

## IMPORTANT FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS

# *Care of French Horns*

### **THE MOUTHPIECE**

A mouthpiece that is not cleaned often not only becomes unsanitary but the bore becomes smaller and this affects the tone. The mouthpiece can be easily cleaned by using regular dish soap, warm water and a small brush (available at the music store). Under running warm water, place a small amount of soap on the brush and run it through the mouthpiece a few times. Then rinse thoroughly. This should be done at least once a week.

### **THE SLIDES**

Because of the size and construction of the horn, it requires more care and attention than any of the other brass instruments. Even the smallest dent in the hand slide makes the instrument very difficult to play. For this reason, you will need lots of room when you practice so that you won't bump the slide into any objects.

AFTER you have received instructions from your teacher, the slides should be removed, cleaned with a snake-type brush (also available at the music store) and dish soap, dried and greased with slide grease (or vaseline) before being replaced. Squirting a teaspoon of valve oil into the leadpipe (part that holds the mouthpiece) once every month will help to prevent corrosion in the tubing.

### **THE VALVES**

As soon as possible obtain a bottle of rotor valve oil (either from your teacher or the music store) and begin to oil the valves regularly. Unscrew the top cap, put a drop or two of oil on the raised spindle and replace the cap. Then, gently remove the valve slide and give a generous squirt of oil down the slide receiver before replacing the slide. Use plenty of oil — you can't "over-oil" a valve. Finally, place a drop oil on the bottom side of the valve near the string — right in the crack between the rotor stop arm and the main body of the valve. **DO NOT** use ANY OIL unless it is designed especially for valve instruments. Other oils may cause the valves to become sticky.

### **PREVENTING TROUBLE**

1. If, for any reason, the mouthpiece becomes stuck, **DO NOT** attempt to pull it out with pliers or other tools. Rather, bring the trumpet to the music store or your band director who has a special tool designed for this job.
2. Always keep the horn in the case when not in use!
3. Do not carry books, pencils or other items in the case which could damage your instrument.
4. At home after playing, open the case for about an hour so the horn can dry thoroughly. Be sure to put your instrument out of reach of any little brothers or sisters.
5. If you have any problems concerning your instrument, see your music teacher, the music store representative, or have your parents call the music store.