

## Growling

- A growl tone is achieved by producing a sound in your vocal chords at the same time as you're blowing air through your horn.
- Humming, singing, screaming, or even clearing your throat are all ways to produce a growl tone on your sax.
- Some methods are more aggressive than others. That's why it's good to learn more than one.
- Whichever method you choose—I use all of the above in different settings and at different times—be aware that if the sound coming from your vocal chords has the same tone as the one you're playing on your sax, they will cancel each other out. Result? No growl

### Exercise

- Think & sound: AAAAAAAHHHHHHH from the back of the throat while playing a note.
- Try starting on G1. Once you can do it on this note, see about going up and down the full range of the horn.

### growl tone exercise



### Points to remember:

1. Growling takes A LOT more air than regular playing—close to twice as much.
  2. You have to use proper diaphragm breathing or you will never be able to pull this off.
  3. The lower in the horn you go, the harder it is to get a growl tone.
- Learning how to growl takes time, and lots of practice to get it consistent and good sounding. It is not the easiest advanced technique to learn. But once you've mastered it, it is an incredible skill for rock, blues, and even edgier forms of jazz playing.
  - A growl tone can be used over an entire solo, a single note, or even an entire album.

### Players to listen to for examples of killer growl tones:

[Gato Barbieri](#). His *Caliente!* album is like a master class on saxophone tone & sound techniques.

[King Curtis](#), and [Clarence Clemons](#).