

TRUMPET SKILLS CHECKLIST

ASSEMBLY

- 🍎 Open case with the “lid-side up,” either on a table or on the floor (not on your lap)—be careful!
- 🍎 Gently twist the mouthpiece in place. Do not “tap” on the mouthpiece, or it will become stuck.
- 🍎 Tuning slide should always be pulled out about $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch.

CARE

- 🍎 Wipe off the **exterior** of the instrument with a soft cloth after each use (remove finger oils).
- 🍎 Clean out the mouthpiece and lead pipe (soap/water/brush) at least once per week.
- 🍎 Oil valves **ONE AT A TIME** “as needed”—follow these steps: 1) carefully unscrew the top of the valve and pull it about halfway out of the horn; 2) place a few drops of oil on the piston; 3) gently twist it around to spread the oil; 4) replace the valve with the **NUMBER FACING YOU** (not facing the bell).
NOTE: Wash the inside of the trumpet (including valves) every month or two using your snake brush and warm, soapy water. Lay all parts out on a towel to dry, then carefully reassemble using a thin layer of slide grease on all parts that connect.

NEVER: set trumpet on a music stand or chair, balance it on the floor, store extra items in the case that might press against the trumpet and cause damage, play trumpet right after eating/drinking/chewing gum (rinse your mouth with water before playing).

POSTURE

- 🍎 Sit up straight, feet flat on the floor.
- 🍎 Arms relaxed and held out slightly from torso (arms should not touch your body).
- 🍎 Sit only on the front 6-8 inches of the chair, chin up.
- 🍎 Trumpet should be “almost” parallel to the floor.

HAND POSITIONS

- 🍎 Curved hands with “pads” of fingers on the valves (no “flat” fingers, no finger “tips”).
- 🍎 Left thumb goes in front of the valves, left ring finger goes through the ring (3rd valve trigger).
- 🍎 Right thumb goes between valves 1 & 2, tucked under the lead pipe.
- 🍎 Right pinky goes on TOP of the pinky rest. Right hand forms a backwards “C” that you can see through.

TONE PRODUCTION

- 🍎 Correct mouth formation:
 - Whistle & smile at the same time; imagine tasting a sour lemon (without wrinkling your nose).
 - **Corners** firm and down. **Cheeks** “glued” to teeth. **Chin** smooth and flat.
 - **Teeth** will be kept slightly **apart** (never clenched shut).
 - Place the mouthpiece in the **center of lips**, 50% on upper lip and 50% on lower lip (approx.).
 - **Relax** throat, jaw and chin muscles.
 - Deep breath! Fill lungs from the bottom up, like a glass of water. Inhale “HOW”, exhale “TOO”.

- 🍏 Wet your lips!
- 🍏 Create a smooth, clear BUZZ sound on the mouthpiece alone. 1) mid-range tone, 5 seconds long 2) mid-range tone that rises, then falls 3) “siren” sound (low-high-low) 4) play a familiar tune.
- 🍏 Good, clear “TOO” sound (on mouthpiece), always starting with TIP OF TONGUE on the upper gum line.
- 🍏 Mirror check: ELIMINATE bunched-up chin, puffy cheeks, embouchure leaks, droopy posture, etc.
- 🍏 Hold a tone for 6 seconds or longer (any note). Deep, “low” breaths. Next goal: 10 seconds or longer.
- 🍏 Low notes: TOH vowel, hot/soggy air, corners relaxed; middle range notes: TOO vowel; high notes: TEE vowel, fast/cold air, smaller “buzz area”, corners contract.
- 🍏 Pass “chin test”: play 10 or more 8th notes while touching your chin with your free hand. GOAL: ZERO chin movement.

SCALES (found on page 42 of the Standard of Excellence book)

CONCERT B-FLAT MAJOR SCALE

- 🍏 Notes 1-5, half notes ↑ and ↓.
- 🍏 Notes 1-8, half notes ↑ and ↓.
- 🍏 Notes 1-8, quarter notes (as written) ↑ and ↓.
- 🍏 **Arpeggio**, quarter notes.
- 🍏 **Thirds**, quarter notes.
- 🍏 **MASTER LEVEL**: Full scale with arpeggios and thirds (both lines), 100 bpm or faster.

CONCERT E-FLAT MAJOR SCALE

- 🍏 Notes 1-8, half notes ↑ and ↓.
- 🍏 Notes 1-8, quarter notes (as written) ↑ and ↓.
- 🍏 **Arpeggio**, quarter notes.
- 🍏 **Thirds**, quarter notes.
- 🍏 **MASTER LEVEL**: Full scale with arpeggios and thirds (both lines), 100 bpm or faster.

CONCERT F MAJOR SCALE

- 🍏 Notes 1-8, quarter notes (as written) ↑ and ↓.
- 🍏 **Arpeggio**, quarter notes.
- 🍏 **Thirds**, quarter notes.
- 🍏 **MASTER LEVEL**: Full scale with arpeggios and thirds (both lines), 100 bpm or faster.

CONCERT A-FLAT MAJOR SCALE

- 🍏 Notes 1-8, quarter notes (as written) ↑ and ↓.
- 🍏 **Arpeggio**, quarter notes.
- 🍏 **Thirds**, quarter notes.
- 🍏 **MASTER LEVEL**: Full scale with arpeggios and thirds (both lines), 100 bpm or faster.

CONCERT B-FLAT CHROMATIC SCALE (not the chromatic scale shown on page 42)

- 🍏 Half notes ↑ and ↓.
- 🍏 **MASTER LEVEL**: Quarter notes ↑ and ↓ at 100 bpm or faster.