

Suggested listening for High School Aged Musicians:

In this day and age music students are able to find free reference recordings and videos on YouTube and iTunes. Music students are strongly encouraged to experience these great artists.

TONE: A musician must have a target sound (or tone quality) in their mind's eye each time they produce a sound on their instrument. The best way to gain a better sound (or tone) concept is to take private lessons. Find a teacher whose sound you really like and study with them. There is no substitute for this. It provides a sound "target" for young players to aim for rather than simply hearing other young musicians each day in band class. Below is a list of some recordings that can aid in tone development, look for them on iTunes or YouTube.

BAND: Listening to great recordings of concert bands or wind ensembles is useful for recognizing what a great group sounds like. SmartMusic provides a fantastic sound-modeling tool for this type of playing. Middle School students wishing to broaden their horizons might choose to listen to military band recordings available for free off the internet or download some Eastman Wind Ensemble off of iTunes.

FLUTE: Performers to look for: Julius Baker, Jean-Pierre Rampal, James Galway, Rhonda Larson (Grammy winner), Paula Robeson, Laurel Zucker, and Carol Wincenc (Win-sense). Composers and standard repertoire: Handel, Bach, Mozart. Specific recordings of interest: Claude Bollings - Suite for Flute and Jazz Piano; any Galway or Rampal. Jazz performers: Bobby Miletello (Maynard Ferguson) Bud Shank, Hubert Laws, Nestor Torres. In more of a pop style, Robert Dick, Jim Walker and Nelson Rangell (piccolo).

OBOE: Performers to look for: Heinz Holliger, John De Lancie, John Mack, Harold Gomberg, Ralph Gomberg, Marcel Tabateau. Composers and standard repertoire: Mozart (concertos, sonatas, and quartet with strings), Poulenc, Hindemith, Handel (sonatas concertos and concertos for 2 oboes and continuo), Vivaldi, Telemann and Britten. Specific recordings of interest: any Holliger or De Lancie recording; The Art of Oboe Playing (Tabateau) - includes performances and discussion; The Gift (Nancy Rumbel)- a Christmas album with lots of solo oboe and English horn available on iTunes.

CLARINET: Performers to look for: Robert Marcellus, Harold Wright, David Schifrin, Richard Stoltzman. Composers and standard repertoire: Mozart Clarinet Concerto, C.M. VonWeber romantic pieces. Specific recordings of interest: Great Performances Mozart Clarinet Concerto (R. Marcellus); Brahms Trio (Harold Wright); Musica Viva - Clarinet and Piano (Joaquim Valdepemas); Mozart Bassoon Concerto (Sherman Walt) and Mozart Clarinet Concerto (Harold Wright). Larry Combs has recordings out of orchestral excerpts for those really studying the clarinet literature. Stoltzman is an interesting clarinetist who incorporates vibrato (middle school students should not!) Jazz Performers include: Benny Goodman, Eddie Daniels and Buddy DeFranco.

SAXOPHONE: Performers to look for: Marcel Mulé, Vincent Abato, Eugene Rousseau, Eugene Bozza, Laura Hunter, Harvey Pittel, Bradford Marsalis. Composers and standard classical repertoire: Ibert Concertino, Glasunow Concerto, Creation of the World by Milhaud (a work for small orchestra with saxophone). Lots of saxophone quartet works are available - sax quartet most often includes soprano, alto, tenor and bari. Specific recordings of interest: Anything by Marcel Mulé! Saxophone Colors (Rousseau); Vincent Abato; Saxophonquartette (Berlin Saxophone Quartet) this recording has works by Glasunow, Moulaert, Bumcke and Francaix. The Billy Tipton Memorial Saxophone Quartet is a group of four women who play classical and jazz quartets and the Fairer Sax is a British Group made up of entirely women. (featured in the movie Madame Sousatzka, starring Shirley MacLaine)
Jazz performers: Charlie Parker (Live at Massey Hall); Stan Getz (The Dolphin, Anniversary); Sonny Rollins; Phil Woods; Johnny Hodges (with Duke Ellington); Joshua Redmond (quite an inspirational young player). On tenor: John Coltrane & Lester Young, and modern tenor players: Joe Lovano & Michael Brecker. And some student recommended albums: Ben Webster, "Live in Paris", and Sonny Rollins on "Rollins plays for Bird" or "Don't stop the Carnival", Paul Desmond plays with Dave Brubeck on "We're All Together Again for the First Time" Bari sax: Gerry Mulligan, Harry Carney (with Duke Ellington), Gary Smulyan (with Mel Lewis). And CLASSICAL bari sax: Gerry Mulligan

BASSOON: Performers to look for: David McGill (CSO), Claus Thunemann, John Miller, Christopher Weait, Judith Leclair, Frank Morelli, Milan Turcovic, Christopher Millard, Richard Ranti, Benjamin Coelho, Andrea Merezon, Michel Bettez, Matthew Karr, Sergio Azzolini, Stefano Canuti, Dag Jensen (Mozart), Arthur Weisberg and Nadina Mackie Jackson. Composers and standard repertoire: Vivaldi, Mozart, Boismother, Telemann Sonata in F minor. Bassoon ensembles include: The Bassoon Brothers and Caliban.

WOODWIND QUINTETS: (flute, oboe, clarinet, french horn and bassoon): Performers to look for: Imani woodwind quintet, Dorian Woodwind Quintet, Philadelphia Woodwind Quintet, New York Woodwind Quintet, and Quintet of the Americas, Borealis Woodwind Quintet, Sylvan Winds, Boehm Quintette. Composers: Ibert, Bozza, Francaix, Poulenc, Milhaud, Danzi. Summer Camp at SUNY Fredonia specializes in woodwind quintets.

TRUMPET: Classical performers to look for: Maurice Andre, Phil Smith (New York Phil.) Wynton Marsalis (crosses styles and is equally good in classical and jazz), Vinny DiMartino, Armando Ghitalla, Rolf Smedvig, Steven Burns, Timofey Dokschitser (Rhapsody, Concert Pieces, Preludes), Allen Vizzutti, Rafael Mandez, Edward Tarr, Doc Sevrinson (has some nice classical recordings as well as the jazz. Composers and Standard Classical Repertoire: Hummel Concerto, Haydn Concerto, Hindemith Sonata, Telemann, Artunian. Specific recordings of interest: All brass quintet recordings are excellent; anything with Ghitalla; Eastman Wind Ensemble – Wynton Marsalis – Carnival!
Jazz performers: Arturo Sandoval, Dizzie Gillespie, Clifford Brown (With Strings), Chuck Mangione, Maynard Ferguson (Chameleon), Miles Davis (Miles Ahead, Birth of the Cool), Chet Baker, and of course Louis Armstrong (although he does non-conventional things with his tone!). Also check out some of the newer greats: Lee Morgan, Freddie Hubbard, Louise Baranger, Bobby Shew, Jim Rotundi, Marcus Printup, James Morrison, Wayne Bergeron and Chris Botti.

HORN: Performers to look for: Dennis Brain, Barry Tuckwell, Phillip Farkas, Hermann Baumann, David Jolley, Alan Civil. Composers and standard repertoire: Mozart, Vivaldi, Strauss and Telemann Concertos, Brahms Trio (horn, violin, piano), Richard Strauss Orchestral excerpts (search Till). Specific recordings of interest: All brass quintet recordings are excellent; Horn Club of Los Angeles recordings - works for multiple horns (even 40 or more!) American Horn Quartet: any recordings! Snedecker, Mozart Concertos on natural horn (no valves: half-steps achieved by moving the hand in the bell).

TROMBONE: Classical performers to look for: Christian Lindberg, Ron Barron, John Swallow, Bradnimir Slokar, Doug Yeo. Composers and standard classical repertoire: Hindemith, David, Gilmont, Milhaud, Larson, Mozart. Specific recordings of interest: All brass quintet recordings are excellent; Lindberg is THE name in trombone right now and has many recordings out on the Swedish label "Bis": The Virtuoso Trombone, Stolen Works, Romantic Trombone Concertos, Winter Trombone; Cousins, with John Barrows on trombone and George Swartz on cornet. Four of a Kind: Music for Four Trombones.
Jazz performers: Melba Liston (The first professional woman jazz trombone player & a great arranger!), Hal Crook (with Phil Woods), JJ Johnson (Quintergy), John Fedchock, Slide Hampton (World of Trombones), Frank Rosolino (Conversation), Bill Watrous, and any John Allred!

BARITONE/EUPHONIUM: Performers to look for: Brian Bowman, Robert Childs, Nicholas Childs, Roger Behrend, Jean-Pierre Chevallier. Specific recordings of interest: Child's Play and Euphonium Music (both by the Childs brothers).
Jazz: Rich Matteson, Mark Dickman, John Allred and Bill Allred.

TUBA: Performers to look for: Sam Pilafian, Roger Bobo, Dan Perantoni, Gene Pokorny, Jim Self and Charles Dalenbach (Canadian Brass). Composers and standard repertoire: Vaughn-Williams Concerto and show-off pieces like "Flight of the Bumblebee." Specific recordings of interest: All brass quintet recordings are excellent; Jazz stuff includes: Joe Murphy, Rich Matteson and John Allred.

BRASS QUINTET: (two trumpets, horn, trombone and tuba): Performers to look for: Boston Brass Quintet; Canadian Brass Quintet (the consummate performers: serious and humorous with a mix of styles, they are entertainers and incredible musicians!); Philadelphia Brass Quintet; Phillip Jones Brass Ensemble. Specific recordings of interest: Canadian: High Bright and Clear (baroque era), Basin Street (jazz), Canadian Brass Christmas, Champions (a mix), and a number of videos of concerts.

PERCUSSION: Specific recordings of interest: Bach on Wood and Bach Beat (Brian Slawson) - CBS Records - percussion ensemble arrangements of classic pieces; The All Star Percussion Ensemble (Harold Farberman) - MMG recordings; "Nexus" (percussion ensemble) recordings; John Williams and Friends (two guitars, string bass and marimbas); Arthur Press has an old recording of orchestral excerpts and how to perform them; recordings by Dave Samuels of "Spyro Gyra". Jazz Drumset performers: Max Roach, Buddy Rich, Louie Belson, Art Blakey, Elvin Jones, Mel Lewis (Thad Jones/Mel Sewis Orchestra), Dave Weckel, Peter Erskine, Cindy Blackman (also composer). Vibraphone: Gary Burton & Lionel Hampton. Marimba: Keiko Abe (plays w/3 mallets in each hand!); Evelyn Glynnie (deaf percussionist).

JAZZ: Focusing mainly on Big Band for middle school groups to look for: Count Basie, Lionel Hampton, Duke Ellington, Paul Whiteman, Benny Goodman, Buddy Rich, Mel Torme, Stan Kenton, Artie Shaw, Woody Herman.

Jazz bass performers: Ray Brown, Charlie Mingus, Milt Hinton, Jaco Pastorius, Ron Carter, Christian McBride. Charles Mingus, "Changes", Rufus Reid, and Paul Chambers. Read Bass Player Magazine or Jazziz Magazine.

Jazz guitar performers: Charlie Christian, Wes Montgomery, Larry Coryell, Jim Hall, Joe Pass, Jane Miller, John Scofield, Bill Frisell, Pat Metheny. Read Guitar Player Magazine or Jazziz magazine.

Jazz piano performers: Oscar Peterson, Kenny Barron, Mary Lou Williams, Art Tatum, Bud Powell, Bill Evans, Duke Ellington, Marian McPartland, McCoy Tyner, Jim McNeely (with Phil Woods & Stan Getz), Lyle Mays (with Pat Metheny), Chick Corea, Toshiko Akiyoshi, Ellen Rowe and Maria Schneider.

Jazz vocalists: Ella Fitzgerald, Mel Tormé, Cleo Laine, Joe Williams, Manhattan Transfer, Singers Unlimited and a fairly new to the scene - Diana Krall.

Other big bands of note: Thad Jones/Mel Lewis, GRP allstar big band, Bill Holman, Toshiko Akiyoshi, Maria Schneider Jazz Orchestra -- and-- DIVA is a big band made up of all women musicians.

Fusion Groups: Spyro Gyra, Rippingtons, Flim and the B.B.'s, Yellowjackets, David Sanborn (Kamen concerto), and Jeff Kashiwa.

Traditional Groups: Bill Allred Classic Jazz Band, Preservation Hall Jazz Band, and search "Dixieland" on YouTube.

Movies: Mr. Hollands Opus, Amadeus, Drumline, Beethoven Lives Upstairs, Fantasia (1950), Fantasia 2000, Madame Sousatzka, Ken Burns Jazz Series, Wynton Marsalis Catching a Snake, Wynton Marsalis practice videos, All smartmusic videos, Never Cry Wolf (Scientist/bassoonist goes to Alaska) The Night at the Opera (Marx Brothers) Animusic (the series) The Silly Symphony (Disney) The Piano, and The Competition.