**Caring for your Brass Instrument**

Taking proper care of your Brass instrument is a must in order to ensure years of enjoyable play.

Here are a few easy steps to keep your instrument in its best playing condition at all times.

**1. Keep your instrument safe**

• Cases keep instruments safe from drops and other accidental damage.

• ***Instrument stands*** allow for a safe resting place during practice time

• **Do not** keep excess items in your case. Any items stored in your case need to be secured in an interior compartment. Loose items can rattle around in the case causing damage your instrument.

• **Never** store books in your case. The case is designed to securely hold your instrument alone. Books placed on top of your instrument and closed in the case can cause an array of problems due to excess stress on the instrument.

• Avoid extreme temperatures: Very hot or cold temperatures can affect the functionality of your instrument.

**2. Keep your instrument dry**

• Condensation gathers inside of your instrument as you play. Be sure to expel any condensation remaining inside your instrument both during practice and before returning it to the case.

• If the exterior of the instrument gets wet be sure to dry it off with a towel

• **Do not** close it in the case until you are sure it is dry. Wet environments allow for the growth of mould and mildew.

**3. Keep your instrument clean**

• Remove finger prints and dirt from your instrument regularly. Use a ***soft polishing cloth*** to remove fingerprints and dirt from the exterior of your instrument. Be sure to use a polishing cloth for the specific finish of your instrument, lacquer and silver are the most common.

• Use a ***cleaning rod*** or ***cleaning snake*** periodically to remove build up from the interior of your instrument. Build up left in your instrument over time can lead to structural problems.

• Have your instrument professionally cleaned annually. Professional cleaning services are available at my repair shop. The use of professional cleaning equipment allows me to easily and safely remove build-up from the interior of your instrument.

**4. Keep your instrument properly lubricated**

• Grease your tuning slides at least once a month. ***Tuning slide grease*** keeps corrosion and dirt from building up on your tuning slides. Failure to grease your tuning slides can cause them to stick. If you do encounter a stuck slide

• **Do not** force it, this can cause serious damage. Stuck slides can be easily pulled and lubricated at my repair shop.

• Piston Valve Instruments: Oil valves before each use. It only takes a few drops of ***valve oil*** on each valve to keep them functioning properly. Though most valves are numbered oil one valve at a time to avoid mixing them up.

• Trombone: Apply a small amount of ***Trombone slide lubricant*** to your inner hand slide tubes before each use, to help improve your hand slide action. Before returning your Trombone to the case wipe off any slide lubricant you have remaining on the hand slide. When possible ***swab*** out your outer hand slide to remove excess lubricant.

**5. Know when to have your instrument serviced**

• It is recommend to **have your instrument serviced twice a year**. Keeping a set maintenance routine can help avoid larger more costly repairs.

• If your instrument experiences any trauma (such as bumps and drops) this can cause serious harm to your instrument, even if it is not visibly evident.

**If your instrument is not operating properly, such as:**

•Slides or valves stick or become sluggish

•Your instrument sounds or feels “stuffy”.

•Parts become damaged or are missing

**Take it to a repairer straight away to save further damage.**