

UNC Trumpet Studio
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Breathing

Fundamental to the playing of any wind instrument is the use of air. Before we use the air to play, we must have an idea of what we want to sound like before we play on our instrument. Have a clear image in your mind. This image should be based on three things:

- 1) On Time
- 2) In Tune
- 3) In Tone

As Arnold Jacobs said, “The instrument in your head is more important than the instrument in your hands.”

And, as Arnold Jacobs and many others advocate, there is a very simple and effective way to breathe with brass instruments.

“OH-HO”

Each time you take a breath to play, this is the way it must be done. The “OH-HO” breath cycle allows for a free-flowing, relaxed method that allows you to achieve maximum results in your musicianship. Remember, this type of breathing is about nothing more than paying attention to the sound and feel of the inhale and exhale being open and free. Focus your attention on that and what you want to sound like and you are well on your way to terrific brass playing. The “OH-HO” breath will:

- 1) Improve your sound
- 2) Improve your phrasing
- 3) Improve your endurance
- 4) Increase your range (both up and down)
- 5) Improve your articulation
- 6) **Improve Musicianship**

“Good air facilitates everything we do on the trumpet.”
- Vince DiMartino

“Where the mind leads, the body will follow.”
- Keith Johnson