

NEWSLETTER

Studio of Andrew B. Spang

Vol. IX, No. 1

January 2006

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CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations are extended to **Spencer Heaps**, a junior at Liberty High School, and **Matt Hardester**, a junior at Century High School, for earning first & second chair tuba respectively in the **2006 Carroll County Senior All County Band**. **Adam Selby**, a junior at Winters Mill High School, earned third chair Senior All County trombone, and **Shane Conard** took fourth chair trumpet in the **2006 Carroll County Junior All County Band**. We are all proud of each of your accomplishments!

2006 Army Tuba/Euphonium Conference

This is just a reminder to all members of my studio to plan on attending the 2006 Army Tuba Euphonium Conference. It takes place during the last weekend in January. You should go. Bring friends. Bring family members.

More information about the complete conference, clinicians, and directions may be found at the Army's website:

http://www.usarmyband.com/events/tubaeuphonium_conference.html

I trust that you will manage to attend!

Listen Up!

I hope that each of you had a wonderful and restful holiday. I hope and trust that you managed to practice productively, and enjoyed the extra time available to begin working on your Solo & Ensemble pieces. If you managed to receive

card to your local classical CD store, or perhaps even an Amazon.com gift certificate — I hope that you will manage to pick up a CD of your instrument. I've been listening to new tuba CDs over my break and I can't say how excited I am over what I've heard!!! I've listened to some great new players and even managed to hear some new music that I am very interested in purchasing and playing on my next recital!

Here's a few that I recommend you keep an ear out for:

American Music for Tuba: Something Old, Something New (Dave Zerkle, tuba).

Sonata (Toby Hanks, tuba).

Sampler (Toby Hanks, tuba).

When I Fall In Love (Chris Botti, trumpet).

Trombonastics (Joseph Alessi, trombone).

Listen to This! (Adam Frey, euphonium).

Gomalan Brass Quintet - these guys have two CDs out and they are sickly talented. It is the future of the brass quintet. Everyone should own a copy.

New Years Resolutions

Okay, I'm not really into make up New Years resolutions, but I will happily acknowledge that the beginning of the year is a great time for self examination and rededication. I hope that you have considered how your practicing and playing will improve this year. One of the problems with New Years resolutions is that they are often so grandiose that they are unattainable. With that in mind, I would like to offer a couple of suggestions for you this year that you will cer-

lead to happier practicing and dramatic improvement!

(1) Practice every scale every day. If you play it right, then move on. If you screw it up, play it slowly and correct. Then move on. Don't belabor the point.

(2) Practice at least FIVE minutes each day. I'm not suggesting that you cut back on practicing to only five minutes, but that on busy days where you swear you can't practice, that you find just five minutes somewhere to squeeze in a couple of scales.

(3) Use a different scale pattern every day. Change your articulation pattern. Play down, *then* up. Play each note *twice* before moving to the next pitch. Just come up with a new pattern each day and use it in all keys. Get inventive - do something like the Clarke studies when you have more time, something simple like "all slurred" on days you are pressed for time. Keep it varied. Keep it interesting.

(4) Clean your instrument at least every other month. Get a new calendar from the card store and mark it in now: first weekend in January, March, May, July, September, and November. Stick to it. Keep it running smooth and sounding great.

(5) Transcribe (or "learn by ear") a solo or song once a month. Stick with it! If you get frustrated, know that it's only one you're doing this month. Know that it WILL get easier over time. It can be any style: a pop melody off the radio, a Christmas carol that's stuck in your head, or a solo off a jazz CD. Just find it and start learning it today!

There will be no lessons on grayed-out dates.

29	30	31				
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

January 2006

--Gustav Mahler
(Austrian Composer, 1860-1911)

*“If a composer could say what he
had to say in words,
he would not bother trying to say it
in music.”*

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“Excellence in Brass”

The *Solo & Ensemble Festival* sign-up is early in January, so make sure that you work with me to pick out a solo (or two) if you haven't selected one yet. I expect every student to play a solo at the Solo and Ensemble Festival. You might also consider forming a brass Ensemble

Solo & Ensemble

AS THE SOLO & ENSEMBLE FESTIVAL APPROACH, PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOU PICK UP A COPY OF *WORKING WITH PIANISTS* FROM ME. YOU SHOULD HAVE SELECTED YOUR MUSIC AND CONTACTED YOUR PIANIST BY THE MIDDLE OF THE MONTH AT THE LATEST.

Make sure that all measures in the solo part and the piano part have been numbered with small, neat and easily read numbers. Take extra time now to check the numbers to make sure they agree. Good landmarks include key signature changes, double bars and rehearsal letters.

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Make sure that you sign up with your Band Director as soon as possible. *Hound* him/her and let them know that you want to play in Solo & Ensemble; don't wait for them to announce anything in rehearsal! Be that student that thinks and acts ahead of the others. Sign up tomorrow!