

My Music Folder

Symphonic Orchestra

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Logical Conclusions to Effective Intonation

1. At this time it is unimportant to recognize Sharp or Flat, *only the speed of the beats.*
2. Make a move with the Barrel, Slide, Mouthpiece (sax, flute – roll in/ or out). It doesn't make any difference whether it is in or out. *Listen for the beats, did they slow down or speed up with the barrel or slide adjustment?*
3. If the beats were faster, *then you made the wrong move, adjust in the opposite direction.*
4. If the beats become slower, *then you are making the correct move, continue until all beats are eliminated.*
5. If you find yourself “pinching” to eliminate beats, then your *instrument is too long, it must be shortened.*
6. If you find yourself “relaxing” your embouchure to eliminate beats, then the *instrument is too short, it must be lengthened.*
7. When two or more similar pitches are played, the sound is “beatless” (and you are not using any unnecessary pressure or relaxation on the mouthpiece)... **You are Perfectly IN TUNE!**

3 Logical Steps to Effective Balance and Blend

If you hear yourself above all others, 1 of 3 things is happening:

1. **You are overpowering or overblowing!** Make the necessary adjustment. *This initiates an auditory reaction to Balance.*

If you still hear yourself and you made the adjustment in #1, then:

2. **You are playing with poor tone quality!** Make the necessary adjustments (embouchure, breath support, posture, reed, etc.) *This initiates an auditory reaction to Blend and a physical reaction to embouchure and breath support. Poor tone quality will not blend with anything!*

If you still hear yourself and you made the adjustment in #1 and #2, then:

3. **You are playing out of tune!** Make the necessary adjustment by extending or shortening the length of your instrument. *This initiates an auditory response to “Beatless Tuning.”*

