# EIU National Association for Music Education

# Meeting Minutes

October 10, 2016

1. Call to order

President Belle Moushon called to order the meeting of the EIU National Association for Music Education Collegiate Chapter at 7:01 pm on November 14, 2016.

1. Officer Reports
2. Secretary
   1. Service Hours
   2. Caroling! Moved it to 3:00 Friday Dec. 9
3. Treasurer
   1. Dues Bring them in!
   2. Secondary Instrument Recital
   3. Spring Meeting
4. Vice-President
   1. Christmas in the Heart of Charleston
5. President
   1. IMEC Spring Meeting
6. Topic: INSTRUMET REPAIR
7. Instrument repair can save your life, your student’s life, your concert’s life, and the life of the instrument.
   1. Applicable to everyone- sometimes you just have to do everything.
8. Repair-secondary instruments, and keeping the parents happy.
9. Big repair- send the off- general repair can cost $1200.
   1. A lot of time, minor repair can save your program.
   2. Most students have school instrument when it is a rarer instrument (like horn, tuba, bassoon). Renting can be expensive, hence schools own a few copies.
   3. If the copies go down, then bad things happen.

Pause

1. They have to take care of the instrument. We know this. They do not!
   1. The number one pet peeve a band director has is that they have a million things on their mind- it’s like a business. You are managing ensembles, hence section leaders who take care of things.
   2. You don’t think of repair until right before the concert when something breaks.
   3. We really need to reiterate instrument cleaning and care.
   4. Stores don’t tell you to repair because they do have a vested interest in repair.
   5. You have to have grease, oil, spare parts.
   6. Clean, flush, bathe, all of the stuff. Tell them not to leave it on a chair, or on the floor. Don’t let them do this! THIS IS VERY BAD! Instruments bought by parents tend to be protected better (fear of parents) but the school and handed down instruments aren’t as well feared and cared for.
   7. Have sections dedicate time to cleaning.
   8. Clean instruments and working instruments make parents happy.
      1. Happy parents equate to a happy program. Or at least a funded one.
   9. Some extra notes:
      1. Horn rotary valve strings. Not good.
      2. Trumpet valve rusted. VERY BAD.
2. At some point, you do have to fix and instrument.
   1. Is your slide unlocked? Is your computer plugged in?
   2. You only have so much money. Repairs eat into this money.
   3. Knowing repair saves money! Lots of it.
   4. Do you bathe the instrument?
      1. Some are different- Don’t bathe the clarinet!
      2. Do you use mouthpiece cleanser?
3. Flutes, Clarinets, and Saxophones
   1. Some common problems
      1. The springs have popped out. This requires miniature hammers, plyers, and other things.
      2. Sticky pads. Yes, your students will drink coke, despite your best efforts. Just use specialized wax paper. Or money/tissues in an emergency.
      3. Don’t use too much pressure, otherwise you might kill the key.
      4. If the key is not set right, then you get a breathy sound.
      5. If the pads need replaced, use Dr. Larson’s repair kit or send it off. Most of the time you may not have the time to replace the pads.
4. Brass problems
   1. Mouthpieces getting stuck, the most common issue.
      1. Students try to tap the top of the mouthpiece and end up shoving the thing in. Then they try to yank on it or turn it.
      2. What you really need is a mouthpiece puller.
      3. $30-$40 it applies even pressure.
      4. Do it before the parents try to yank the thing out with a wrench. That is very bad. VERY VERY BAD!
      5. This is because every type of damage to the mouthpiece changes the sound.
   2. Students don’t flush the things enough.
      1. Flush the inside.
      2. When it comes to sticking valves, sometimes you can flush it, and it will come out.
      3. What usually ends up happening is that the slides and valves start turning brown, and then the brown turns green. Then the green gets it stuck.
      4. That requires a bath. Vinegar can be used on occasion if you need it cleaned now.
      5. Don’t try to force an instrument to work. For corks, re-padding, totally stuck valves, send it off.
      6. Dry out the instrument.
      7. Some students like to polish. Don’t let them polish the wrong way!
5. Field Repairs
   1. You can bend things, just be smart about it. Know when to stop.
   2. Practice on junk instruments.
   3. Stuck slides. Shoestrings!
6. Things to consider
   1. Remember: sometimes the problem isn’t the instrument- make sure they are using proper breath support and such before you go down the checklist.
7. Another Reminder
   1. Make them care about care and repair.
   2. Remember, when the concert comes around, you won’t have the time to repair it.
8. Springs on spit valves
   1. These springs can break, split in half, and generally wear out or come out of alignment.
   2. With this kind of repair, you can use a hair band to wrap around it for temporary fix.
   3. In a super emergency, gum can fix the issue. Only lasts about an hour. Sadly, it doesn’t blow bubbles.
   4. Rubber bands and zip ties can also do the job.
   5. If you get air through an instrument, something is not seating right
9. Solder
   1. If it comes apart, a hair tie can be used to hold it together for a few minutes.
10. Dents in slides
    1. You can’t fix them, but they aren’t the end of the world if they happen right before the competition.
11. Trumpet springs (inside valves)
    1. If they drop the thing, and the valves stop working, don’t try to fix the springs. You’ll do more harm than good.
    2. Sticky valves: Oil them. Educate them to oil them.
12. Make sure you have 10-20 boxes of oils. Any type. They need it!
    1. Take care of the corks too.
    2. Its all about the time: a cork repair could take a good hour.
    3. Don’t melt the plastic.
    4. Corks- self-adhesive vs cement.
13. The damage always happens right before a big event.
    1. Be willing to trade instruments- make the tradee feel good, as usually they are a weaker player.
    2. If you are lucky/smart, have a back-up instrument.
    3. Always have gum, zip ties, rubber bands.
14. Use the internet for research on repair.
    1. Also, be smart about how you handle repair requests- give yourself time: “I’ll take that and get back to you later.”
    2. The tragic tale of the Canadian Brass Bass Trombone. That poor defenseless Trombone…
15. Questions!
    1. For flutes and clarinets: what does tightening the screws do?
       1. It adjusts the tension and how tight the instrument is. Springs get weaker over time, and sometimes need adjustment. You can take it apart, just know what you are doing, otherwise, well, it *was* a nice flute.
       2. Be careful with moving stuff around. Don’t strip the instrument.
       3. Springs and screws shouldn’t be at an extreme.
    2. Erin: If you lack a cork, band aids and gum work.
       1. Just don’t glue.
       2. Folded paper works too.
    3. Adjusting the action on the guitar
       1. Use the trust rod.
       2. Loosing the rod can give it more give.
       3. Depends on the weather.
       4. If they are having trouble getting a sound (or they get a really buzzy sound), then the action needs adjusted.
       5. GO SLOWLY.
16. Adjournment

Announcements:

President Belle Moushon adjourned the meeting at 8:03 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joseph Goldstein, Secretary of the EIU NAfME Collegiate Chapter