

# NAVY BAND CLINIC

## Tuning Tips and Tricks for your Brass Section

Presented by **members of the Navy Band Brass section**





## FROM THE COMMANDING OFFICER

I want to personally thank you for joining us at the Midwest Clinic. Your United States Navy Band proudly represents more than 320,000 Sailors working around the world to keep our nation safe and free.

Today's clinic is presented by members of the U.S. Navy Concert/Ceremonial Band brass section. The Navy Band is made up of some of the finest musicians our country has to offer, who have not only dedicated their lives to the relentless pursuit of musical perfection, but have also chosen to serve their nation. Please feel free to come up after the clinic to say hello or ask any questions you may have.

Finally, thank you now and always for your support. We in the Navy can't do what we do without you. My hope is this presentation will offer a glimpse into the pride and professionalism our Sailors exhibit each and every day.

Kenneth C. Collins, Captain, USN  
Commanding Officer



## NAVY MUSIC

Every year, Navy musicians present 6,000 performances across the United States and around the world, connecting with millions of people. The Navy's 11 bands represent the Navy in a musical capacity by stimulating pride, esprit de corps, retention and recruiting, promoting national and international public relations, and enhancing the prestige of the Navy.

Navy bands **go where ships can't go** to expand and strengthen our network of partners. In a typical year, Navy bands travel to more than 40 countries, helping to improve access and relationships abroad.

Here at home, Sailor musicians play an important role honoring the long and proud tradition of naval service. While traveling all across the country, Navy bands come together with communities to honor and celebrate the service of veterans.

Traveling across the nation and all over the globe, your Navy bands are connecting people from all walks of life to America's Navy.

## WHERE IT COUNTS. WHEN IT COUNTS.



Supremacy on the waterways of the world will always be critical. Whether it's by way of oceans, canals, rivers or coastal areas, the Navy serves as a guardian for America's freedom and for defending the life we know. Deployed all around the globe, America's Navy supports the cause of liberty abroad, promotes peace for all humanity, and enables the safe travel of people and goods to meet the expanding demands of globalization.

America's Navy is unique in that it conducts missions on all fronts: in the air, on land and at sea. Fulfilling a broad role that encompasses everything from combat to peacekeeping to humanitarian assistance – in theater, on bases and everywhere from the cockpits of F-18s to the control rooms of nuclear submarines.

Wherever a military presence is needed, the Navy is there. Whenever a situation requires U.S. involvement, the Navy is often the first to deploy, the first to engage and the first to help.

# UNITED STATES NAVY BAND

The United States Navy Band is the premier musical organization of the U.S. Navy. Comprised of six primary performing groups as well as a host of smaller ensembles, "The World's Finest" is capable of playing any style of music in any setting.

The Navy Band is dedicated to the education of younger musicians. The Music in the Schools program features band members presenting clinics, master classes and recitals at local schools. Every spring, the Concert Band hosts its annual Young Artist Solo Competition.

From national concert tours to presidential inaugurals to memorial services at Arlington National Cemetery, the Navy Band proudly represents the men and women of the largest, most versatile, most capable naval force on the planet today: America's Navy.

## TUNING TIPS AND TRICKS FOR YOUR BRASS SECTION

### BAND DIRECTOR CHEAT SHEET

#### LISTENING

- Hear the pitch
  - Sing
  - Buzz
  - Play
- Blend in and match others
  - Strongest player demonstrates
  - Add other students
- Listen within the ensemble for others with the same pitches
- Hear and tune to the lowest voice
  - Often the root of the chord

#### TONE QUALITY

- Create a full, sonorous sound
- Use open vowel sounds: Oh, Ah

#### AIRFLOW

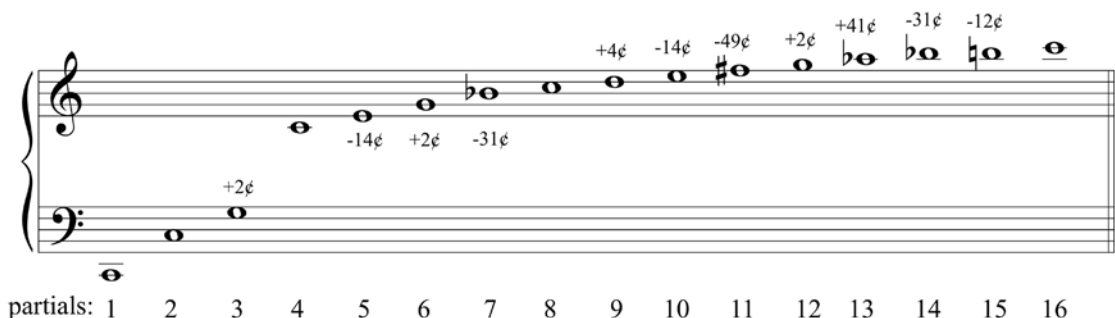
- Blow air from the lips
- Ensure actual air movement using a piece of paper or other apparatus
- Posture should be upright but relaxed
  - Tension-free

#### KNOW INSTRUMENT TENDENCIES

- Know role in the chord structure (Root, 3rd, 5th, 7th)
- Tendency of the valve combination
  - In general, the more valves down, the pitch goes sharper
  - 1 and 3 is very sharp
    - ♦ Trumpet use kick slide
    - ♦ Euphonium and tuba use 4th valve is available
- Try alternate fingerings

#### TROUBLESHOOTING

- Check for instrument malfunctions.
- Correct any hand position or posture problems.
- Take a rest if fatigued or using too much pressure.



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NEWS, VIDEOS, AND MORE



[www.navyband.navy.mil](http://www.navyband.navy.mil)

