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## Teaching Philosophy

As a private music teacher, I aim to give my students instruction on all aspects of musicianship focusing on sound, expression, and ease of playing. I also strive to help make my students knowledgeable on the music they are playing and how it came to be. I work hard to make myself very available to my students and intend to serve as their resource for all music related questions, curiosities, and struggles.

### Fundamental Focused Practice

As an active performer, my own practice focuses very heavily on fundamentals and I work to instill a similar philosophy in my students. I expect my students to spend at least 65%\* of their practice time working on the fundamental aspects of playing the trumpet, and I provide guidance on how to get to that point. My students explore different methods of fundamental practice including long tones, technical studies, flexibility exercises, flow studies, etudes, and others.

\*I am aware that amounts of practice time may vary and that is precisely why I use a percentage based approach. I believe that the proper ratio of fundamentals to repertoire will lead to improvement, regardless of the amount of time spent practicing.

### Sound

I believe that sound is the absolute most important aspect of musicianship, and that is what I urge my students to focus on developing. My students are constantly evaluating what they believe the ideal sound should be and how they can come closer to that. My primary goal in teaching is that my students take this sound based approach and apply it every time they pick up their instrument.



## Ease of Playing

The greatest roadblock to developing a desirable sound is tension. A musician who is playing properly can do so with very minimal tension and their sound will reflect that. I work with my students to help them adopt a natural method of playing and minimize tension. In this pursuit, there will be frequent singing in lessons to help the student develop a relaxed approach to the instrument.

## Expression Through Study

As my students learn repertoire they are expected to do research on the music they are playing. Parts of the research are guided while other parts are done independently. During the course of their research students learn about the composer and what aspects of their life led to the writing of this piece of music. Students take into consideration aspects such as the composer's time period, geographical location, socioeconomic status, religious affiliations, and many other aspects of their life. It is with this information that my students make informed stylistic and expressive decisions. I enjoy empowering my students to make their own expressive decisions and feel that study is the best way to do so.

## Communication

I am available via email seven days a week, and work to respond as quickly as possible. I am happy to provide students with written guidance should they request it, though it is important to recognize that most teaching is done more effectively in person during the student's weekly lesson. I am also available through call or text, though any student under eighteen years old will need written parental consent before any communication will occur via text.

