

## “Helpful tips for enabling chamber music self-sufficiency”

### The USAF Academy Band – Academy Winds

#### 1) Create a group:

- Standard configurations (brass quintet, woodwind quintet, string quartet, piano trios, etc.)
- Non-standard configurations:
  - Get your friends together, who would you like to play with?
  - Substitute instruments (clarinet for trumpet, baritone sax for bassoon, look for other commonalities in instrumentation for substitution purposes)
- Be comfortable with being the only instrument for your kind in the group (1 flute in WQ, 1 tuba in BQ)
- Watch You Tube videos of great groups to inspire creativity!

#### 2) Get music:

- What kind of music is interesting to you?
- Explore different styles/periods/world music
- Get arrangements made for your specific group, create parts to fit group's needs
- Transcribe by ear (also a great exercise in critical listening!)
- Search for your configuration on internet ([www.trevcomusic.com](http://www.trevcomusic.com))
- Are you going to be playing for fun/public/assemblies/recitals/concerts? (Fit the music to the venue)

#### 3) Rehearse:

- Pick a group leader, someone who can arrange times and locations for rehearsals
- Come prepared to play your music (rehearsal is not for learning your individual parts)
- Work through each person's ideas as they are presented, chamber music is a collaborative effort!
- Get coaching from music director or someone else who can offer help
- Don't always start at the beginning of the music, isolate problem spots
- Write in cues for other people's parts. This helps with knowing what to listen for
- Eye contact and breathing together
- Know who has the melody, and how to respond with your part