

Eight Teaching Points

by H.E. Nutt

Explanations by Ruth Rhodes

1. Tone Production and Intonation

Teach proper embouchure formation, instrument holding position, hand position, air stream shape, speed, direction and strength to insure good tone quality, which is also in tune.

2. Start - Sustain - Release

Teach proper tongue placement and movement (H.E. also referred to tonguing as releasing of air), air speed and sustaining value through instrument with proper note value, and stopping of sound (students often stop blowing and loosen lips or pull horn from mouth when they stop the air).

3. HOLD STILL!

Don't move while playing. Don't bounce horn with beat, or wiggle limbs while playing. This type of movement interferes with correct tone production, tone quality and intonation.

4. Count Time with a Feeling of Good Rhythm

Rhythm is the steady pulse or beat (ocean waves; tick of clock). Time refers to note values and note placement within the steady pulse.

5. Routine of Musical Expression

Students should be taught to respond automatically to dynamic markings, articulations, accents, etc. on the page. This is also where he stressed the long note, strong note idea as a starting place for musical expression.

6. Register

Only after the above points are somewhat routine can a student progress into the extreme registers of the instrument. Tone quality and intonation will transfer (especially to altissimo register) if points 1, 2 & 3 are taught well.

7. Technique

Develop fast, even technique at this point. Going too fast, too soon will cause problems in tone production, intonation, routine of musical expression, etc.

8. Interpretation

Students are now ready for more in depth study of style, rubato and the more subtle aspects of musicality.