

Conductor Check-Up

Effective Gesture for Passionate Musicianship

International Trombone Festival
Columbus, GA
July 16, 2021

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Presentation in a Sentence

As professional conductors, we often spend more energy thinking about our ensemble members' performance and forget that our conducting gesture can make rehearsals more efficient and performances more musical.

Conductor Check-Up Checklist

- ✓ Rehearsal Strategies
- ✓ Body Availability
- ✓ Baton/Anatomy Technique
- ✓ Put it into Action!

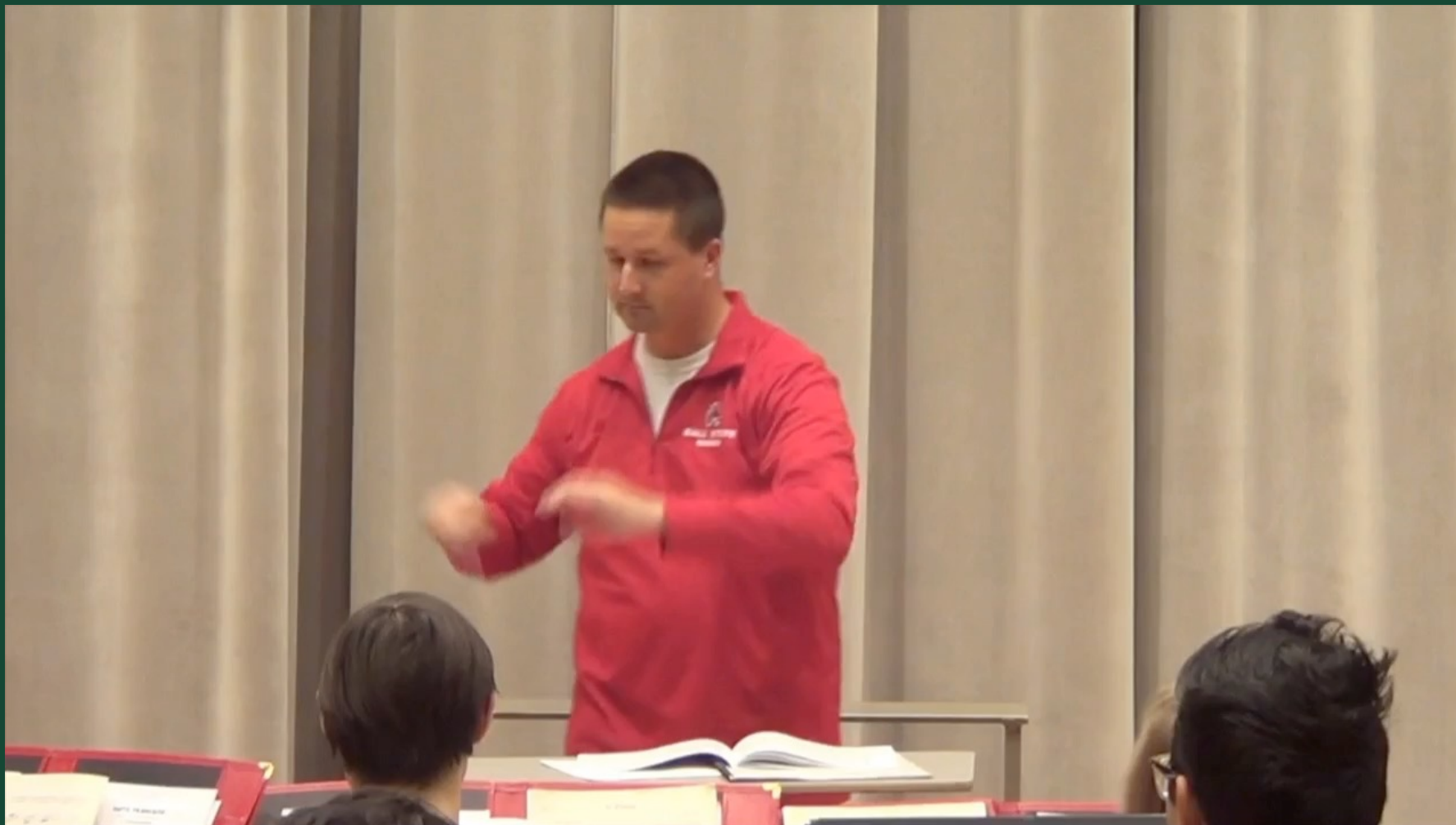
Rehearsal Strategies

- Pre-Rehearsal: programming, part assignments, score study, rehearsal plan/order (maximize students' time)
- Student Listening Assignments (track via learning management system)
- Is it an expectation that players have attention on the conductor?
 - If they aren't paying attention, is it really their fault?
- Overexaggerating your gesture (many of us do this all the time!)
- Acknowledge when ensemble members do what you ask
- Stop beating time (or get it out of the way) to highlight your gesture

Rehearsal Strategies

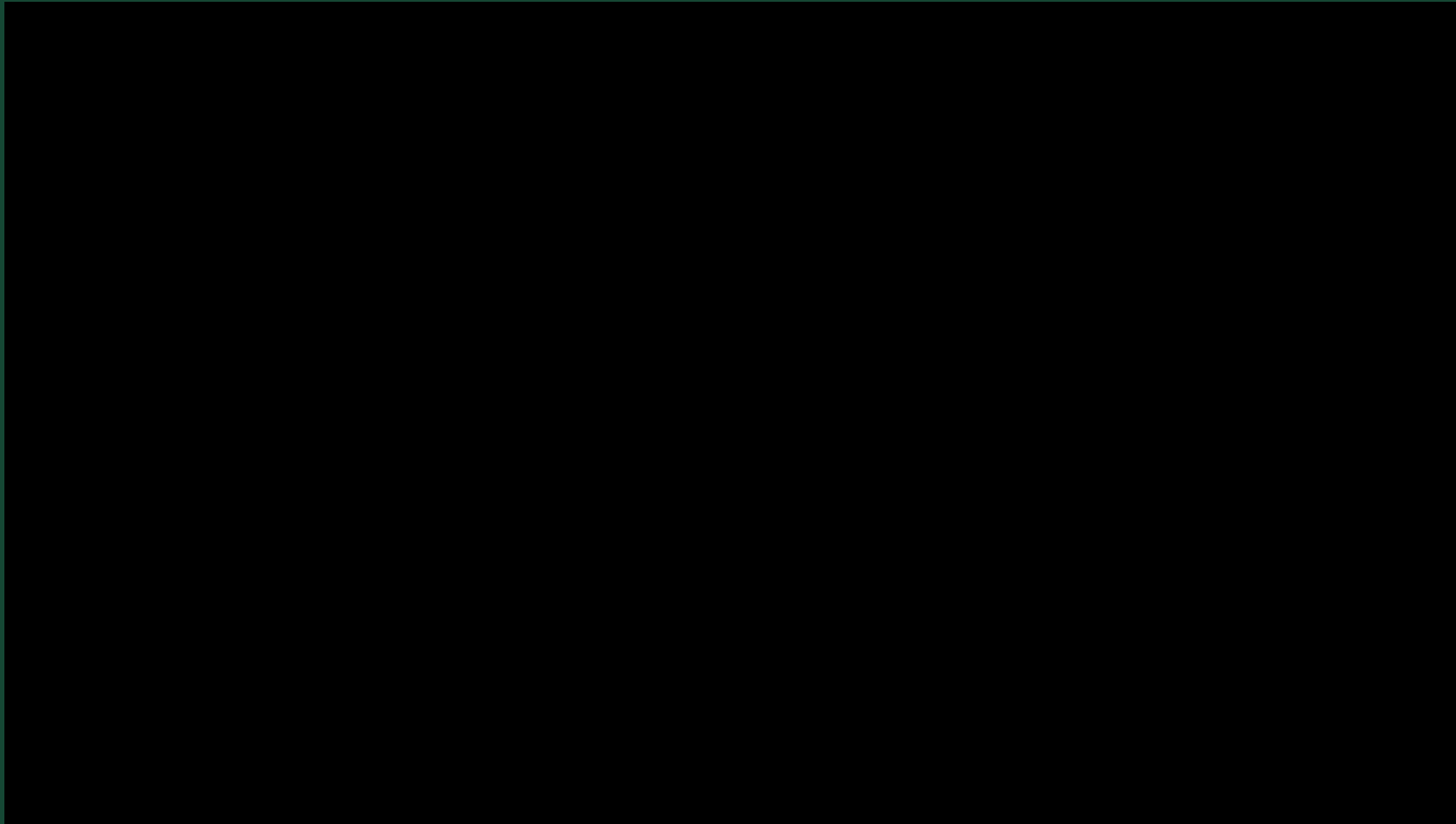
- Change the pace: new setup, silent rehearsal (examples on next slide), outdoor rehearsal, guest conductors and/or listeners, student conductors/listeners
- Record the ensemble (video and/or audio) and record yourself conducting – post recordings for students to review and annotate
- Review current practices for rehearsal times, any possible studio class time, etc., and look for ways to maximize the time you get

Silent Rehearsal Clips



Body Availability

- Sink in to the podium with “soft feet” and find your natural center of gravity



Body Availability

- Movable Masses
- Counterbalance
- Facial Expression
- Use of Space
- Subtle Motion

None of this can happen when you have tension in your body!

Learning to “Let Go”

- Body Availability
- Movable Masses
- Removing the Baton
- Score Knowledge
- Laughing at your mistakes



Baton/Anatomy Technique

- Baton or no baton???
- What baton is right for you?
- What baton is wrong for you?
- Hinges
- Planes/Boxes
- A simple anatomy lesson
- Creating a gestural vocabulary and putting your mind on the music!

Gestural Vocabulary

- Score Knowledge
- Facial Expression
- Knowing exactly how you want the music to sound
- Communication with players



Put it into Action!!!

Masterclass/Workshop Setting
Conductors and Trombonists needed!

Contact

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[Copy of PowerPoint slides](#)

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