

# Ensemble Development for Intermediate Concert Band: The Flat Alto Saxophone



## Sound Innovations for Concert Band: Ensemble Development for Intermediate Concert Band - E-Flat Alto Saxophone 2: Chorales and Warm-up Exercises for Tone, ... Rhythm (Sound Innovations Series for Band)

by Kris Needs

★★★★☆ 4.9 out of 5

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The flat alto saxophone is a versatile instrument that can add a unique sound to any concert band. It is a member of the woodwind family and is played by blowing air through a reed that vibrates against a mouthpiece. The flat alto saxophone is pitched in the key of E<sub>b</sub>, which is one whole step lower than the standard alto saxophone. This gives it a mellower, darker sound that is perfect for blending with other instruments in a concert band.

Intermediate concert band students can develop their ensemble skills on the flat alto saxophone by following these tips:

1. **Practice regularly.** The more you practice, the better you will become at playing your instrument. Make sure to practice both individually and with your ensemble.

2. **Listen to recordings of professional saxophone players.** This will help you to develop your ear and learn what good saxophone playing sounds like.
3. **Take lessons from a qualified saxophone teacher.** A good teacher can help you to develop proper technique and improve your overall playing skills.
4. **Play in a saxophone quartet or other small ensemble.** This will give you the opportunity to learn how to play with others and develop your ensemble skills.
5. **Participate in your school's concert band.** This is a great way to learn how to play in a large ensemble and develop your musical skills.

In addition to these general tips, there are a few specific exercises that intermediate concert band students can practice to improve their ensemble skills on the flat alto saxophone.

- **Long tones.** Long tones are a great way to develop your breath control and intonation. To practice long tones, simply hold a note for as long as you can without running out of air. Start with short notes and gradually increase the length as you improve.
- **Scales.** Scales are a great way to improve your finger dexterity and intonation. To practice scales, simply play a scale up and down in different keys. Start with simple scales and gradually increase the difficulty as you improve.
- **Arpeggios.** Arpeggios are a great way to improve your finger dexterity and coordination. To practice arpeggios, simply play the notes of a

chord one at a time. Start with simple arpeggios and gradually increase the difficulty as you improve.

- **Sight-reading.** Sight-reading is a great way to improve your overall musicianship. To practice sight-reading, simply play a piece of music that you have never seen before. Start with simple pieces and gradually increase the difficulty as you improve.

By following these tips and exercises, intermediate concert band students can develop their ensemble skills on the flat alto saxophone. With practice and dedication, you can become a valuable member of your school's concert band and enjoy a lifetime of making music.



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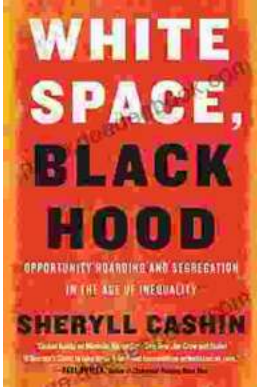
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