

“Blowing a Round”

For 4 groups of 2-4 wind instruments each, with electronics
Michael T. Bullock

GROUP 1

- At 0:00, play Part A. Stay on Part A until 1:30.
- At 1:30, play Part B'. Stay on Part B' until 3:00.
- At 3:00, play Part C". Stay on Part C" until 4:30.

Part A: Pick a note from somewhere in the middle register of your instrument - any note on the chromatic scale, as long as it is a comfortable note to hold for the length of a full breath. Decide the note for yourself and don't tell anyone else what note you have picked. Rest assured that there's no wrong choice.

At the beginning of Part A, all members of your group will play their notes simultaneously at mezzo forte. Play your note for the full (comfortable) length of one breath. At the end of each note, take one full breath (inhale/exhale), and then another full inhale before playing the same note again. Don't try to coordinate with the other members of your group - just keep your own pace based on your breaths. Since the length of a breath will probably be different for each musician, the notes will not start or end at the same time; only the very first note will start together. Repeat as necessary for the one-minute duration of this section. **Blow continuously (no tonguing) and no change in volume.**

Part B': The same as Part A, but instead of using a note, blow air through your instrument. Do not move the keys. **Blow continuously (no tonguing). Make a slow crescendo, *piano* -> *forte*, until the end of the breath.**

Part C": The same as Part A, but this time, choose the lowest note on your instrument. Be sure not to play too loudly - it's ok if the note sounds a little breathy. **Tongue the note repeatedly for its entire duration, as fast as you comfortably can, keeping the volume consistent.**

GROUP 2

- Rest from the beginning of the piece (0:00) until 0:30.
- At 0:30, play Part A". Stay on Part A" until 2:00.
- At 2:00, play Part B'. Stay on Part B' until 3:30.
- At 3:30, play Part C. Stay on Part C until 5:00.

Part A": Pick a note from somewhere in the middle register of your instrument - any note on the chromatic scale, as long as it is a comfortable note to hold for the length of a full breath. Decide the note for yourself and don't tell anyone else what note you have picked. Rest assured that there's no wrong choice.

At the beginning of Part A", all members of your group will play their notes simultaneously at mezzo forte. Play your note for the full (comfortable) length of one breath. At the end of each note, take one full breath (inhale/exhale), and then another full inhale before playing the same note again. Don't try to coordinate with the other members of your group - just keep your own pace based on your breaths. Since the length of a breath will probably be different for each musician, the notes will not start or end at the same time; only the very first note will start together. Repeat as necessary for the one-minute duration of this section. **Tongue the note repeatedly for its entire duration, as fast as you comfortably can, keeping the volume consistent.**

Part B': The same as Part A", but instead of using a note, blow air through your instrument. Do not move the keys. **Blow continuously (no tonguing). Make a slow crescendo, *piano* -> *forte*, until the end of the breath.**

Part C: The same as Part A, but this time, choose the lowest note on your instrument. Be sure not to play too loudly - it's ok if the note sounds a little breathy. **Blow continuously (no tonguing) and no change in volume.**

GROUP 3

- Rest from the beginning of the piece (0:00) until 1:00.
- At 1:00, play Part A. Stay on Part A until 2:30.
- At 2:30, play Part B". Stay on Part B" until 4:00.
- At 4:00, play Part C'. Stay on Part C' until 5:30.

Part A: Pick a note from somewhere in the middle register of your instrument - any note on the chromatic scale, as long as it is a comfortable note to hold for the length of a full breath. Decide the note for yourself and don't tell anyone else what note you have picked. Rest assured that there's no wrong choice.

At the beginning of Part A, all members of your group will play their notes simultaneously at mezzo forte. Play your note for the full (comfortable) length of one breath. At the end of each note, take one full breath (inhale/exhale), and then another full inhale before playing the same note again. Don't try to coordinate with the other members of your group - just keep your own pace based on your breaths. Since the length of a breath will probably be different for each musician, the notes will not start or end at the same time; only the very first note will start together. Repeat as necessary for the one-minute duration of this section. **Blow continuously (no tonguing) and no change in volume.**

Part B": The same as Part A, but instead of using a note, blow air through your instrument. Do not move the keys. **Tongue the note repeatedly for its entire duration, as fast as you comfortably can, keeping the volume consistent.**

Part C': The same as Part A, but this time, choose the lowest note on your instrument. Be sure not to play too loudly - it's ok if the note sounds a little breathy. **Blow continuously (no tonguing). Make a slow crescendo, *piano* -> *forte*, until the end of the note.**

GROUP 4

- Rest from the beginning of the piece (0:00) until 1:30.
- At 1:30, play Part A'. Stay on Part A' until 3:00.
- At 3:00, play Part B''. Stay on Part B'' until 4:30.
- At 4:30, play Part C. Stay on Part C until 6:00.

Part A': Pick a note from somewhere in the middle register of your instrument - any note on the chromatic scale, as long as it is a comfortable note to hold for the length of a full breath. Decide the note for yourself and don't tell anyone else what note you have picked. Rest assured that there's no wrong choice.

At the beginning of Part A', all members of your group will play their notes simultaneously at mezzo forte. Play your note for the full (comfortable) length of one breath. At the end of each note, take one full breath (inhale/exhale), and then another full inhale before playing the same note again. Don't try to coordinate with the other members of your group - just keep your own pace based on your breaths. Since the length of a breath will probably be different for each musician, the notes will not start or end at the same time; only the very first note will start together. Repeat as necessary for the one-minute duration of this section. **Blow continuously (no tonguing). Make a slow crescendo, *piano* -> *forte*, until the end of the note.**

Part B'': The same as Part A', but instead of using a note, blow air through your instrument. Do not move the keys. **Tongue the note repeatedly for its entire duration, as fast as you comfortably can, keeping the volume consistent.**

Part C: The same as Part A, but this time, choose the lowest note on your instrument. Be sure not to play too loudly - it's ok if the note sounds a little breathy. **Blow continuously (no tonguing) and no change in volume.**