

Intonation #2

(The In-Tune Nation)

Bb Trumpets

Intonation is commonly referred to as "playing in tune." This is one of the toughest challenges that young musicians (and old ones, too) face, particularly in large ensembles such as band or orchestra. With so many different sounds, notes, and rhythms going on at once, it's very difficult to tell whether or not you are playing in tune.

Sometimes, playing in tune simply means you have to match pitch. As your ensembles get more advanced, the music will have more notes being played at the same time, becoming chords. You have to decide when you've played a pitch correctly by comparing your note with the different ones around you. In general, we have to compare our notes to the ones that are sounding below us. It's just how we hear music and it's also why you might "build chords from the bottom up" when rehearsing.

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