

# CARING FOR YOUR BARITONE/EUPHONIUM



- Silver or Laquer polishing cloth to wipe instrument over every week (Gold instruments are lacquered ones)
  - "Fast Oil" for oiling valves (small clear bottle found in music stores approx. \$11.00)
  - Small tub of Vaseline to put on slides
  - Pull through "snake" brush from music store specific to baritone/euphonium
  - Valve casing brush to clean valve casings
  - Brass mouthpiece cleaning brush
- At least once a week, oil valves with valve oil. **It is also important to minimise the time the instrument sits in the sun, or in a hot car. This causes the oil to dry up, which means you will go through the oil much quicker, and the instrument won't always be in a playable condition so the student will have to spend time in lesson/band oiling valves before they can start playing. The same applies if the instrument has sat without being played for over two weeks.**
- At least once a month, check that all slides move and aren't stuck, if they are very dry but still come out, apply some Vaseline to the slides so they are sufficiently lubricated, and won't freeze up inside the instrument.

Every 3 -4 months give your baritone/euphonium a bath! **\*\*LEAVE ALL SLIDES/VALVES IN\*\*** Mix up 3 x cups of Dettol diluted at 1 capful per cup of water (cold or warm – NEVER HOT). Pour into upward facing bell of instrument and tip + continually rotate instrument to work solution around curves until it comes out of the leadpipe (where the mouthpiece goes). After this, remove valves and slides, and use valve casing brush to clean valves and the pull through brush (snake) to clean the slides and the slide tubes on the instrument, you may need to mix up some more Dettol solution. Clean mouthpiece with mouthpiece cleaning brush. Rinse all parts in clean water, and put 3 cups of clean water down the bell again to rinse out the inside of the instrument. Also pour a cup down the leadpipe to rinse that out too. Dry off instrument with a soft cloth or old towel. Re-oil valves and re-Vaseline slides.