

Trumpet Solo Class Lecture #22

“Air Support/Compression”

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It is necessary to compress the air in order to play in the upper register.

A compressed/fast air stream will result in a high pitch.

The abdomen must compress the air at a higher rate to create increased speed.

The embouchure must be stable and secure in order to resist the increased pressure.

Many students rely on the mouthpiece pressure.

Increased pressure does work in the short term.

In the long term, the embouchure is compromised and the aperture is distorted.

You must protect yourself with regard to fatigue and injury.

Once the embouchure fatigues, the aperture collapses.

The tone quality loses its brilliance.

The pitch goes flat.

The sound is pinched off.

You must be aware of how the embouchure feels as you play.

It is necessary to rest frequently in order to build strength.

Developing strength is a slow process for any real improvement.

You must establish a systematic approach for improvement in any element.

Excessive pressure cause bruising and leads to serious embouchure damage.

It should never hurt in order to play.

It should not take a long warm up in order to perform.

The cycle of playing through pain leads to permanent damage.

In extreme cases, muscles are severed and nerve damage occurs.

Surgery is possible for the muscle damage.

Nerve damage is irreversible.

The tongue position is critical in order to control the air speed.

The position must be up against the roof of the mouth.

Generally the tongue is much higher than the player thinks in necessary.

In order to establish an awareness of the necessary abdominal muscle force.

You must feel how much compression is really necessary.

You must establish and reinforce correct habits each day.

Once you have established the correct habits, reinforce them daily.

Challenge yourself to improve every day.

Establish a measurable system in order to chart your improvement.