

# DEVELOPING A SOUND-DRIVEN BAND PROGRAM FROM DAY ONE!

*Teaching Students to Get the Best Tone Quality*

**Robert Sheldon**

*Composer-Conductor-Clinician-Educator*

## Beauty – NOT the Beast

Every sound must be the most beautiful and meaningful it can be  
Let's Start at the Very Beginning, a Very Good Place to Start...

## Posture

Upright, no touching allowed  
Bring the instrument to you

## Breathing

Deeply with focus, through the mouth  
More air = better sound

## Embouchure

Corners firm, center relaxed  
Reed instruments need to use as much reed as possible

## First Sounds

Open throat, teeth and ears!  
Listen/emulate/experiment

## Use exemplary teaching materials

Good demonstration models  
Excellent recordings  
The best audio and video representations  
Sometimes even advanced students can use a reminder of the fundamentals!  
Encourage Private Lessons

## Choose Repertoire Wisely

Find pieces that encourage beautiful sounds

## Use Warm-Up Time for Reinforcement

Review good habits  
Insist on the best tone every time  
Ask students to comment on the sound and offer suggestions for improvement  
Find students who can demonstrate to model great tone

**ROBERTSHELDONMUSIC.COM**

Print & Digital Music Sales, Resources and Recordings