

## Tuba and Euphonium Lessons

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## About Me

Hello and thank you for your interest in taking lessons! My name is Christopher McLaughlin, and I am a senior at the University of Oklahoma, where I study tuba performance, music composition, biology, and chemistry. In terms of my tuba experience, I have studied with Brian Dobbins and Ryan Robinson and have participated in masterclasses with Sam Pilafian and William Russell. I have also taught masterclasses in the state of Oklahoma and in Vienna, Austria.

## Why Take Lessons?

Lessons are an incredibly useful resource in developing a young musician, as they allow the instructor to create an individualized approach to playing your instrument that suits you best.

For short term goals, we will prepare you for ensembles, auditions, and competitions as well as make you a better player on your instrument.

For long term goals, we will aim to increase knowledge and proficiency in music, develop professional skills (such as communication and a consistent work ethic) that are valuable in any lifestyle and promote a higher level of engaging in thought through constructive analysis.

## Expectations

Please arrive promptly and prepared (this includes warming up!) with a working instrument.

Please do not interrupt someone else's lesson.

Practice.

## Attendance

Communication is key when it comes to attendance. Sometimes, things come up and you have to change plans. Should you need to cancel a lesson, please let me know 24 hours in advance, via phone call, text, or email. Failure to provide sufficient notice for cancelling may result in being charged for the lesson. I will provide up to 2 make-up lessons per semester, though I reserve the right to add a \$5 fee to cover travel expenses. In case of an emergency, we will adjust to work with your needs.

In the unlikely event that something comes up on my end, I will actively communicate with you, and we will work to either refund or reschedule the lesson.

## Payment

Rates for lessons are as follows: \$15/half hour and \$25/hour.

Payments can be made either monthly (at the first lesson of the month) or weekly at each lesson. Cash, Checks, PayPal, Venmo, and Cashapp are all accepted.

## Materials

Please bring the following to every lesson: all sheet music (in a secure folder or binder), handouts, notebook, pencil, and all appropriate accessories required for the instrument (valve/rotary oil, slide grease, etc.)

Additionally, a way to both record yourself and listen to reference recordings and metronome and tuner are expected for individual practice sessions. Cell phones are great for these, as most have a built-in recorder, can search for audio recordings, and can download metronome/tuner apps (I strongly recommend TonalEnergy).

Methods books, etude books, and solo works may be recommended for purchase.

## Practicing

As mentioned before, one of my expectations of my students is for them to practice.

I would recommend shorter and consistent practice sessions rather than longer and inconsistent. That is to say, I would recommend 5 sessions a week of 30 minutes of focused practice time. This will do you much more good than cramming a 2 hour practice session the night before a lesson or audition.

Consistent, dedicated, and focused practice will make such a huge difference in your playing. I promise. If you need tips or tricks as to how exactly to go about practicing, please do not hesitate to contact me!