



COLLEGE OF MUSIC

University of North Texas
College of Music

Doctoral Lecture | Wednesday, October 18, 2023 | 2:30 pm | M132

Timothy M. Owner, trombone

**UTILITY TROMBONE PLAYING: A PRACTICAL METHOD FOR STUDENTS
TO ACHIEVE MASTERY OF ALTO, TENOR AND BASS TROMBONE**

It is frequently expected that a student majoring in performance on tenor trombone should be at least familiar with the alto trombone, and for bass trombonists, they should be similarly familiar with the tenor trombone. With the importance of versatility in freelance work in the world of trombone performance, along with increased competition for that work, the need for players to play alto, tenor, and bass trombones to a high level of proficiency has become more and more crucial. This, coupled with the growing number of orchestras looking to hire musicians who are highly competent on all three instruments, means that university professors need to be able to teach all three instruments. This evolution of the job market is driving a need for pedagogical material that is specifically designed to address the unique challenges of practicing and performing at a professional level on the main three instruments in the trombone family. As of the time of writing, this material simply does not exist. This project aims to fill that instructional gap. It gives students and teachers a resource that outlines an approach for a four-year undergraduate course of study that allows for the development of the playing of each of the trombones individually and collectively, utilizing the strengths of one instrument to develop the other two. It will also allow for the exploration of the technical challenges that arise when playing and changing between instruments. This four-year course of study combined with a clear explanation of numerous routines can be used from early in a student's development. It can be tailored to their specific needs and will give any teacher and student a comprehensive and holistic method for the acquisition of the skills needed to become a successful utility trombonist.

*One hundred fifty-seventh program of the 2023–2024 season
Photography and videography are prohibited*