

## Quick level check - Brass

In this quick test you will perform a test to help determine **microphone placement** and **level settings**.

### Setup

- Pick two sections of music. One should be the loudest you will play, the other should be the softest you will play.
- Reference [this video](#) to find a mic placement to try out, with the understanding that you may not be able to get the ideal placement. We can imagine the microphones they use are our phones.
- For Horns:
  - Setup with your bell about **2 feet** from a chair or other object you can drape a light blanket.
  - Set the phone about **2 feet** in front of you slightly off to the right hand side.
- For Tuba/Euphonium
  - Look up! Try to find a space where the ceilings aren't super high. Also avoid playing under things like ceiling fans.
  - Set the phone up about **3 - 4 feet** away from you
- If applicable set the microphone to "manual" mode.

### Level Check

- Start recording
- Play something really loud and really soft.
- Stop the recording and listen back through headphones. We want to be able to hear the soft playing and the loud playing shouldn't be "distorted".
- If the sound is overall too soft move the phone **6 inches** closer and try again.
- If the sound is distorted in the louds move the phone back **6 inches** and try again.
- Horns Only** If the sound is too soft move yourself closer to the wall. If it is too loud move **yourself and the phone** away from the wall.

*When we record for audio editing, virtual ensembles, movies, etc. The goal isn't to capture how the instrument sounds in a concert hall. We are trying to capture a "dry" signal. This means that we want as little echo and what we call "room" sound as possible. These things are later added by an audio engineer and producer.*