## A Roadmap to Successful Intonation TUNING FOR WIND INSTRUMENTS

Dr. Shelley JAGOW Wright State University; Dayton, OH 45435 shelley.jagow@wright.edu; (937) 775-2178 Discover the newest resources for understanding instrument pitch tendencies. This clinic will demonstrate common tuning problems while providing resources to improve the pitch within each section of your ensemble.



Image: Provide the pro

Make fingering decisions based on priority of facility, timbre or pitch.

Typically we select a fingering that performs with best pitch and timbre for slower passages, and choose a fingering that performs with best technical facility for faster passages.

## Alternate Fingerings

(Using alternate fingerings will result in variations of timbre from original fingerings.)

**4th-valve** can be substituted for 1st- and 3rd-valve combination. **3rd-valve** can be substituted for 1st- and 2nd-valve combination.

2nd- and 4th-valve can be substituted for 1st-, 2nd- and 3rd-valve combination.

**Compensating 3** and 4 valve instruments. The instrument "compensates" for the inherent sharp valve-combination of first and/or second used in combination with the third-valve, by adding additional length by means of loop-tubing.

The **fourth valve** on euphonium and tuba compensate for the most out-of-tune notes, and provides for extended lower range (lowers the fundamental a fourth).

Young **trombonists** often play 2nd and 3rd positions too long (thus flat), and 5th, 6th, and 7th positions too short (thus sharp).

Valve brass instruments may use alternate fingerings in the harmonic series to assist in adjusting pitch for certain chord positions, but trombones should use regular slide positions and merely adjust length of slide. [Example: In concert Ab, a trumpet player has a fourth-line D in the staff; this note is the M3 of the chord and could be fingered I versus I3 to play a flat concert C, which brings it into tune.]

On woodwind instruments, closing **keys/holes** can lower a pitch, and opening keys/holes can raise a pitch.

Pulling the **barrel joint** on the clarinet will slightly affect the overall pitch, but significantly affects the pitch of the throat tones.

Teaching Instrumental Music

**Developing the** 

**COMPLETE** Band Program



## **RESOURCES:**

**Teaching Instrumental Music: Developing the COMPLETE Band Program** by Shelley Jagow (Meredith Music, 2007).

**Teaching Instrumental Music: Developing the COMPLETE Band Program - DVD** by Shelley Jagow (Meredith Music, 2008).

*Tuning for Wind Instruments: A Roadmap to Successful Intonation* by Shelley Jagow (Meredith Music, 2013). Dr. Shelley Jagow Thanks for your support! shelley.jagow@wright.edu Wright State University School of Music (Dayton, OH), Hal Leonard and Meredith Music.

## **TUNING FOR WIND INSTRUMENTS**

Equal v	s. Just
Equal-Tempered Tuning	Just/Pure Tuning
Approximate Usage = 90%	Approximate Usage = 10%
Most wind band music is largely melodic in nature and thus ET is recommended for pieces of <b>faster</b> tempo, and/or many key <b>modulations</b> .	Just tuning should be used for all chorales, slower lyrical sections that have sustained cadential points, final chords of any tempo, or any sustained harmony where there is time for the ear to hear <i>beats</i> .
ET has <b>equal</b> sized seconds (100 cents) that makes it impractical for harmonic (vertical) tuning.	JT has <b>unequal</b> sized seconds that makes it impractical for melodic (horizontal) tuning.









Download Fingering Charts: http://www.halleonard.com/meredith-tuning-for-wind-instruments-fingering-charts