

Dr. Sophia Tegart, Assistant Professor of Flute <a href="mailto:sophiat@wsu.edu">sophiat@wsu.edu</a>

#### How to Breathe and How to Test Your Breathing

### Why do we breathe?

- To oxygenate your blood
- Feeds your brain
- Make better decisions

#### How should we breathe?

- Low and slow, low and fast
- Keep the airways open (posture)
- Don't hold your air in
- In and out
  - o Resistance plays a part

# Test Your "In" Breath

- Lay down
- Case against the wall
- Hand inhale
- Expansion
  - o Bottom
  - o Side (ribs)
  - o Back lean over

# **Visualize Your Breathing**

- Open ball
- Ballet jumps
- Surprise breath "Oh!"

# Test Your "Out" Breath (sustain/direction)

- Pinwheels
- Balloons/ breathing bags
- Pneumo Pro<sup>TM</sup>

#### **Plan Ahead**

- Breathing maps
- Practice coming into and out of breaths
- Map out your breaths and practice them to make sure you will have optimal oxygen supply while performing
- Choreograph your breathing







