

better.

Features & training guide

One classroom. A thousand small improvements.

STUDENTS

Practice with purpose.

STAFF

Coach the next rep.

MANAGERS

Prepare the program.

THE CLASSROOM PLAYBOOK

Small reps. Real progress.

A practical guide to the features, routines, and people behind better.

better. connects winter assignments, performance submissions, staff coaching, and preparation for the next camp. Use this guide to learn the workflow, then keep it nearby as a quick reference.

The core loop

Assign → Practice → Submit → Coach → Improve

Give the rep a purpose. Capture the work. Return clear feedback. Come back stronger.

Find your starting point

Students: start on page 5, then learn video submissions on page 7.

Staff: start on page 9 for assignment and grading workflows.

Caption managers: use page 18 for roster and classroom administration.

Inside this guide

03 / Your workspace & feature map

05 / Student quick start

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About this edition

Based on app version 96. Menu availability depends on role, assigned sections, and classroom setup. Examples in this guide are instructional, not real student records.

ORIENTATION

Your workspace, organized.

Choose your corps, enter the appropriate portal, and sign in with the account approved for your classroom.

Student workspace

Classwork: Assignments, My work, My grades.

Progress: My progress, Monthly reports.

Practice tools: SickMet, Tuner.

Staff workspace

Workspace: Dashboard.

Classwork: Assignments, Assignment templates, Review queue, Gradebook.

Progress: Rankings & reports, Camp Preparation.

People: Student roster, Staff.

Tools: Assessment demo.

Shared controls

Search: find classroom content you have permission to access.

Updates: review notifications and notification preferences.

Messages: open conversations and classroom or section boards.

Theme: switch between light and dark mode.

Profile settings: manage your classroom profile.

Built for the corps

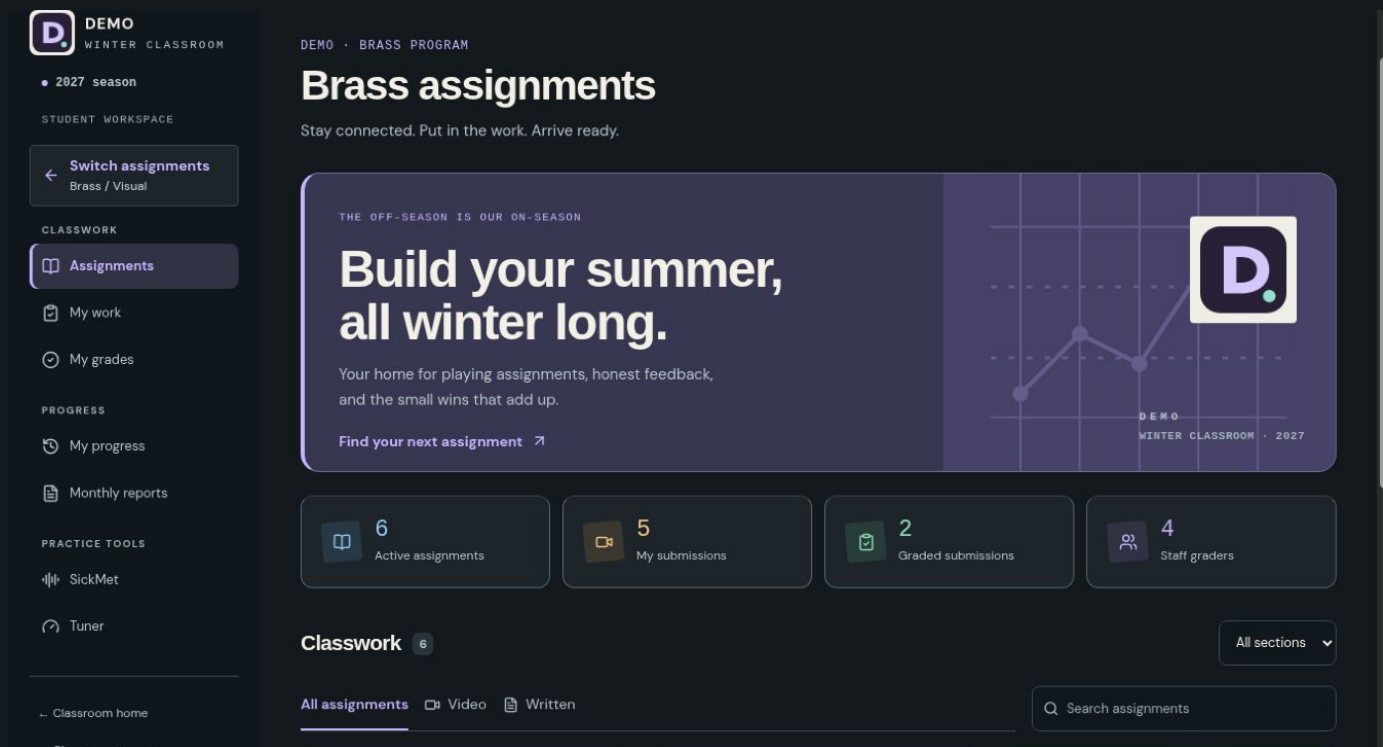
Each corps has its own branding and classroom context. Brass and Visual assignment views help students find the right work. On phones, use the classroom menu to move between sections.

Learn without changing live work

The Demo classroom lets you explore student and staff views with fictional data. Changes last only for that visit and reset when you reload or return. Personal file uploads are disabled in the demo.

VISUAL WALKTHROUGH

Find your way around.



WHAT TO NOTICE

- 01.** The left menu groups Classwork, Progress, and Practice tools.
- 02.** Use Switch assignments to move between Brass and Visual.
- 03.** Classwork filters and search help narrow the assignment list.

STUDENT QUICK START

Your next rep starts here.

Use **Assignments** to find the work, **My work** to revisit submissions, and **My grades** to read returned results.

- 01.** Open **Assignments** and choose Brass or Visual as needed. Student assignments are ordered by due date, with the closest due dates toward the top.
- 02.** Open an assignment. Read the instructions, due date, and grading method. Review any attached sheet music PDF or demonstration video.
- 03.** Prepare your response. For written work, enter the requested text. For video work, record, import, or provide a supported hosted video link.
- 04.** Add performer notes when useful, then choose **Submit assignment**. For uploaded videos, finish the upload first (see page 7).
- 05.** Return to **My work** to check the submission. Use **My grades** for graded work and private staff feedback.

When work needs revision

A red **Needs revision** indicator means staff have asked for another attempt. Read their feedback, practice the requested change, then open the assignment and submit a new attempt. Check the latest status after submitting.

Make improvement specific

Use **My next practice goal** to save one clear action for the next rep. In **My progress**, choose an assignment and compare earlier and recent attempts alongside their feedback.

Try a useful practice goal

“Keep the air moving through the first four measures at 80 BPM.” A specific musical action is easier to practice than “play better.”

VISUAL WALKTHROUGH

Read the assignment cards.

Classwork

6

All sections ▾

All assignments



Video



Written

Q Search assignments

VIDEO ASSIGNMENT

Graded

All brass100 points

Connected sound & steady air

Play C4, D4, and E4 as quarter notes at 120 BPM. Keep the air steady and connect the sound evenly from note to note.

Due Oct 1911 submitted

CE Chris Ellis

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT

Graded

All brass100 points

My winter practice plan

Describe two goals, a realistic weekly schedule, and how you will measure improvement before the next camp.

Due Oct 2110 submitted

TB Taylor Bennett

VIDEO ASSIGNMENT

Returned for revision

All brass100 points

Articulation at 100 BPM

Record quarter-note and eighth-note patterns with a metronome. Match the front and length of every note.

Due Oct 2310 submitted

JP Jamie Park

WHAT TO NOTICE

- 01.** Each card shows the assignment type, point total, instructions, due date, and grader.
- 02.** The red Returned for revision badge identifies work that needs another attempt.
- 03.** Open a card to read the complete instructions and submit work.

VIDEO SUBMISSIONS

Ready before you record.

Check your framing, prepare your instrument, and begin the take when you are ready.

- 01.** Choose **Record** and allow camera and microphone access. On supported browsers, the live preview opens without recording.
- 02.** Adjust your position and framing. Select **Start recording** when ready. On devices that open their own camera interface, follow that interface instead.
- 03.** Use **Pause** to stop temporarily and **Resume** to continue the same take. Choose **Finish recording** to review it.
- 04.** Play back the take. Use **Save recording** to keep a local copy before leaving. Use **Retry** if you need to replace the take.
- 05.** Choose **Upload video**, wait for completion, then choose **Submit assignment** in the assignment form. Uploading and submitting are separate steps.

Already have a video?

Choose **Import** and select an MP4, WebM, or MOV file up to **512 MB**. You can also use the hosted video link field for a supported YouTube video, Short, or direct video URL. Make sure staff can access the link.

If an upload is interrupted

An unfinished upload can be resumed by selecting the same file again. The app supports upload resumption for seven days. Keep the original file; a different file cannot resume the same upload.

Camera preview is not the submitted video

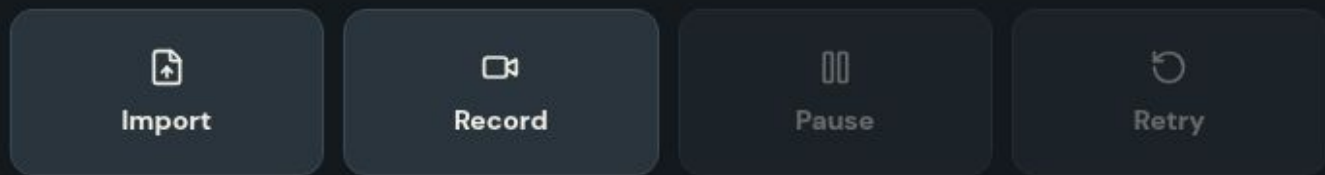
Seeing yourself in the preview does not start a recording. Finishing a recording does not submit the assignment. Look for the upload completion and submission confirmation.

VISUAL WALKTHROUGH

Know your recording controls.

Record or upload your performance

Import a video or record a new take.



MP4, WebM or MOV · Up to 512 MB

WHAT TO NOTICE

- 01.** Import selects an existing file. Record opens the camera preview on supported browsers.
- 02.** Pause and Retry become available when their actions apply; dimmed controls are inactive.
- 03.** After preview: Start recording, Finish recording, review the take, Upload video, then Submit assignment.

Demo versus live classroom

The public demo substitutes a sample recording and disables personal uploads. This image shows the live recording toolbar before a take begins; no camera feed was captured.

STAFF WORKFLOW

Assign clearly. Coach precisely.

Keep instructions focused and give performers one practical next step.

Create or reuse an assignment

Open **Assignments** → **Create assignment**. Set the title, submission type, section, assignment page, season, due date, and assigned grader. Add instructions and an optional release time, demonstration link, or PDF. Choose a numerical rubric totaling 100 points or Pass/Fail, then publish.

Use **Assignment templates** to reuse common work. An existing assignment can be saved as a template from **More actions**.

Return a grade and feedback

Open **Review queue** and choose **Grade & give feedback** for a submission. Review the response or recording before completing the evaluation.

01. For numerical work, enter a score for every category within its displayed point limit. The compact grid keeps each label beside its score context.

02. For Pass/Fail work, choose the result deliberately. Pass/Fail results do not become numerical percentages.

03. Write private feedback: identify what worked, name the change needed, and give a practice action.

04. Select **Return for revision** if another attempt is needed. Choose **Return grade & feedback** and confirm the result saved.

Choose the grading method before submissions arrive

Once an assignment has submissions, its grading method and rubric are locked. Use Gradebook to review returned results. Automatic assessment is a staff reference; the official grade is still yours to enter.

VISUAL WALKTHROUGH

Score. Explain. Return.

STAFF EVALUATION • 100 POINTS

Score & feedback

Score each category using its point limit, then share a specific next step.

Understanding / 25	Specificity / 25
Reflection / 25	Completeness / 25

Private feedback to the performer

Private staff feedback

☐ Return for revision

Return grade & feedback

WHAT TO NOTICE

- 01.** Enter one score per rubric category, within its displayed maximum.
- 02.** Write the performer's private feedback directly below the score grid.
- 03.** Choose Return for revision when needed, then Return grade & feedback.

COMMUNICATION

Keep your team connected.

Use the scope of the conversation to decide where a message belongs.

Private conversations

Students can initiate messages to other students and staff in their corps classroom. Staff can choose recipients within their permitted scope.

Open **Messages** → **New message**, find and select recipients, optionally add a title, write the message, and choose **Start conversation**. Only selected participants can read and reply.

Section boards

Use a section board for rehearsal coordination and discussion relevant to that instrument section. These boards are visible to the section and its assigned staff.

Entire-classroom announcements

Staff can choose **Message entire classroom** in Messages. Posts are visible to all active students and staff in that corps. Students read these announcements; they use a section board or private conversation to respond.

Updates and notification preferences

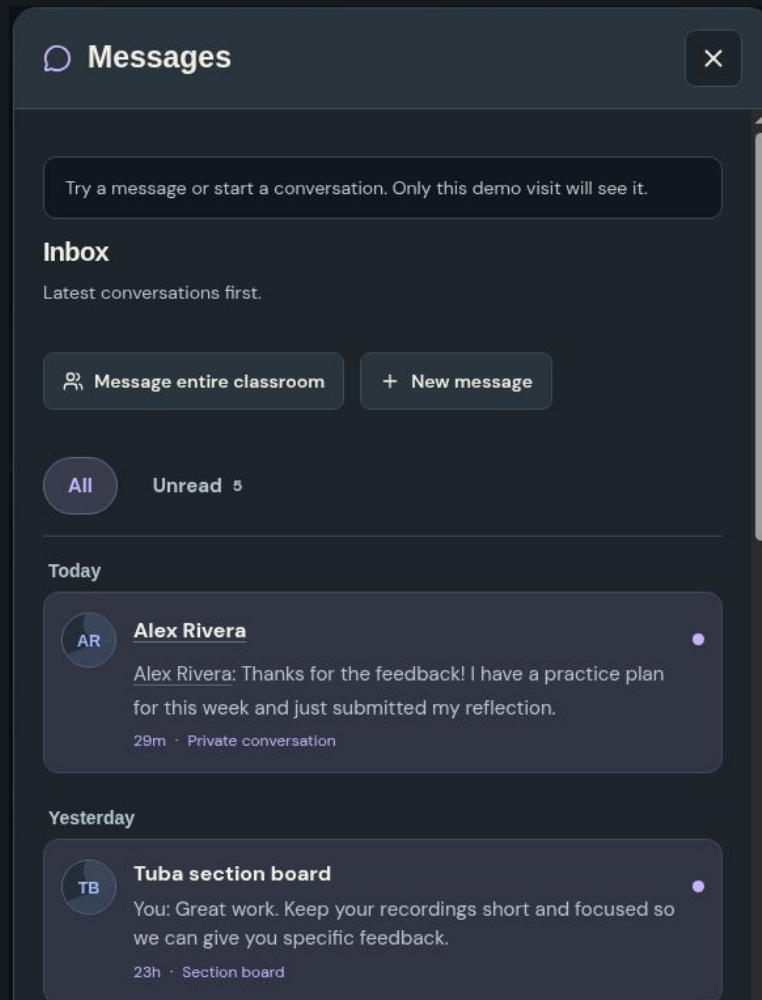
Use **Updates** for classroom alerts. Device push notifications require permission and a supported device/browser. Monthly report alerts appear here; email and text messages are not used for report delivery.

Know what is private

Submissions are visible to classroom members. Grades, staff feedback, and assignment discussion comments are private to the performer and staff. A classroom announcement is broader than a private conversation - check the audience before sending.

VISUAL WALKTHROUGH

Choose the right audience.



WHAT TO NOTICE

- 01.** Message entire classroom is the staff announcement option.
- 02.** New message starts a private conversation with selected recipients.
- 03.** Conversation labels distinguish private messages from section boards.

PROGRESS & PREPARATION

See the work add up.

Reports show patterns over time. Camp Preparation shows what still needs attention before the next camp.

Monthly reports and section rankings

Staff open **Rankings & reports**, choose a month and section, then rank by **Graded average**, **Submission completion**, or **Most improved**. Open a performer for assignment details and next steps. Students open **Monthly reports** to see only their own report and section placement.

Read the numbers correctly

Reports cover assignments due in the selected month across Brass and Visual. Missing and ungraded work appear separately. Pass/Fail results are listed but excluded from numerical averages. Completion means submitted, including work awaiting review or revision.

Score and improvement rankings require a minimum number of numerical grades, shown in the app. Ties share a rank. A pending revision can retain an earlier graded score; different assignment workloads affect comparisons.

Report timing

The current month is a live preview. Saved reports remain fixed. Monthly reports are saved during the first background check at or after **9 a.m. Central on the first**. Deadlines and month-end activity cutoffs use UTC. Open **Print / save PDF** for a printable report.

Plan for camp

Open **Camp Preparation → Plan a camp**. Name the camp, set its date, and select the assignments to complete. Filter by season, camp, or section. Open a status in the grid to review the latest attempt.

A preparation view, not a new grade

Missing, Submitted, Needs revision, Graded, Pass, and Fail describe the work. “Not linked” means the performer needs to sign in before older submissions can be matched securely.

VISUAL WALKTHROUGH

Read progress in context.

DEMO · BRASS PROGRAM

Rankings & reports

Every rep is a step toward the field.

EVERY PERFORMER. EVERY MONTH.

Progress worth noticing.

Track preparation, celebrate improvement, and see who needs a next step.



Report month

October 2026



Section

All sections



Rank by

Graded average



Monthly reports

1st of each month · 9 a.m. Central

Fictional demo data. Live preview — this month is still in progress. Reports cover assignments due in the selected month, across Brass and Visual.

October 2026 rankings

12 performers · Ranked within each instrument section

BARITONE

#1

Casey Lopez

4 scored · 5/7 submitted · 2 missing · 1 revision

91.8%



graded average

WHAT TO NOTICE

01. Choose a Report month and Section, then select a ranking metric.
02. The current month is a live preview. Rankings are grouped by instrument section.
03. Open a performer's row for their individual report and next steps.

PRACTICE & ASSESSMENT

Tools for a more useful rep.

Students practice with musical tools. Staff use assessment as an additional reference.

SickMet

Open **SickMet** for rhythmic and harmonic practice. Explore patterns and chord progressions, adjust tempo, and use drums, bass, and chords as a practice backing.

Use **Met Only** for a simple metronome. Turn it off to hear the pattern again. Loop a section for repeated practice or choose Play once.

Tuner

Open **Tuner** and allow microphone access when prompted. Play a sustained note and watch the needle. The display turns green when you are within **3 cents** in either direction. Adjust the A reference in whole-number steps from **432 to 449 Hz** to match your ensemble.

Automatic performance assessment - staff only

Attach a private MusicXML reference to a video assignment. Automatic assessment requires an uploaded video; external links can still be graded manually. The reference supports a solo part at constant tempo, up to three minutes.

In the submission, set a starting point to skip an introduction or false start, then choose **Run assessment**. Review suggested score, pitch accuracy, rhythm/onsets, and note-by-note feedback before entering the official grade.

Use your ears first

The suggested score weights pitch 70% and rhythm 30%, with a ± 50 -cent pitch tolerance. Background sound, rubato, and repeated articulations can reduce reliability. Staff review the estimate; students do not see the automatic assessment panel. Try Assessment demo before using it with live work.

VISUAL WALKTHROUGH

Set up a useful practice loop.

STEP STUDIO

Build a beat. Add a bass line. Find your pocket.

Saved for this demo visit

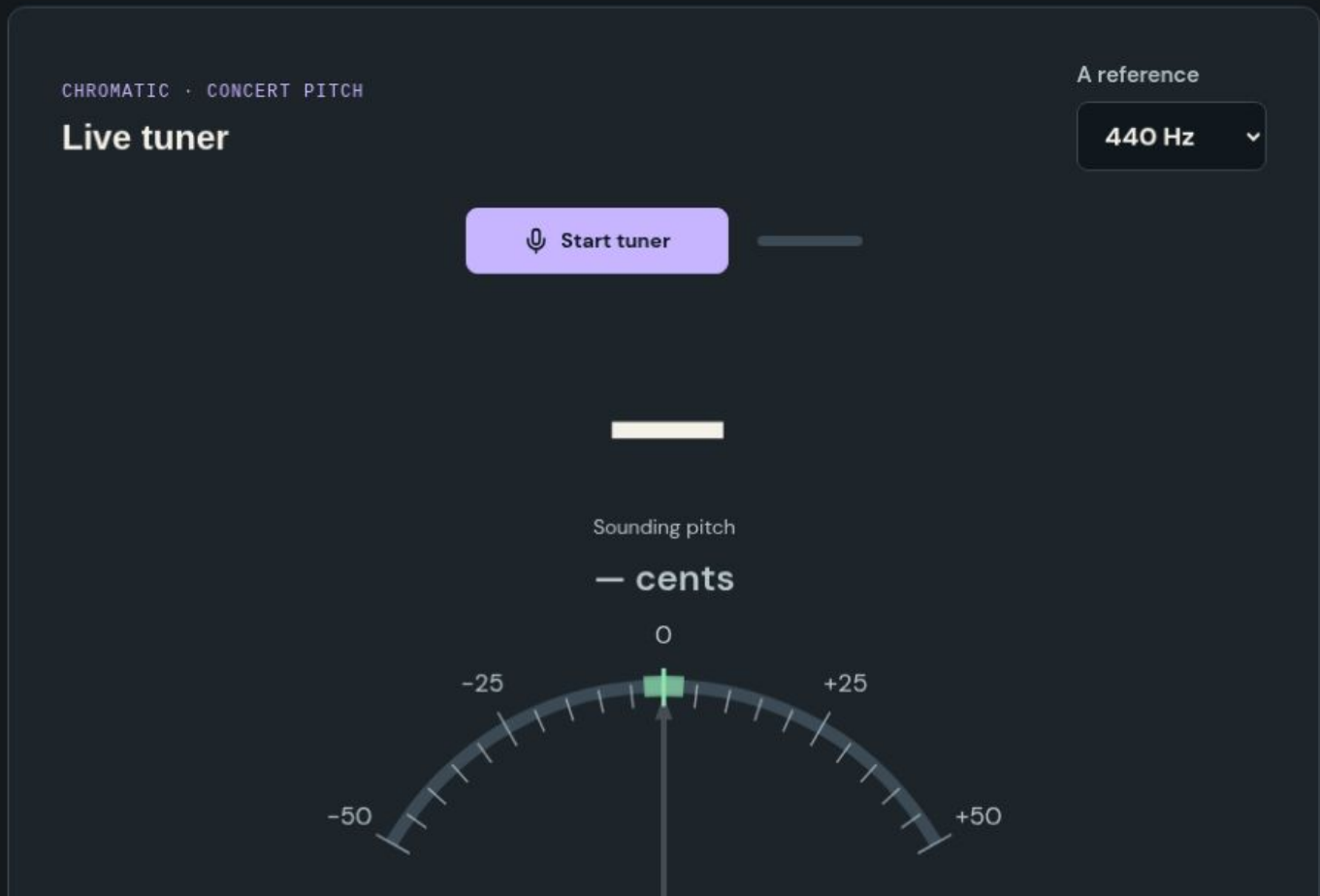
The screenshot displays the better. STEP STUDIO interface. At the top, there's a 'Play' button, a timer showing '01 : 01', and a tempo control set to '110 BPM' with a 'Tap tempo' button. To the right are buttons for 'Loop on', 'Click off', and 'Met Only'. Below these are dropdown menus for 'Key' (Bb), 'Scale' (Major), and 'Time signature' (4/4), along with a 'Loop length' dropdown set to '1 bar'. A 'Swing' slider is positioned between 0% and 65%, and a 'Master' volume slider is at 65%. The main section is labeled 'Bar 1' and includes 'Accent off', 'Follow playhead', and 'Undo' buttons. The bottom part shows a 'TRACK / MIX' section with a grid for 'Kick' and 'Snare' patterns. The 'Kick' track has orange squares at the first and third positions of the first bar. The 'Snare' track has yellow squares at the second and fourth positions of the first bar.

WHAT TO NOTICE

- 01.** Set tempo or use Tap tempo. Choose key, scale, and time signature for the exercise.
- 02.** Met Only switches to metronome-only practice. Loop on repeats the pattern.
- 03.** Use the step grid and available patterns to build rhythmic backing.

VISUAL WALKTHROUGH

Tune to your ensemble.



WHAT TO NOTICE

- 01.** Set the A reference to match the ensemble, then choose Start tuner.
- 02.** This screenshot shows the inactive state. No note has been detected yet.
- 03.** With microphone access enabled, play a sustained note. Green indicates within ± 3 cents.

MANAGERS & QUICK REFERENCE

Keep the classroom moving.

Use these checks when a person, submission, or permission does not behave as expected.

Roster and staff administration

Use **Student roster** to add and manage performers, sign-in emails, and sections. Use **Staff** to manage approved instructors and section access. The roster includes a student deletion option; read its confirmation carefully.

Caption managers and platform administrators can delete assignments through the assignment's **More actions** menu. Use Archive when the intent is to take work out of the active list. Corps subscription information is restricted to the authorized administration view.

Quick fixes

Camera will not open: allow both camera and microphone, close apps using them, then try Record again. Import a saved video if needed.

Video is uploaded but no submission appears: return to the assignment form and complete Submit assignment.

Student cannot find work: check the corps, approved sign-in email, section, Brass/Visual view, release time, and archive state.

A grade is missing: check whether work is still submitted or awaiting revision, and verify that staff saved the result.

No report email arrived: open Monthly reports and Updates. Report delivery uses in-app alerts and optional push, not email.

A simple weekly routine

Students: check assignments, practice, submit, and read feedback.

Staff: clear the review queue, return specific next steps, and check missing work.

Managers: review Camp Preparation and section reports, then coordinate follow-up.