Caring for Piston Valve Instruments
Trumpet, Cornet, Baritone, Euphonium and Tuba

The following care is recommended to extend the life and maintain the quality of your instrument.

Equipment required
- Valve oil
- Slide grease (fishing reel gel, silicone gel)
- Brush - flexible brush for inside of instrument tubing. Purchase the size suitable for your instrument.
- Mouthpiece brush or cotton buds
- Soft cloth

Assembling Your Instrument
Assemble, tune, clean and lubricate your instrument for the first time under the guidance of your teacher.

Inserting the Mouthpiece:
The mouthpiece and mouthpiece receiver are easily damaged by improper assembly. Insert the mouthpiece into the receiver. Never force a mouthpiece into place, as it may become stuck. If this should happen, take the instrument to your band director to have it removed, they will have a special tool to remove stuck mouthpieces. Never use pliers or other gripping tools to remove a stuck mouthpiece.

Tuning Your Instrument
Pitch is affected by temperature, so be sure to warm up your instrument before playing by blowing air through it. To tune adjust the tuning slide until you achieve the desired pitch.

Caring for the Interior of Your Instrument
Instruments should be given a thorough clean every school holidays. Wash out in very warm water in the bathtub, use the flexible brush to clean out the inside of all the tubing.

Caring for Valves and Valve Casings: The valves and valve casings are very important parts of your instrument. Take extra care not to bend or scratch them. These steps should be followed before and after each use of the instrument.

Apply Oil to the Valves daily: Unscrew the top valve cap from the valve casing. Pull out the valve in a straight line - do not twist. Apply valve oil, coating the entire valve. Place the valve carefully back into the proper casing, aligning the valve guide with the guide slot. Tighten the top valve cap. Move up and down to ensure even oil coating over the entire surface. If there is any damage to the valves or valve casings, take your instrument to Ms.Dietz to check if repair is required by a qualified repair technician.

Caring for the Slides: Slide grease keeps slides airtight and maintains smooth movement. It is an essential factor in the care of your instrument. It is important to check your slides each time you play your instrument.

Applying Slide Grease: Remove slide while pressing the corresponding piston. Wipe any dirt from the surface of the inner slides. Apply a small amount of slide grease evenly around the slide tube. Replace the slide, working it in to ensure that the grease is thoroughly and evenly spread. On trumpets, tuning slide oil is recommended for 3rd tuning slide. If there is any damage to the slides, take the instrument to Ms.Dietz to check if repair is required by a qualified repair technician.
Cleaning the Water Keys  A cotton bud may be used to clean and dry the water keys

Cleaning the Mouthpiece  Soak the mouthpiece in a solution of warm soapy water. Using a brass mouthpiece brush or cotton bud, scrub the inside and outside. Rinse thoroughly with clean, warm water. This must be done weekly.

Caring for the Exterior of Your Instrument
Make sure to use a polishing cloth to remove dust and fingerprints after you play. Never use brass or metal polish.

Storing the Instrument
Always use your case for storing the instrument after playing and for transporting. Be sure the mouthpiece and other accessories are secured tightly, as they can scratch and dent your horn if they come loose during transportation. Do not put anything in the case that could place pressure on the instrument.

Please ensure that the Instrument case is labelled with your full name and contact telephone number.

Troubleshooting:
If the air won’t go through, check:-
- Are the valves in the correct casings (No.1 in 1...)?
- Are the valves turned all the way clockwise?
- Is the mouthpiece clean?
- Is the lead pipe clean?

If valves stick:-
- Are the valves oiled daily?
- Are the valves pushed straight down with curved, not straight fingers?

- The replacement of all disposable items needed in the maintenance of the instrument is the responsibility of the hirer. These include slide grease, valve oil, etc.
- Before any major repairs are done, Ms. Dietz must check the damage and authorize repairs to the instrument.
- Before returning to HGHS on completion of hiring for full refund of the deposit, it must be presented for inspection to Ms. Dietz in person. A copy of the receipt for servicing the instrument must be presented to Ms. Dietz at that time.

To keep your instrument in optimum playing condition, have it cleaned and inspected by a qualified repair technician annually.

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