

The Teaching Philosophy of Jonas Biles

My goal is to create an environment where students feel welcome and comfortable. Students should feel encouraged to be creative, dedicated, and passionate. Students are also encouraged to push themselves to grow and ask questions and will hopefully come to the understanding that it is ok to fail. I would like to help build musical skills, encourage social development and help ensure student success both in and out of the classroom. I provide opportunities for students to develop discerning musical taste and hopefully kindle a desire to appreciate “quality” music throughout the rest of their life. I would also like to provide an environment that can benefit students both musically and non-musically, so students have the opportunity to build leadership skills, but also build their musicianship.

In my experience, a strong fundamental technique-based teaching method is crucial for the development of quality musicians-- and more specifically, strong and well-rounded trumpet players. This is because much of my private instruction has been from these traditional methods. Many effective method books exist; however, I believe the most effective way to instruct any age of musician is through a combination of many different books, practical examples taken from repertoire, and finding what works for each individual student. The books that I have found to be extremely effective to most players are: Arban's *Complete Conservatory Method*, Clarke's *Technical Studies*, Goldman's *Practical Studies*, Schlossberg's *Daily Drills*, Vizzutti's *Trumpet Method*, and Caruso's *Musical Calisthenics for Brass*. I also strive to research and learn more about some of the more modern methods and books to give me a better understanding of different approaches with different students.

One of the most important things for any musician, not only trumpet players, is exposure. I strongly encourage any musician, whether they are a student of mine or not, to expose themselves to as many different kinds of music and culture as they can. This helps to build an appreciation for what others do as well as exposes them to new possibilities they may not have otherwise known about. One thing that I am extremely grateful for has been my exposure and encouragement with the study of Baroque Trumpet. I find it extremely beneficial to my performance on modern trumpet and would recommend at least a basic understanding of this instrument to any student who has an interest.

I strongly believe that every student is different, and there is no single right way to teach the trumpet. I must be flexible in my teaching and continually strive to learn how to teach each student the way that is most beneficial to them. I also think it is important to play along with and demonstrate for the student when appropriate to provide them with aural examples of a technique or style I am trying to portray. It is also important to be informed about what each student's goals and aspirations are to effectively guide them on the path that they desire. That being said, I must continually learn about different musical styles, techniques, and settings to be the most effective teacher possible.