

## Making a great tone

### 1) Imagination

- Listen to recordings of the great trombone players
- Who are some of the great trombone players?
  - Buy the CD's or download the pieces or movements you like best through *ITunes*.
- Strive for that sound you hear on the recordings.
  - Imagine that sound in your head and imitate it as you play.

### 2) Mouthpiece Buzzing

- Buzz your mouthpiece to familiar tunes.
  - What are some tunes you can buzz?
- Use your beginning and intermediate band books to buzz the short tunes written in the method books. If it has a CD with the book, use that to use as a good pitch reference.
- Other things to buzz your mouthpiece to are:
  - Songs on the radio
  - Sections of a warm-up routine
  - Intervals, measures, or phrases that are difficult in an etude or solo
    1. If available play through on the piano
    2. Sing the phrase with the piano
    3. Buzz on the mouthpiece with piano
    4. Then play on the trombone

### 3) Long Tones

- Build a warm tone
- Build muscle to sustain and play through phrases
- Emory Remington:
  - Eastman School of Music trombone teacher from the mid- 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- Play long tones with a tuner a few times a week to check intonation while playing a steady tone.

#### 4) Slow Lip Slurs and Flexibility

- “Few things help build tone and technique as well as slow lip slurs!”  
Brad Edwards
- “Simple slurs should be played slowly with careful attention to the basic demands of pitch and tone quality, while maintaining a homogeneous tone color throughout the entire range. The tempo of exercises devoted to flexibility should be increased as the player’s skill improves, but never to the point where execution becomes insecure, blurred or unsteady.” Robert Marsteller
- It is important to play slurs and flexibility exercises over the whole range.

#### 5) Low Range

- Play in the low range everyday
  - Will help with air
  - Will help with a warm tone that will carry through all the registers.
- Play flexibility exercises in this range
- Play melodic etudes down an octave or simple phrases from your band methods down the octave.