

FIX IT NOW!
DEVELOPING ENSEMBLE SKILLS FOR
EFFECTIVE REHEARSALS AND SUCCESSFUL PERFORMANCE
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Look at the BIG picture

Step back and assess – Sound, Appearance, Musicianship

Seating Placement

Consider the space, the music, and the needs of the players
Placement of principal players - Location of bass voices - Horn seating
Does it matter? It's all about tuning, precision and balance. Change it up!

Posture

Chairs: Ya gotta dance with what brung ya
The dreaded diseases: Individual instrument considerations (Flute-droop, Hunch-n-Scrunch, Instrumental Recline)
Neck strap and mouthpiece considerations
No touching allowed! (elbows, legs, ankles)
I like to move it, move it.

Assessing the First Sounds

Ensemble tone and color - Open throat, teeth and ears! Listen/emulate/experiment
Balancing Act - Use of the pyramid four ways
Your reed is your friend – so use it!

Breathing

Deeply with focus
Where, when, how, why - In style/in tempo
Dynamics: air speed (velocity) vs. air volume (quantity)

Phrasing

What are you trying to say? - The conversations within
Cause and effect
Lean on it

Intonation

Using a tuner - Using your ears and your eyes
Ask a friend/ask the ensemble
Beats and vibrations

...To conduct or NOT to conduct? THAT is the question!

When it is time to relinquish control
Making the players responsible
It's all about communication

Expression

Educational Learning Packets
Articulation: ping pong or bowling
Recordings
Become the music!



Alfred Music
LEARN • TEACH • PLAY