

# BALANCE AND BLEND

*If you hear yourself above all others, 1 of 3 things is happening:*

1. ***You are overpowering or overblowing!** Make the necessary adjustments. This initiates an auditory reaction to Balance.*

*If you still hear yourself and you made the adjustment in #1, then:*

2. ***You are playing with poor tone quality!** Make the necessary adjustment (embouchure, breath support, posture, reed, etc.). This initiates an auditory reaction to Blend and a physical reaction to embouchure and breath support. Poor tone quality will not blend with anything!*

*If you still hear yourself and you made the adjustment in #1 and #2, then:*

3. ***You are playing out of tune!** Make the necessary adjustment by extending or shortening the length of your instrument. This initiates an auditory reaction to “Beatless Tuning” (see Intonation page and follow the sequence).*

## **THE ABOVE STEPS ARE PRIORITIZED!**

The relationships of these 3 steps are extremely important. One cannot come before the other. An instrument cannot be played in tune if overblowing or poor tone quality exists. This is the reason for tuning being the last step. You must follow these in the correct order if improved ensemble sound is expected!