play bass lines, blend with other instruments and play solos.

Wagner, Mahler, R. Strauss, Vaughan Williams and Hindemith are composers who have included tubas in their writing. Some famous tuba performers are William J. Bell, Harvey Phillips and Roger Bobo.

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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.
- Center the mouthpiece on your lips. 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.

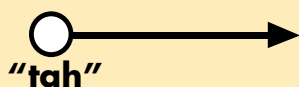
Tuba valves occasionally need oiling. To oil your tuba valves:

- 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.

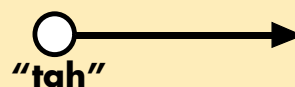
Be sure to grease the slides regularly. Your director will recommend special slide grease and valve oil, and will help you apply them when necessary.

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.

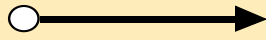


REST



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.

F

○○○
1 2 3

"F" 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

3. A NEW NOTE

Look for the fingering diagram under each new note.

E_b

●○○
▲

The black circles tell you which valves to push down. "E_b (E-flat)" is played with **1st valve**.

4. TWO'S A TEAM

5. HEADING DOWN





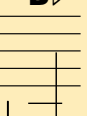
Practice long tones on each new note.

D

●●○

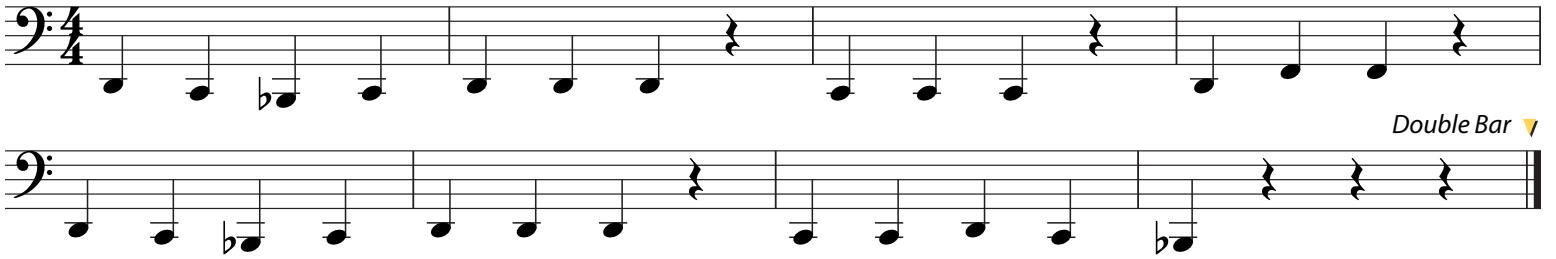
6. MOVING ON UP

Notes In Review
Memorize the fingerings for the notes you've learned:


F	E_b	D	C	B_b
				
○○○	●○○	●●○	●○○	○○○


14. ROLLING ALONG



Go to the next line. ▾



Half Note **Half Rest**

 → = 2 Beats
1 & 2 &


 = 2 Silent Beats
1 & 2 &

 = 

15. RHYTHM RAP Clap the rhythm while counting and tapping.


Repeat Sign ▾

Clap



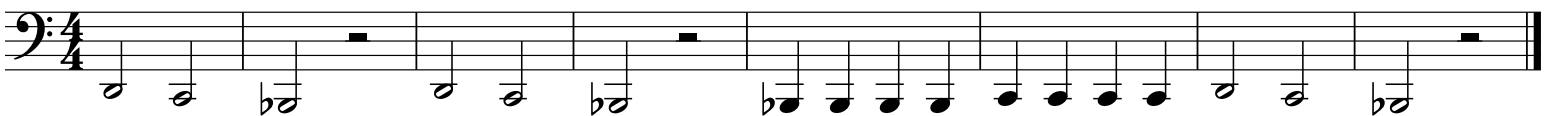
1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &


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 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &

17. HOT CROSS BUNS Try this song on your mouthpiece only. Then play it on your instrument.



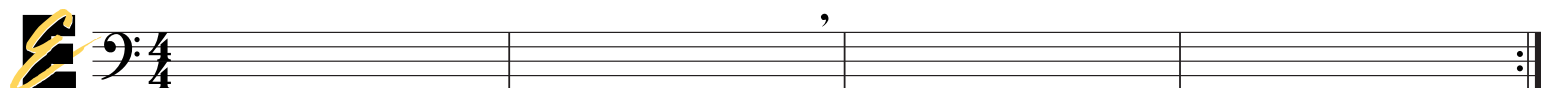
Breath Mark  Take a deep breath through your mouth after you play a full-length note.















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.



-  E_b
  F
  E_b
  D
  E_b
  D
  C
  B_b
  C
  D
  D
  E_b
  D
  E_b

Fermata



Hold the note (or rest) longer than normal.

27. REACHING HIGHER – New Note

Practice long tones on each new note.

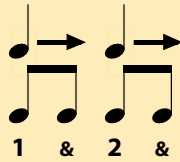
Fermata

G

Eighth Notes



Each Eighth Note = $\frac{1}{2}$ 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

mf

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

p

44. OH, SUSANNA

Stephen Collins Foster

f

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

mf

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