

Welcome to the McAfee Method Horn Book!

I have looked at my most difficult musical and horn-playing challenges, distilled the different variables down to their underlying causes, and assembled teachable solutions to those challenges.

I find **within every challenge, there is a gift** – an opportunity to improve oneself to better thrive in future situations. I encourage you to be so honest with your horn playing that you never avoid a technical challenge, but confidently master each one as it is presented to you.

Here are a few of my concepts that are easier to remember using this pyramid key:

#1 Aspiration 2 Confirmations 3 Essential Lip Principles 4 Steps to Starting a Note 5 Must Have Embouchure Techniques

1) The number 1 Aspiration to attain is mastery of the sub-tone or commonly called the “breath start,” which confirms all of the other techniques are working.

2) The 2 Confirmations to make sure you are connected to the bottom of a note are the Jaw Vibrato and Forte-Piano Breath.

3) The 3 Essential Lip Principles are 1) cram the lips together inside the rim, then relax, 2) close the lips onto the tongue before starting notes, and 3) hold lips forward while playing.

4) The 4 Steps to Starting a Note are 1) inhale, 2) seal the lips on the tongue, 3) pressurize the air at the lips, and then 4) pull the tongue back to release the air across the lips.

5) The 5 “must haves” are 1) chin flexed, 2) mouthpiece placed below pink line, 3) 2/3 upper 1/3 lower lip in mouthpiece, 4) angle mouthpiece down, and 5) tongue down.

Anyone can play a horn with pretty much any embouchure. What I am going for is the best, most refined, and universal embouchure technique that can work for all brass players.

***It takes hard work and a strong desire
to achieve any level of mastery.***