

# The Basics for Euphonium

Dr. George Palton

## Posture and Holding Position

- **Sit your very tallest**, as if you were standing from the waist up. Have your head straight and tall.
- Everyone is different! **Bring the instrument to you** do not come to the instrument. The mouthpiece should come to you without moving your neck or head. Some students may have the horn resting on their leg, others will need to hold the instrument up. **Do not lower your head or neck to play the instrument!**
- Your left arm bears the weight of the instrument. Wrap it around the instrument and place your hand on the side bow. Use your left arm to bring the instrument to you.
- Your right hand should remain near the valves at all times. **All three fingers on all the valves at all times!**

## Setting Your Embouchure: YEP-MM-BUZZ!

- **Keep your corners back and firm** as if you were saying “YEP.” Avoid a smile or frown.
- **Bring your lips together** as if you were saying “MM.” Avoid puckering or swallowing your lips.
- **Have your lips buzz** by blowing air through them.
- **If this does not work:** try saying “OH-oo” or “TU” to form your embouchure.

## Starting a Note: SET-BREATHE-TONGUE

- Set your embouchure.
- **Breathe in from the corners of your mouth**, not your nose. Make the air go to the bottom of your stomach.
- **Start the buzzing by tonguing as if you were saying “TOH”.** Avoid spitting the lips out to start a note.

**LOW NOTES= RELAXED WINDOW FOGGING AIR!**

**HIGH NOTES= FAST, FOCUSED, COFFEE STRAW AIR!**