

Practice Routine

Brass 2nd year

A successful practice session should be organized into 3 parts: **warm-up, technique** and **repertoire**. Each part should be practiced with the idea that it will make the next part more successful. A musician should also make certain that their practice area is quiet and has sufficient light. A music stand should always be used. Use of a tuner and metronome are also strongly encouraged.

Warm-Up 3-5 minutes

* **Buzzing** on mouthpiece. Almost everything important about playing a brass instrument can be accomplished on the mouthpiece. The player should begin with soft long tones, then progress to sirens and buzzing familiar melodies.

* **Long Tones** throughout register. The player should listen for tone quality, attack and release and pitch. Use of a tuner can help the student understand the pitch tendencies of each note and how to adjust them.

Technique 5-10 minutes

* **Scales** (Bb, F, Eb, C, G, Chromatic) should be practiced slowly at first, with careful attention to key signatures and/or accidentals. Gradually the scales should be practiced at a faster tempo with goal being that they can be played faster than the student can articulate them. Memorization of scales is a good long-term goal. Using a metronome is most helpful here.

*Assignments from method book.

*Other assigned exercises/sightreading.

Repertoire 10-15 minutes

Concert music should be practiced slowly at first, clapping the rhythm and fingering the notes if needed. It is always advisable to practice the difficult sections of a piece first and often, and not to waste time practicing parts of the piece that are already mastered. Using a metronome, particularly for difficult sections, is a good idea.

It's also a good idea to save time for music of your own choosing.