

Head in a Tuba



People do what they are told not to do. Warn someone on a cold winter day in North Dakota not to touch his tongue to a pump handle and he will do so anyway. The tongue will instantly freeze to the handle and he will stand there, helpless, unable to work it loose. This is known as the *Tongue on the Frozen Pump Handle Syndrome*. A similar principle in music conservatories is called *Head in a Tuba*. It is extremely detailed and goes on for eight pages, but in a nutshell it states that if you put a tuba on your head, it'll get stuck and you won't be able to pry it off. And yet, hundreds if not thousands of prodigies get their heads stuck in tubas each year. Is it a rite of passage in the musical world? We asked piano wunderkind Dubois Dinklaker why *he* put a tuba on his head, but he apparently didn't hear the question. Unfortunately for his suddenly uncertain career, he got his hands stuck, too.