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“Peter has been around saxophones for decades, doing it all from manufacturing horns to reeds to mouthpieces. As well, he is a seasoned player. What he discusses in this book is coming from one of the sources - read carefully!”

- David Liebman

Introduction

Webster's dictionary defines "workshop" as a brief intensive educational program for a relatively small group of people that focuses on techniques and skills in a particular field.

I'm going to combine the terms *master class*, *workshop* and *clinic* into one term: **workshop**. I prefer this term because it implies something we all need to do, which is work on the problems that face all saxophone players regardless of the kind of music we choose to play.

During the past 25 years, I have given over 200 workshops around the world. These have taken place in universities, music schools, music stores and privately organized music retreats.

I like to conduct my workshops as an unstructured question and answer series in which everyone involved has a chance to learn, myself included. Obviously, the workshop intended by this book is going to be pretty one sided, so I am going to concentrate on the problems and questions that come up most often

Chapter 1

Maintenance

What, your horn is held together with rubber bands and other strange things, but it works fine? No it doesn't! You would be surprised at how many problems that you attribute to reeds, mouthpieces, etc., are really mechanical problems of your horn.

One of the first things I do in a workshop is to look at all of the participants' saxophones. I would estimate that at least 90% of them need work, simple things like a new cork on the neck, which is very important. Any leak that starts at the top will affect the whole horn! Most saxophones will need a new neck cork at least once a year under normal use, more often if you play a lot. Don't use dental floss or paper to keep your mouthpiece from going too far onto the cork. Once the cork is worn down that far, the only thing to do is have it replaced. It is also very important that the neck fits snugly, which means it doesn't move after you've tightened the screw. If the neck is easy to move it's another leak.