

Ryan Kerwin Faculty/Student Mentored Research

To Whom It May Concern,

The culmination of Ryan Kerwin's research during the second year of his master's degree in Music Education resulted in a 50-minute invited presentation entitled "My Brass is Chopped Out: Strategies for Fostering Brass Students' Endurance" at the West Virginia Music Educators Association Conference in Charleston, West Virginia.

To do this, Ryan researched the approaches of notable brass pedagogues Arnold Jacobs, Vincent Chicowicz, and Philip Farkas and organized his findings in a pragmatic way that could be easily shared with educators facing issues regarding brass player endurance. Ryan also created several original materials such as warm-up routines for young brass students, descriptions of common technical issues that inhibit endurance, and suggested terminology to use when providing verbal instruction to brass students - as word choice matters greatly when teaching others. All of these materials were shared freely with educators who attended his WVMEA session.

My role in Ryan Kerwin's research included the following:

- Serving as editor. I reviewed his presentation slides, handouts, and his intended talking points. I provided him with feedback and suggested edits that would help clarify instruction and encourage attendee participation. Our sessions together were fruitful in improvising the content, focus, direction, and impact of his presentation.
- I also set aside an entire trumpet studio class period for Ryan to give the presentation to the trumpet studio. This not only benefited his fellow trumpet colleagues, but it served as his first "trial run" giving the presentation. It allowed him to see where additional edits and improvements could be made.

Ryan and I have discussed the possibility of this presentation being given at other Music Educator Conferences outside of West Virginia in the near future.

Best,
Robert Sears