

Greetings. Thank you for your interest in my trumpet studio. Below you will find a little information about me, my teaching philosophy, as well as a list of things that you will need to begin/continue your musical journey.

A Little About Me...

I am New Orleans born musician/educator. I have a Bachelors of Music Education degree from Loyola University (New Orleans) as well as a Master's degree in Jazz Studies from the University of New Orleans. I've worked intensively in music education programming for young people. I have taught on all three academic levels (elementary, secondary and university). In addition to teaching, I maintain a very active performance career. For over 15 years I've been touring and recording with a host of national and international artists.

My Teaching Philosophy...

Education:

- 1. the process of receiving or giving systematic instruction*
- 2. an enlightening experience*

My journey with the trumpet started at a very young age. This year marks 24 years of study. In this time 3 question continue to come up:

1. How did the first trumpet student learn how to play the trumpet?
2. Did he/she have a teacher, a book, or a manuel?
3. If not, how did the student know they were doing it right?

Through my years of study I've come to realize that this first student (with no teacher) must have already had the knowledge necessary to unlock a new skill (playing the trumpet)

This illustrates the foundation of my philosophy on teaching and learning:

Always move from a point of **STRENGTH** to the point of **WEAKNESS**. Never the other way around.

STRENGTH ----->WEAKNESS

~~WEAKNESS~~ ----->~~STRENGTH~~

I want be careful not to associate weakness with anything negative. For our purposes:

Strength- Full Knowledge that a skill or principle is mastered.

Weakness- Full Knowledge that skill or principle is yet unmastered

This idea of “Full Knowledge” is very important and will be addressed later.

The Pyramid of Trumpet Mastery...

Why a Pyramid?

A pyramid is one of the strongest physical structures known to man. There are ancient structures all over the world (including Egypt, South and Central America) that have existed for 10s of 1,000s of years. How is this possible?

Simple put, 2 basic principles:

1. The bottom layer (foundation) is the biggest and strongest.
2. Each piece is structured to move towards 1 and only 1 focal point.

We can apply this any skill we wish to master. How?

1. Pick a point of focus (in our case it is learning to play the trumpet)
2. Learn the principles of if the skill you wish to master (This is done by observing great masters of the craft)
3. Build a pyramid using the principles you have observed. Remember to start from a point of STRENGTH.
4. Find/create exercises that focus on each principle of your pyramid.

The Principles...

In my study I have observed 7 basic principles to playing the trumpet. Most of these can be applied to any instrument however the order may be different. They are:

1. Sound
2. Flexibility
3. Articulation
4. Range
5. Agility
6. Endurance
7. Interpretation