



VOLUNTEER WITH US

The group that keeps Blowcomotion moving is composed of volunteers. We are dedicated to seeing Blowcomotion grow strong, but sometimes we can't do it all. We would love to have some help.

The Board has created the following committees: Fundraising (includes grant writing), Marketing, Community Outreach and Curriculum. Most of these committees only have two members so if you are interested, email us at blowcomotion@gmail.com

Welcome to the Blowcomotion Newsletter!

Are You Planning to Vaccinate?

We hope so! We look forward to a time when we can play together safely ---- in person -- and we think the only way we can do that is if we all get vaccinated! We want to hear from you on this important subject so look for an upcoming survey.

Announcements and Class Updates JOIN US!!

Until we can play together, we are still meeting in our online sectionals!

The sectionals are open to everyone - if you play the saxophone but want to come to low brass for sight singing or music appreciation - it's OK. The zoom information for the sectional is sent out by various zoom hosts. If you are interested in attending any of the sectionals, please email blowcomotion@gmail.com and let us know which sectional you are interested in attending. Your request will be forwarded to the appropriate host. Look for an email about 5 minutes before the meeting is to start.

Fundraising

Our Patreon page has been really successful and we greatly appreciate those who have joined. As we've mentioned before, almost all of the money we raise is used to pay our instructors (the remaining goes toward things like our website, insurance and instruments). To access our Patreon account, you can go to <https://www.patreon.com/blowcomotion>. Patreon levels begin at \$5 per month.

Blowcomotion is also listed as a charity on Amazon Smile. If you use Amazon and don't already have a designated charity, would you please consider designating Blowcomotion? Just go to Amazon Smile, and search for Blowcomotion.

Car Donations

We are participating with Car Easy for vehicle - car, truck, boat - donations. Have a used vehicle, donate it to us! Go to <https://careasy.org/nonprofit/blowcomotion> to have your donation support Blowcomotion's music education programming.

ADAPT OF Texas Fun Run by Beverly Larkin

How to raise money for **Blowcomotion** from the comfort of your home!

ADAPT of Texas has been very generous to host us during the inclement and cold weather months in previous years- and one way we can give back, and help **Blowcomotion** at the same time is to participate in the ADAPT FUN*RUN! They offer to us as a group - 75% of the monies we generate while they receive 25% which is a huge win/win for our band.

This year, it will be held on Saturday May 1, 2021 - so we have plenty of time to prepare.

It's super easy to register at <https://www.adaptfunrun.net/> and then select **Blowcomotion** - we are listed in the "Organization I am Supporting" menu option on the web page to ensure your donations go to our group.

Once you are registered, you will receive an "Runner Registration" email with a special personalized weblink that you can easily share with family and friends via email or social media. ADAPT also made donation options very easy - folks can choose to use credit cards, PayPal or mail in a check. If you need it, they even offer a physical sign up sheet - but have made their online registration and donation process so simple that likely it will not be needed.

Using social media or email can easily get the word out to your friends and family - even a small gift of \$5-\$10 from each person can quickly add up to a nice donation to ADAPT and **Blowcomotion**. Every

What's new in the sectionals?

We've asked a member from each section - High brass, low brass, woodwinds and percussion - for an update on what is happening in their respective sections:

WOODWINDS by Ken Hallenberg

Hey everyone!

The **Blowco** woodwinds (still all saxes at the moment) have been working on soloing skills under the tutelage of our fine instructor Jorion Dawson. Sometimes we all work together on a single concept, other times we divide up the sectional into a series of short mini-lessons with topics chosen by each player. Lately our main full-group topic has been using pentatonic scales (major and minor). Individual mini-lessons have focused on such topics as fingering technique, bebop scales, altissimo, and learning some jazz tunes.

bit helps, even if we are not performing live, we are still holding sectionals and continue to pay our excellent instructors!!

I really hope you will consider participating this year - If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at beejcctx@gmail.com.

Expect to see an email from Bev with more information!

New Instruments

Thanks to everyone's support **Blowcomotion** purchased more instruments for its instrument lending program. We have added a french horn, a flute and of course, another trombone.

If you find some unused band instruments in the back of your closet, please consider donating to us.

To borrow one of the **Blowcomotion** instruments, please email us at blowcomotion@gmail.com for instrument availability and requirements. Because we are adding more and more instruments, we have instituted a lending policy and agreement.

LOW BRASS by Niko Druzhinin

A virtual rehearsal in the low brass section is always a treat that is sure to benefit any musician! From scales and sight-singing, to breathing exercises and music appreciation, you don't even need a trombone or tuba to learn a lot from John. The format is free-flowing with plenty of opportunity to dive into the subjects that interest those who attend.

HIGH BRASS by Ike Eickstaedt

Trumpets and French Horns are discussing and practicing each week! We love talkin' high brass. All are welcome to join us...regardless of your experience you will feel welcome as we explore the intricacies of our melodic and harmonic roles in the ensemble. Come join us! Led by instructor Omar Garcia Tuesday nights at 7 pm on Zoom. Looking forward to seeing y'all!

PERCUSSION by Beverly Larkin

Percussion sectional experienced a bit of a turndown in attendance over the holiday weeks - showing more presence during the monthly full rehearsals. Our instructor Sean has had us concentrating on Stick Control rudiments - foundational for any percussionist - and discussing percussion influences and instruction from various YouTube videos. Looking forward to more time together with the new year.

Reach us at
blowcomotion@gmail.com

Facebook:
<http://facebook.com/blowcomotion>

On the web:
www.blowcomotion.org

Blowcomotion is a nonprofit corporation and has received a 501(c)(3) tax exemption from the Internal Revenue Service. All donations are tax-exempt. Blowcomotion greatly appreciates your financial and instrument donations.