

## Using The SmartMusic Tuners.

The tuners in the SmartMusic program are found by pushing the tuner button. How to use the tuner and setting the preferences for it are shown to you in the quickstart video found at [http://www.smartmusic.com/support/default.aspx?page=page6\\_4#](http://www.smartmusic.com/support/default.aspx?page=page6_4#)

You have options with how the tuner looks and if there is a reference sound. I am sure that most people agree, that tuning is best done with your ears and not your eyes, so use the reference sound. To really keep from cheating and tuning with your eyes, have a partner help you. If you don't have a partner, be very aware of how you are changing your playing to get it in tune.

### **Getting Serious with Tuning:**

**Step one.** Get your great sound going!

It isn't worth it to try and tune a bad tone. So take some time every day to build your tone with long tones and slurs.

Instruments need to be in good repair and woodwinds, life is too short to play on bad reeds! Warm-up for a good five to ten minutes before going to the tuner.

**Step two.** Start with notes you typically use.

For example, trumpets (who are not Maynard) probably do not have to tune notes that are two octaves above the staff.

**Step three.** Know what notes probably are problems.

Trumpets, for example, typically play low D a bit sharp. All instruments have their problems. Ask your teacher what to check. Or, if your teacher isn't around, do some reading.

**Step Four.** Have a routine.

Check tuning carefully several days in a row. Warm-up the same way and check your pitches in similar fashion.

**Step Five.** Keep track.

Keep track of how notes on your instrument behave for you on a fingering chart.

### **Read more about it!**

**A quick Google search turned up these articles--**

Flute: <http://catherinelegrand.com/tuningguide.htm>

Oboe: page 25 in [http://www.csinstitute.org/content/pdf/Oboe\\_AV4330small.pdf](http://www.csinstitute.org/content/pdf/Oboe_AV4330small.pdf)

Clarinet: [http://www.clarkwfobes.com/Tuning%20article/](http://www.clarkwfobes.com/Tuning%20article/Tuning%20the%20Clarinet%20for%20PS.htm)

[Tuning%20the%20Clarinet%20for%20PS.htm](http://www.clarkwfobes.com/Tuning%20the%20Clarinet%20for%20PS.htm)

Saxophones: [http://www.csinstitute.org/content/pdf/Saxophone\\_AV4107small.pdf](http://www.csinstitute.org/content/pdf/Saxophone_AV4107small.pdf)

Trumpets: <http://library.thinkquest.org/10693/tuning.html>

Horns: <http://www.keynotesmagazine.com/article.php?uid=92>

Baritones: <http://www.tubaeuph.com/blog3/>

[display\\_blog.cfm?bid=AAF5785C-910F-77CF-82F6A37045C91395](http://www.tubaeuph.com/blog3/display_blog.cfm?bid=AAF5785C-910F-77CF-82F6A37045C91395)

Trombones: <http://www.ithaca.edu/troupe/reference/tuning.php>

Tubas: <http://www.tubaeuph.com/blog3/>

[display\\_blog.cfm?bid=AAF5785C-910F-77CF-82F6A37045C91395](http://www.tubaeuph.com/blog3/display_blog.cfm?bid=AAF5785C-910F-77CF-82F6A37045C91395)

Percussion: <http://home.earthlink.net/~prof.sound/>