

Understanding Voicing

Voicing is a technique used by bassoonists to support intonation. A big misconception of the bassoon is that we use our mouth and lips to change intonation. Technically, you could do this, but it is extremely tiring! In order to give you an effective way of tuning your notes without all the exhausting work, you'll need to use voicing for stability.

Proper Voicing Ranges



Learning Voicing

The “yawning” or “foggy” feeling

In order to start getting a dark, resonant bassoon sound, you need to always feel warm air in the lower part of your throat. This feeling should be similar to fogging up glass with your breath, or that feeling you get when you yawn. Try one of these now to understand the feeling!

Add: Voicing!

Once you get the warm air in your lower throat, now we add the most helpful part with register jumps: Voicing! Since the warm air happens in your lower throat, your voicing will happen with your upper throat, where your tongue muscles are. Try this exercise with natural movements of your mouth, as if you were singing.



Now, try the same thing, still singing, but with your bassoon embouchure (corner support, relaxed lips, small opening). The vowel changes should sound like they meld into one another because you have less room in your mouth to create the clear vowel sound.

Finally, sing this exercise to master the voicing technique away from the instrument. (These are proper voicings, applied.)

