

Whom Should I Imitate If I Want To Play With Great Tone?

Tone production is crucial to success as an instrumentalist, and listening to other players is an excellent way to develop a rich, full, characteristic sound. Countless modern performing artists have produced recordings that can provide this experience for today's music students. A CD is superior to YouTube because of its higher fidelity, but if YouTube is the only thing available, it's better than nothing. A partial list of these artists might include the following:

Flute – Jean-Pierre Rampal, William Bennett, Julius Baker, James Galway

Clarinet – Richard Stoltzman, Larry Combs, Sabine Meyer, Artie Shaw

Oboe – Allan Vogel, Wayne Rapiet, Elaine Douvas

Bassoon – Judith LeClair, Jeffrey Lyman, Arthur Grossman

Alto Saxophone – Eugene Rousseau, Donald Sinta, Steven Mauk

Tenor Saxophone - Lynn Klock, Roger Greenberg, Harvey Pittel

Trumpet – Alan Vizzutti, Carole Reinhart, Wynton Marsalis, Maurice Andre

Horn – Dale Clevenger, Mason Jones, Barry Tuckwell

Trombone – Joseph Alessi, Mark Lawrence, Christian Lindberg

Euphonium – Brian Bowman, Adam Frey, Tormond Flaten

Tuba – Arnold Jacobs, Patrick Sheridan, Sam Pilafian

Step One: private practice

X

The only one I need to listen to is myself.

Am I matching the tone of my favorite artist? Am I articulating exactly what's on the page?

Am I observing the dynamic markings and expressive markings?

Step Two: playing with my section

X X X

X X X

Now I need to listen outside my part to my section.

Am I matching pitch with the players on each side of me?

Are we in tune as a section? Are we all articulating and phrasing the same way?

Are we in good balance/can we hear all the notes in the chord?

Step Three: playing with the full ensemble

X X X X X X X X X X X
X
X X X X X X X X X X
X X X X X X X X X X
X X X X X X X X X X
X X X X X X X X X X
X X X X X X X X X X

Now I need to listen to everything going on around me!

Am I matching pitch with the lowest voice I can hear? Is my neighbor? Is my section?

Where does my part fit in the music? Do I have the melody? Countermelody? Harmony?

If I don't have the melody, can I hear it? Do I need to play softer than the dynamic indicates?

Do I know my part well enough that I can listen to everyone else?