# THE

# TRUMPET PLAYER'S

# PRACTICE COMPENDIUM

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#### THE TRUMPET PLAYER'S PRACTICE COMPENDIUM

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#### Introduction

The role of a trumpet player in any ensemble is diverse and demanding. Careful attention must be taken at all times to prepare for the difficulties and challenges that arise on a daily basis, both as a trumpeter and as a musician. This compendium is designed to enable the student to develop confidence in his or her abilities as a musician in solos, ensembles, and on the podium.

#### **BREATHING GYM**

Developed by Sam Pilafian and Patrick Sheridan

#### Introduction

- Analogy: a car needs gas to make it move just like instruments need air to make sound. The higher the quality of gas, the better the car performs. The same thing is true with air.
- **Breathing Gym** is designed to give control and efficiency of breath by developing proper breathing habits
  - o Improves tone, stamina, and all-around performance
  - o For ensembles, *Breathing Gym*:
    - Promotes calmer, quieter, and more focused rehearsals
    - Internalizes and improves group rhythm (always use a metronome)
    - Gives more confidence and security to group entrances/releases
- **Breathing Gym** can be used as part of a warm-up routine or a mid-rehearsal change of pace while addressing specific issues such as dynamics, articulation, and phrasing
- The *Breathing Gym* consists of five types of exercises:
  - Stretches
  - Flow Studies
  - o Therapies
  - Strength and Flexibility
  - o Breathing for the Brain
- Remember the LAW OF ACCOMMODATION:
  - What is difficult today will become easier if practiced
    - Work these exercises just past the point of ease and slightly into discomfort without overexertion

#### PRELIMINARY CONSIDERATIONS

- Maintaining a proper and consistent oral shape is essential for maximizing the benefits of these
  exercises
  - a. During inhale/exhale, the inside of the mouth should feel like a big yawn
  - b. The back of the throat is to remain open and unobstructed
- 2. Monitoring each breath ensures correct execution
  - a. Inhale
    - i. Form the right hand like a karate chop, but fold the thumb flat against the palm
    - ii. With the right hand in this position, place the index finger just under the tip of the nose (thumb should now be pointing forward)
    - iii. Open mouth as if to yawn (notice that the bottom lip is almost touching the knuckle)
    - iv. Take a deep breath quickly, letting the only resistance occur at the lips
    - v. If executed correctly, the inhale will have a deep sound like a vacuum with one finger placed over the opening
  - b. Exhale (remove right hand before exhale)
    - i. Hold the left hand with palm facing the body at an arm's length
    - ii. Exhale and feel the constant flow of air on the palm
  - c. The inhale and exhale are to be performed continuously with no break between, just like a pendulum swinging
- 3. Light-headedness may occur periodically. If this happens, then sit down, inhale slowly through the nose, and exhale slowly through the mouth; repeat until no longer light-headed.
- 4. All exercises are to be performed in a relaxed manner with no tension in the body

#### THE EXERCISES

- 1. Stretches loosen up the body for better breathing flexibility
  - a. Trunk Twist
  - b. Flop Over loose arms, neck, and upper body
  - c. Two-Way Stretch
  - d. Wrist Grab
  - e. Whole Body Stretch
  - f. Neck Roll roll neck from side to side while looking down. Chin should touch chest. Never tilt head back and look at the ceiling.
- 2. Flow Studies simulate regular breathing patterns used while playing. Monitor the air during these exercises to ensure that the air is constantly and consistently moving in and out (comfortably full to comfortably empty). Move air without resistance or tension.
  - a. 6-7-8-9-10 (11-12-etc.)
  - b. Shorten the Inhalation (in 4 out 4, in 3 out 4, in 2 out 4, etc.)
  - c. Shorten the Exhalation (4-4, 4-3, 4-2, etc.)
  - d. Shorten the Inhalation Variation (4-4, 3-5, 2-6, etc.)
  - e. Shorten the Exhalation Variation (4-4, 5-3, 6-2, etc.)
  - f. Shorten the Inhalation and Exhalation [4-4 (2x), 3-3 (2x), 2-2 (2x), 1-1 (4x), 8<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> (8x), 1-1 (4x), 16<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> (8x), 1-1, 2-2, breathe through nose for 20 seconds]
  - g. Quick Breath Exercise inhale on the last beat of a measure (i.e. 4/4, 9/8, etc.)
  - h. Bow & Arrow, Toss the Dart, Float the Paper Airplane
- 3. Therapies a counterpart to flow studies, therapies are used to inspire better airflow by deliberately creating problems to overcome, such as resistance and suspension
  - a. Inhale Therapy fight for air with suction
    - i. Exhale all air (sizzle)
    - ii. Place the back of the hand against the lips
    - iii. Fight for air by creating suction for 4–30 seconds, but do not allow any air in
    - iv. After time is up, remove hand and inhale as much as air possible in one gasp (still maintaining the yawn shape)
    - v. With lungs at full capacity, suspend the air while keeping the mouth and throat open for a predetermined duration (15–30 seconds) with shoulders relaxed
    - vi. After time is up, expel air in one big chunk down to a sizzle
  - b. Inhale Therapy Variations
    - i. Expand in Two Areas during suction, mentally feel your lungs expand toward your chest and back
    - ii. Expand in Four Areas during suction, mentally feel your lungs expand in 4 quadrants: abdomen, lower back, chest, and upper back
    - iii. Slight Leak during suction, allow some air to leak
  - c. Oral Shape Therapy inhale/exhale with the yawn feeling in rhythmic patterns (8<sup>th</sup> notes, quarter-note triplets, etc.) in a given meter to check consistency of air
- 4. Strength and Flexibility focus on expanding and contracting the lungs to their extremes
  - a. In, Sip, Sip—Out, Push, Push
    - i. "In" inhale to maximum capacity for one beat while lifting arms overhead
    - ii. "Sip" lift arms higher while sipping in more air
    - iii. "Out" exhale completely in one beat while pushing arms downward
    - iv. "Push" force the last little bit of air out
  - b. Power Breaths
  - c. Power Bow & Arrow
- 5. Breathing for the Brain
  - a. Follow Your Breath breath in through nose, out through mouth—no metronome
  - b. In 6, Suspend 6, Out 6 (increase ratio: 1:1:1, 1:2:1, 1:4:1, etc.)
  - c. Energizing Breath 4 in through nose, 7 suspend, 8 out through mouth

#### THE FOUR P'S

The Four P's are the essential building blocks of playing brass instruments correctly. They are: Pucker (of the embouchure), Pressure (of the mouthpiece), Position (of the tongue), and Push (of the air).

- 1. Pucker the formation of the lips muscles that create the embouchure
- 2. Pressure the amount of force that is exerted from the mouthpiece onto the lips (which is met with an equal and opposite amount of force from the Pucker)
- 3. Position the tongue inside the mouth directly affects the pitch and sound of the instrument. For the medium-low range, the tongue is flat (pronouncing the syllable "haa"). In the medium-high range, the tongue is arched (pronouncing the syllable "hee"). The flatter the tongue, the lower the range. If the tongue is more arched, then the pitch will be higher.
- 4. Push the steady flow of air. Also directly affects the dynamics of the instrument.

The goal of using the Four P's is to keep them in balance with each other. When a particular facet of playing ceases to function properly (e.g. "fuzzing out"), then one or more of the Four P's is most likely out of balance.

The following ten exercises will help develop this balance:

- 1. Free/Lip Buzzing produced by using only the lips to buzz specific pitches without the aid of a mouthpiece. Used to create firm corners of the lips by controlling and focusing the aperture and buzz. Practicing free buzzing (for no more than five minutes per practice session) will ensure proper embouchure formation, strengthen the embouchure, improve endurance, focus tone, and increase range.
- 2. Lip Bends using the lips to lower the pitch by half step, whole step, or more without the use of valves. To lip the notes down correctly, one must increase the firmness of the embouchure (pucker) and force the pitch down while still maintaining a consistent tone at a *f* + dynamic. If performed correctly, the bent pitch will sound almost exactly as if it were fingered correctly. Practicing lip bends (no more than five minutes per practice session) will result in a stronger embouchure, increased range, longer endurance, fuller tone, controlled intonation, consistent airflow, improved flexibility, and better accuracy.
- 3. Pedal Tones any note lower than F-sharp below the staff. Attaining pedal tones is accomplished by using an extreme pucker—even more than for lip bends. While the aperture does get larger, the embouchure must remain firm and flexed. Always play every pedal tone with the correct fingering (as you would finger an octave higher). Some notes slot better with other fingerings, but this will cheat the player out of the full benefit. Practicing pedal tones (no more than five minutes per practice session) will result in a stronger embouchure, increased range, longer endurance, fuller tone, controlled intonation, consistent airflow, improved flexibility, and better accuracy.

- 4. Breath Attacks a note beginning without the use of the tongue. There are two types: gradual and immediate. The gradual breath attack is a slow, relaxed leak of the air until the note sounds (almost a whisper). The immediate breath attack is a quick puff of air that begins the note instantaneously (without being brash or out of tune). Practicing both types of breath attacks in all registers will help focus the aperture, concentrate the airstream, reduce fuzziness, maximize tone, eliminate neck tension, and improve accuracy.
- 5. Whisper Tones these are extremely soft notes (less than *pppp*) that sound like sub-tones on a clarinet. The lips do not actually vibrate, but the focused air stream is what creates the tone without using the tongue to articulate (all notes are slurred). To produce whisper tones correctly, the lip aperture must be focused (like a laser beam) and relaxed. This is the most effortless type of playing and will result in better accuracy, fewer cracked pitches, better intonation, and purer tone quality.
- 6. Pop Tones the same principles apply as those of whisper tones, but these are articulated instead of slurred.
- 7. Lip Slurs produced by simultaneously adjusting the embouchure tension, tongue position, and air pressure to move from one note to the next that both share the same fingering. Practicing lip slurs in all registers and dynamics will increase flexibility, strengthen the embouchure, develop tongue position control, improve accuracy, and inspire consistent airflow.
- 8. "K" Tonguing the "k" tongue is executed by articulating with the back of the tongue instead of the tip (as in saying "key"). This is also used for multiple tonguing, but its purpose is different in this context. Practicing just the "k" tongue will strengthen the tongue muscle, which gives greater control of the arch, facilitates lip slurs, and increases range. The "k" tongue can be used on any type of consistently articulated passage (like the Clarke *Technical Studies*)
- 9. Flutter Tonguing produced by rolling the tip of the tongue as fast as possible while playing. Initially, this may only be possible at louder dynamics in the middle or low register. Eventually, be able to flutter tongue in all registers at all dynamic levels. Two main purposes: a) help control the efficiency and consistency of airflow without strain (long tone exercises and basic lip slurs), and b) increase single tongue speed. This is accomplished by practicing basic exercises that alternate flutter tonguing and single tonguing (e.g. play a scale while fluttering the odd notes and single tonguing 16<sup>th</sup> notes on the even notes of the scale).
- 10. Breathing Gym (see previous section)

#### THE WARM UP AND DAILY ROUTINE

The warm up and daily routine are the two most important practice sessions of the day. A sufficient warm up can last anywhere from 20 to 30 minutes and a daily routine is typically 45–60 minutes. They can be combined into one session with sufficient rest.

#### The Warm Up (20–30 minutes)<sup>1</sup>

The warm up for brass players has a similar purpose to that of an athlete. One must limber-up the muscles to guard against injury and allow for optimal performance.

\*Remember the practice rule: rest as much as you play.

#### A proper and consistent warm up:

- 1. Increases blood flow to the lips this helps remove a build-up of lactic acid
- 2. Gradually numbs the lips to prevent swelling
- 3. Enables the muscles to function efficiently
- 4. Engages the brain to stay alert and responsive

A successful warm up is comprised of the following components:

- 1. Breathing better breath support = better tone
- 2. Ear Training sensitizes the ears to hear correct intervals and chords by singing and buzzing simple scales/chords while playing the piano
- 3. Mouthpiece Buzzing slow and gradual mouthpiece buzzing in the medium-to-low registers will facilitate blood flow to the lips and connect the ear to the buzz
- 4. Long Tones and/or Slow Flow Studies these will help build a solid tone with good intonation
- 5. Soft Playing scales, chromatics, and arpeggios that gradually expand range
- 6. Lip Slurs early in the warm up, these are to be at a comfortable dynamic and in an easy range. More difficult lip slurs will occur in the daily routine.
- 7. Articulation begin with soft articulations in the mid-range and gradually increase range (high and low), dynamics, speed, and style (legato, staccato, marcato, etc.)

#### The Daily Routine (45–60 minutes)

The daily routine is the primary building block for improvement on one's instrument. Consistently practicing the fundamentals of trumpet playing will iron out weaknesses and increase strengths. To ensure daily progress and tempo accountability, a metronome must be used for all metered exercises. Keep a log of conquered tempos and material covered to track progress and gain confidence.

While working on the daily routine, careful attention must be given to the practice rule: <u>rest as much as you play</u>. During the periods of rest, one may choose to do breathing exercises, solfège, rhythm practice with an egg shaker, or any other type of musical activity that does not involve playing the instrument.

Feel free to logically change the order of exercise within the daily routine. This will help avoid stagnant playing due to mental boredom. Some fundamentals may be easier than others. As William Vacchiano used to say, "practice your liabilities, not your assets." The goal of these routines is progress, not perfection.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The first warm up of the day is the longest. Subsequent warm ups before regular practice sessions or rehearsals may only need to be about five minutes.

#### Fundamentals:<sup>2</sup>

- 1. Breathing
- 2. Ear Training
- 3. Phrasing/musicality every exercise—including long tones—must be approached with phrasing and musicality ever-present
- 4. Mouthpiece buzzing strive for a clear and consistent buzz in all registers
- 5. Long tones/intonation use drones to maintain pitch accountability
- 6. Lip slurs Bai Lin Lip Flexibilities, Irons 27 Groups of Exercises, etc.
- 7. Scales Arban Complete Conservatory Method, McGregor Daily Scale Builder, etc.
- 8. Chords/Arpeggios Arban pp. 142–151, etc.
- 9. Finger dexterity Clarke *Technical Studies*, Nagel *Speed Studies*, etc.
- 10. Intervals Arban pp. 125–131, Vacchiano *Study of Intervals*, Hoffman *Advanced Interval Studies*, etc.
- 11. Articulation regularly practice various forms of articulations and accents: legato, staccato, portato, tenuto, marcato, fp, sfz, etc. These can be applied to any study.
- 12. Single Tongue Speed the fastest single tongue must overlap the slowest usable double tongue so that there is no break between the two techniques
- 13. Multiple tonguing Arban pp. 155–187, Vacchiano *The Art of Double and Triple Tonguing*, etc.
  - a. Both double and triple tongue are to be practiced on consecutive notes as well as scalar passages to ensure an even articulation
  - b. Practice triple tonguing in three formats for greater versatility and faster technique
    1. TKT KTK
    2. TKT TKT
    3. TTK TTK
- 14. Rhythm duple/triple/mixed meters, advanced rhythms
- 15. Transposition Sachse 100 Studies, Caffarelli 100 Melodic Studies, etc.
- 16. Sight Reading this is the final test that shows what fundamentals need more attention. Always use a metronome unless the etude is unmetered or marked "freely."
- 17. Range work into the extremes of the upper and lower registers by playing lip bends, pedal tones, and bugles. Work on range briefly every other day to give the embouchure a chance to repair the muscles.

#### Recommended Daily Routine Methods:

- 1. The Brass Gym by Sam Pilafian and Patrick Sheridan (Focus on Excellence)
- 2. *How to Practice* by Raymond Mase (unpublished)
- 3. Trumpet Routines by William Vacchiano (Charles Colin)
- 4. Systematic Approach to Daily Practice by Claude Gordon (Carl Fischer)

#### The Warm Down (5–7 minutes)

Especially after a long day of playing, it is imperative to relax the embouchure in a methodical manner. This is accomplished by playing softly in the middle and low registers. Scales, whisper tones, breath attacks, and pedal tones are great ways to warm down. Doing some light/soft buzzing on a trombone mouthpiece also helps relax the lips.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Some of these fundamentals may overlap with the warm-up and do not need to be addressed twice in one day unless they are a liability. All of these fundamentals do not need to be practice every day, but they should be practiced at least three times a week in order to improve.

#### **INTONATION AND DRONES**

#### Introduction

One of the most overlooked areas of instrumental practice is intonation. The process of training one's ears requires patience and consistent attention. During daily practice of intonation, one might not notice much improvement, but after several weeks the ears will become noticeably attuned and more sensitive to pitch. A whole new world of sound is waiting to be unlocked! \*Remember: *trust the process*.

Watching the needle or lights on a tuner does not improve intonation. The tuner can be beneficial, but the ears—not the eyes—are what need to be trained. Using an aural tuner (i.e. drone) is the single, most useful tool for developing good intonation. This not only trains the ears, but also familiarizes one with the pitch tendencies on his or her instrument. In addition to playing drones on the instrument, it is also very beneficial to sing the pitches while the lips are resting.

Matching intonation with a unison drone is the basic starting point for learning intonation. Once the ears have been sensitized to tuning the unison, one must progress to tuning all of the intervals. All intervals (except for octaves) need slight adjustments (either sharp or flat) when sounded simultaneously with another note. For example, an interval of an octave will be perfectly in tune when the needle on a tuner is in the center, but for an interval of a major third, the third of the chord must be tuned slightly lower (by 14 cents) to be perfectly in tune.

Pianos are tuned in equal temperament. This means that every note is equally adjusted in order to be able to play equally well in tune in every key. Unfortunately, these notes are fixed and unable to be altered to attain the perfect tuning of chords. The following chart describes the tuning tendencies for all intervals.<sup>3,4</sup>

# Interval Adjustment from Equal Temperament to Just Intonation (1 cent = $1/100^{th}$ of a half step)

Minor Second: + 12 cents

Major Second: + 4 cents

Minor Third: + 16 cents

Major Third: – 14 cents

Perfect Fourth: – 2 cents

Tri Tone: – 18 cents

Perfect Fifth: + 2 cents

Minor Sixth: + 14 cents

Major Sixth: – 16 cents

Minor Seventh: + 18 cents

Major Seventh: – 14 cents

<sup>4</sup> The "+" and "-" symbols indicate whether the second note of the interval should be played sharp or flat to be in

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> For a more detailed explanation, see *Tuning Tactics* by Chase Sanborn.

#### The Process

The following method is prescribed for sensitizing the ears to just intonation:

- 1. Turn on a loud drone (ff +)
- 2. Sing, buzz, or play (mf +) that same pitch in unison
- 3. Slowly bend the pitch sharp (listen for dissonance)
- 4. Slowly bend the pitch flat (listen for dissonance)
- 5. Now play perfectly in tune, until no dissonance can be heard
- 6. Apply this process to all intervals in the following order:

a.	Unison	h.	Minor sixth
b.	Octave	i.	Major second
c.	Perfect fifth	j.	Minor seventh
d.	Perfect fourth	k.	Tri tone
e.	Major third	1.	Minor second
f.	Major sixth	m.	Major seventh

g. Minor third

7. Choose a different key each day to get familiar with all registers and keys

#### The Application

In addition to the previous exercise, one will find it extremely beneficial to use drones while working on etudes, excerpts, solos, or any type of music. The same basic principles apply, but instead of playing (or singing and buzzing) the pitches as in the order above, one plays through the music in the order of its melody. The melody (with a tonic drone in the background) can be played slowly to determine pitch tendencies, but also at the marked tempo for performance consistency.

Certain types of music may be difficult to assign a drone because of frequent modulation and/or the absence of a tonal center. In these cases, one will want to pay close attention to tuning each note with its preceding note, as to play in tune with one's self.

#### SOLFÈGE AND BUZZING

#### Solfège

To aid in the practice of singing intervals, scales, and melodies, one will find that assigning syllables to each note while singing the pitch will result in better accuracy and development of the ear. There are two types of solfège:

- 1. Fixed do each note-name corresponds to the same syllable
- 2. *Movable do* each scale degree has a separate syllable

The following syllables are to be used according to the *fixed do* tradition:

Note	Syllable	<b>Pronunciation</b>
$C/C^{\sharp}$	Do	"doe"
$\mathrm{D}^{\flat}/\mathrm{D}$	Re	"ray"
$E^{\flat}/E$	Mi	"me"
F	Fa	"fa"
$G^{\flat}/G$	Sol	"so"
$A^{\flat}/A$	La	"la"
$\mathrm{B}^{\flat}/\mathrm{B}$	Si	"see"

#### "Fixed Do" vs. "Movable Do"

Music educators continue to debate which method is most effective. Both methods have intrinsic qualities that help the student in various ways. For example, *movable do* develops short-term relative pitch skills that focus on the tonic note and modulation, whereas *fixed do* develops long-term relative pitch skills that are useful in tonal and atonal music. *Both methods have redeeming qualities and it is important to use some form of consistent vocalization while singing to develop the ear and reproduction of pitch without the aid of an instrument.* 

#### Mouthpiece Buzzing

In addition to being a warm-up tool, mouthpiece buzzing is an effective method to use in conjunction with solfège and drones. Oftentimes wind players rely on the instrument itself to do more of the work than they should. The buzzing of the lips is what creates the tone and pitch; the mouthpiece and trumpet only amplify the sound. Using the correct finger combination does not always mean that the right note (or a good tone) will result. An efficient and vibrant buzz will result in the best tone and intonation possible. When using just the mouthpiece, be sure to rest frequently. Free buzzing (buzzing without a mouthpiece) can also be beneficial, but only in small doses.

The following methods of mouthpiece buzzing are recommended:

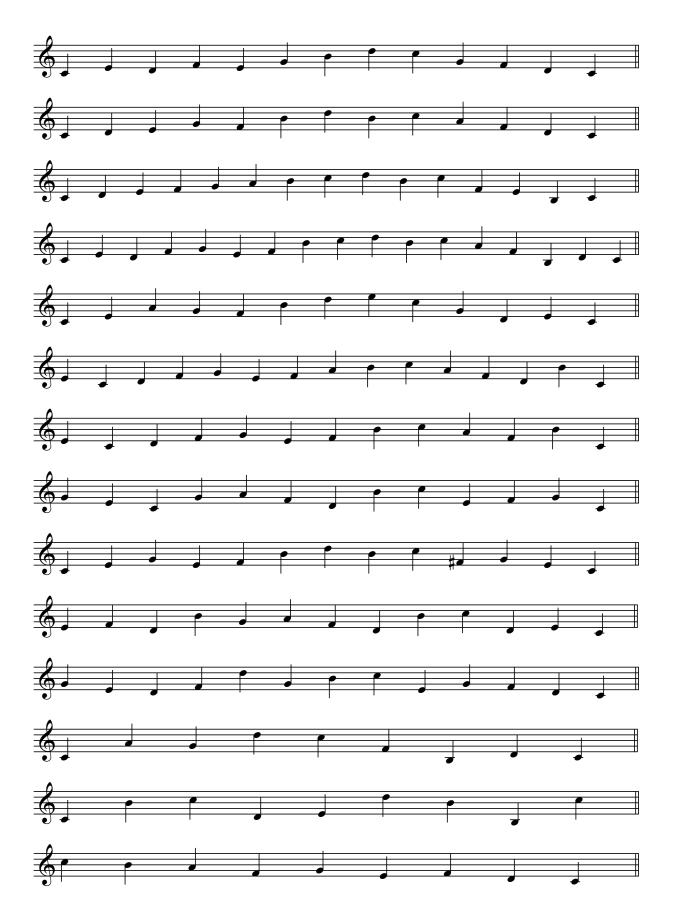
- 1. The Buzzing Book by James Thompson (Editions Bim)
- 2. Warm-Ups and Studies by James Stamp (Editions Bim)
- 3. Supplemental Studies (w/CD) by Stamp/Stevens (Editions Bim)

\*The next three pages include a series of progressively difficult intervals loosely based on scales that will help develop the ear. Both singing (solfège) and buzzing is recommended, but always practice them with a drone or the piano.

#### **Solfege Patterns**

(by John Schlabach)







#### Introduction

Scales are the most fundamental element in music composition. A thorough knowledge of scales will assist both the composer and performer in being the most complete musician. It is impossible for a doctor to successfully treat patients *Biology 101 – The Cell* was ignored. For the same reason, musicians must train themselves to be well versed in scales of all types. Once these scales have been mastered, sight-reading music becomes much easier as one notices the patterns of scales found within any given composition.

#### The Scales

To avoid a long explanation of scales, they will not be discussed here in great detail. Instead, they will be described and illustrated in the simplest terms to aid in the quickest memorization of each pattern as it is applied to all twelve chromatic tones. Basic knowledge acquired from first-year theory is all that is needed to understand the following information.

Major (Ionian) – eight-note series in the following successions of steps: W-W-H-W-W-H Natural Minor (Aeolian) – major scale with \( \beta 3, \( \beta 6, \) and \( \beta 7 \)

*Harmonic Minor* − natural minor with #7

*Melodic Minor* – ascending: natural minor with #6 and #7; descending: natural minor

*Dorian* − natural minor with #6

*Lydian* − major with a #4

*Mixolydian* − major with \$7

*Phyrgian* − natural minor with b2

Locrian – natural minor with \$2 and \$5

Whole Tone – the interval between each note is always a whole step

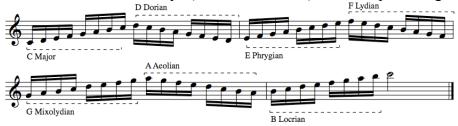
Diminished (half step) – alternating half steps and whole steps (H-W-H-W-H-W)

Diminished (whole step) – alternating whole steps and half steps (W-H-W-H-W-H)

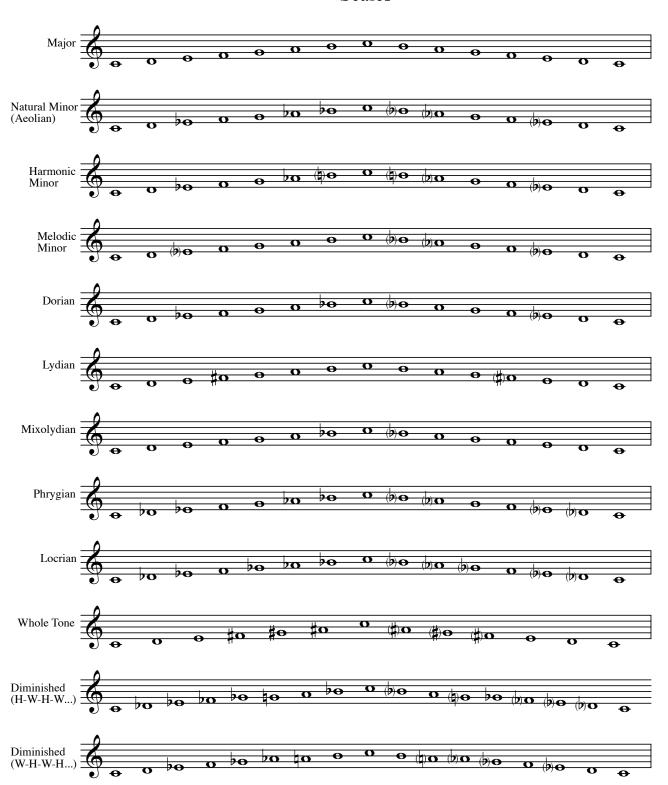
\*Another way to perceive the minor modes is to relate them back to the major scale. For instance, if one is asked to play F Dorian, simply start on F but impose the key signature from the major key that is one whole step below F (which would be  $E^{\flat}$ ). The F Dorian scale would then be: F, G,  $A^{\flat}$ ,  $B^{\flat}$ , C, D,  $E^{\flat}$ , F. This way, the only pattern that needs to be remembered is the key signature of all 12 major scales.

Dorian – impose the key signature from a major 2nd below the root Phrygian – impose the key signature from a major 3<sup>rd</sup> below the root Lydian – impose the key signature from a perfect 4<sup>th</sup> below the root Mixolydian – impose the key signature from a perfect 4<sup>th</sup> above the root Aeolian – impose the key signature from a minor 3<sup>rd</sup> above the root Locrian – impose the key signature from a half step above the root

The second half of Clarke's "Fifth Study" (*Technical Studies*) assists in practicing minor modes



#### Scales

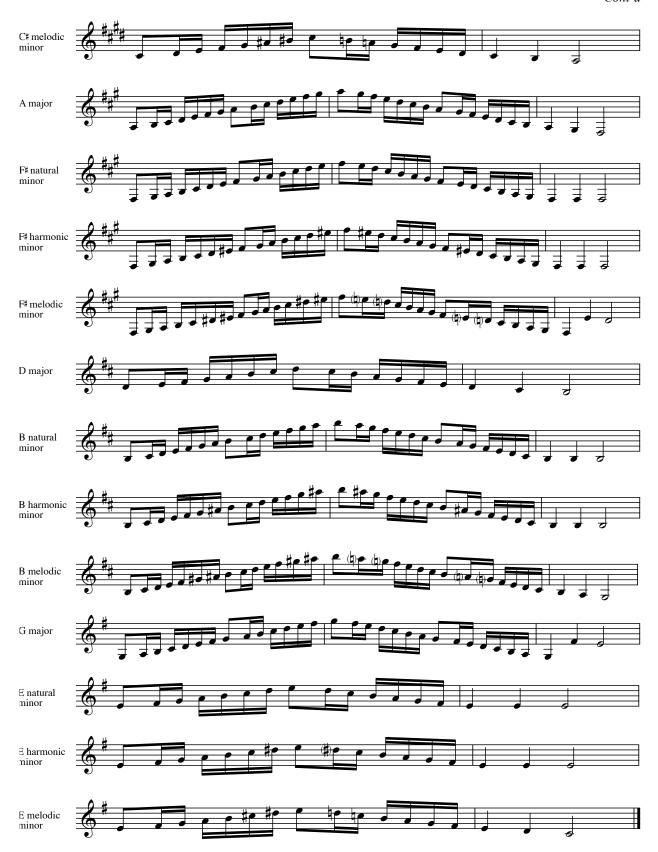


### **Trumpet Scale Routine**









#### **TRANSPOSITION**

#### Introduction

In addition to drones, one of the best exercises to develop ear training is the art of transposition. The purpose of transposition is to address the student's overall musicianship by developing the mind and ear. A note is usually cracked when the note is not heard prior to it being sounded. If the player attempts to play a G-sharp, sometimes an F-sharp or an A-sharp might come out instead. Consistent practice of transposition will greatly reduce the chances of cracking or splitting notes because it trains their ears to be more active in the process of reading and hearing music.

#### The Art of Transposition

Two main types of transposition are in common practice today: interval and clef. The former is more widely used, while the latter is also very effective. The key to learning transposition is to practice one of these methods consistently until transposing becomes second nature.

- 1. *Interval Transposition* this is accomplished by simply looking at the music and transposing each note up or down by the appropriate interval while changing the key signature. For example, if the music is written for B<sup>b</sup> trumpet and a C trumpet is being used, one would then transpose all of the notes *down* a major second and *add two flats* to the key signature (note: if the key signature has any sharps, the flats cancel them out, and vice versa).
  - a. Up a m2 add  $7 \sharp s$
  - b. Up a M2 add 2 ♯s
  - c. Up a m3 add 3  $\flat$ s
  - d. Up a M3 − add 4 #s
  - e. Up a P4 or down P5 add 1 b
  - f. Up/down a  $TT add 6 \sharp s$

- g. Up a P5/down P4 add 1 #
- h. Down a m2 add  $5 \sharp s$
- i. Down a M2 add 2 bs
- i. Down a m3 add 3  $\sharp$ s
- k. Down a M3 add 4 bs
- 2. *Clef Transposition* with this method, the note stays in the same place, but the clef changes. This is accomplished by changing both the clef and the key signature (see above) so that the resulting pitches are correct.
  - a. Up a M/m2 alto clef
  - b. Up a M/m3 bass clef
  - c. Up a P4 or down a P5 mezzo-soprano clef
  - d. Up a P5 or down a P4 baritone clef
  - e. Down a M/m2 tenor clef
  - f. Down a M/m3 soprano clef
- 3. *Using Both Methods* some musicians find it easier to pick and choose which method to use depending on the transposition required. For example, transposing up a M2 with the interval method might be easier than learning alto clef, while transposing up a M3 might be easier to read as bass clef.

Attaining fluency in transposition allows the performer to choose different pitched trumpets to facilitate agility. The chart on the next page will help determine which trumpet is best to use in any circumstance as it relates to the key.

# TRANSPOSITION CHART

by Dr. Brian A. Shook

Instructions:

1. The left column has all 12 keys listed. These represent the trumpet you are holding in your hand.

The Key Superimposed Over the Written Key Signature

- 2. The top row also has all 12 keys listed. These represent the trumpet for which the part was written (e.g. Trumpet in F; Trumpet in E; etc.).
- 3. When you are handed a piece of music, look at the key in which your trumpet is pitched, then for which trumpet it is written, and then follow the two columns until they meet. That letter represents what key is superimposed over the written key signature.
- column, then find the "F" on the top row. Follow the "D" from left-to-right, and the "F" from top-to-bottom and they both meet at "D#/Eb" (3 flats) 4. For Example: You have a D trumpet in your hand, the part says "Trumpet in F," and the key signature has 4 sharps. You find the "D" on the left which is the key you superimpose over the 4 sharps. The resulting key in which you play is one sharp: G Major.
- 5. Determine the interval between the key your trumpet is pitched in (D) and the trumpet for which the part was written (F). Answer: minor third.
  - If the trumpet you are holding is pitched lower than the music, you will need to transpose up a minor third
- 6. You are now holding a D Trumpet, reading "Trumpet in F," written with 4 sharps (E Major), and playing in the transposed key of G Major (while reading up a minor third from the written pitch).

# RECOMMENDED LITERATURE FOR COLLEGIATE STUDY

TITLE	AUTHOR	Publisher
Method Books Arban, J.B. (Goldman/Smith) Hickman, David Saint-Jacome, Louis	Complete Conservatory Method  Trumpet Lessons w/ David Hickman Grand Method	Carl Fischer  Tromba Carl Fischer
Routines/Fundamentals Cichowicz, Vincent Davis, Michael Davis, Michael Davis, Michael Mase, Raymond (compiled) Gordon, Claude  Pilafian/Sheridan Sachs, Michael Stamp, James Thompson, James Vacchiano, William	Long Tone Studies 10-Minute Warm-Up Routine 15-Minute Warm-Up Routine 20-Minute Warm-Up Routine How to Practice A Systematic Approach to Daily Practice The Brass Gym Daily Fundamentals for the Trumpet Warm-ups and Studies The Buzzing Book Trumpet Routines	Studio 259 Productions Hip-Bone Music Hip-Bone Music Hip-Bone Music Unpublished Carl Fischer  Focus on Excellence International Editions Bim Editions Bim Charles Colin
Technical Studies Clarke, Herbert L. Hickman, David Goldman, Edwin F. Vizzutti, Allen  Articulation Studies	Technical Studies 15 Advanced Embouchure Studies Practical Studies Trumpet Method, Bk. 1 – Technical Studies	Carl Fischer Hickman Music Editions Carl Fischer Alfred Publ.
Gekker, Chris Ponzo, Mark Shuebruk, Richard Vacchiano, William	Articulation Studies Low Tone Exercise Patterns and Etudes Complete Shuebruk Tongue Trainers The Art of Double Tonguing	Charles Colin M/K Music  Carl Fischer Edition Peters
Vacchiano, William  Lip Flexibilities Colin, Charles Frink/McNeil Irons, Earl Lin, Bai Schlossberg, Max Shuebruk, Richard Smith, Walter M.	The Art of Triple Tonguing  Advanced Lip Flexibilities (vols. 1–3) Flexus 27 Groups of Exercises Lip Flexibilities Daily Drills and Technical Studies Complete Shuebruk Lip Trainers Lip Flexibility on the Trumpet	Charles Colin Gazong Press Southern Music Co. Balquhidder Music M. Baron Co. Carl Fischer Carl Fischer

		Cont'd
Etude Books		
Balasanyan, Suren	20 Studies	International
Balasanyan, Suren	25 Melodic Studies	qPress
Bohme, Oscar	24 Melodic Studies	Ward Music Ltd.
Brandt, Vassily	Etudes for Trumpet (Orchestra and	Universal Music
(ed. Vacchiano)	Last Etudes)	
Charlier, Theo	36 Etudes Trancendantes	Alphonse Leduc
Gates, Everett	Odd Meter Etudes	Sam Fox Publ.
Hering, Sigmund	28 Melodious and Technical Etudes	Carl Fischer
Hering, Sigmund	32 Etudes for Trumpet	Carl Fischer
Longinotti, Paolo	12 Studies in the Classic and Modern Style	International
Small, J.L.	27 Melodious and Rhythmic Exercises	Carl Fischer
Smith, Walter	Top Tones for the Trumpeter	Carl Fischer
Snedecor, Phil	Low Etudes for Trumpet	PAS Music
Snedecor, Phil	Lyrical Etudes for Trumpet	PAS Music
Vannetelbosch, L.J.	Vingt Etudes Melodiques et Techniques	Alphonse Leduc
Various (ed. Voxman)	Selected Studies	Rubank
Various	Advanced Concert Studies	Curnow Music
Various	Concert Studies	Curnow Music
Wurm, Wilhelm	40 Studies	International
Transposition		
Bordogni, Marco	24 Vocalises	Alphonse Leduc
Caffarelli, Reginaldo	100 Melodic Studies in Transposition	Ricordi
Sachse, Ernest	100 Studies for Trumpet	G. Schirmer
Sachse, E. (ed. Vacchiano)	Moving Transposition	Edition Peters
Excerpts Books		
Dobrzelwski, J.C.	Essential Orchestral Excerpts (vols. 1–16)	Hickman Music Editions
McGregor, Rob Roy	Audition and Performance Preparations for Trumpet (vols. 1–4)	Balquhidder Music
Norris, Philip	Top 50 Orchestral Excerpts for Trumpet	Crown Music Press
Pietzsch, Hermann	The Trumpet	University Music Press
Sachs, Michael	The Orchestral Trumpet	Balquhidder Press
Smith, Norman	March Music Melodies	Program Note Press
Strauss, R. (ed. Rossbach)	Strauss Orchestral Studies	International
Various	Orchestral Studies for Trumpet (vols. 1–10)	International
Transposition Bordogni, Marco Caffarelli, Reginaldo Sachse, Ernest Sachse, E. (ed. Vacchiano)  Excerpts Books Dobrzelwski, J.C.  McGregor, Rob Roy  Norris, Philip  Pietzsch, Hermann Sachs, Michael Smith, Norman Strauss, R. (ed. Rossbach)	24 Vocalises 100 Melodic Studies in Transposition 100 Studies for Trumpet Moving Transposition  Essential Orchestral Excerpts (vols. 1–16) Audition and Performance Preparations for Trumpet (vols. 1–4) Top 50 Orchestral Excerpts for Trumpet The Trumpet The Trumpet The Orchestral Trumpet March Music Melodies Strauss Orchestral Studies Orchestral Studies for Trumpet	Alphonse Leduc Ricordi G. Schirmer Edition Peters  Hickman Music Ed Balquhidder Music Crown Music Press University Music P Balquhidder Press Program Note Press International

#### **Duet Books**

Amsden, Arthur	Celebrated Practice Duets	C.L. Barnhouse
Forestier, Joseph	12 Duets in Transposition	PWM
Gekker, Chris	44 Duos for Trumpet	Transition Publ.
Nelhybel, Vaclav	Duets for Trumpet	J. Christopher Music

Plog, Anthony 10 Concert Duets WIM

Sachse, Ernest 6 Duets International Various (ed. Voxman) Selected Duets for Trumpet (vol. 1–2) Rubank

#### Sonatas

Anthiel, G. Sonata for Trumpet Weintraub Music Ewazen, E. Sonata for Trumpet Southern Music Co. Hansen, T. Sonata for Cornet/Trumpet Hickman Music Editions

Hindemith, P. Sonate Schott

Kennan, K. Sonata for Trumpet Warner Brothers Publ.

Martinu, B. Sonatine for Trumpet Boosey & Hawkes

Peeters, F. Sonata for Trumpet Edition Peters

Stevens, H. Sonata for Trumpet Edition Peters

Torelli, G. Sonata G 1 Musica Rara

#### Concertos/Concertinos

Ewazen, E. Concerto for Trumpet Southern Music Co. Faillenot, M. Concertino Robert Martin

Fasch, F. Concerto in D Major Hickman Music Editions Haydn, F.J. Concerto in E-flat Hickman Music Editions Hummel, J.N. Concerto in E Major Hickman Music Editions

Marcello, A. (ed. Jevtic) Concerto in B-flat Billaudot

Neruda, J.B.G. Concerto in E-flat Hickman Music Editions

Pakhmutova, A. Concerto for Trumpet Hal Leonard

Sachse, E. Concerto in E-flat Hickman Music Editions Senee, H. Concertino Hickman Music Editions

#### Other Solos

Arutunian, A. Aria et Scherzo Alphonse Leduc

Balay, G. Prelude et Ballade Hickman Music Editions
Balay, G. Petite Piece Concertante Hickman Music Editions

Bennett, R.R. Rose Variations T. Presser

Bitsch, M. Quatre Variations un Theme de Alphonse Leduc

Domenico Scarlatti

Bloch, E. Proclamation Broude Brothers
Broughton, B. Folksong Black Squirrel Music
Broughton, B. Oliver's Birthday Black Squirrel Music
Chance, J.B. Credo Boosey & Hawkes

Enesco, R.

Gaubert, P.

Goedicke, A.

Concert Etude

Hickman Music Editions

Honegger, A. Intrada Salabert

Hue, G.Solo de ConcertSouthern Music Co.Peaslee, R.NightsongsMargun Music

Ropartz, J. Andante et Allegro Hickman Music Editions Thome, F. Fantasie Hickman Music Editions

Turrin, J. Two Portraits Turrin Music

Syracuse Univ. Press

Turrin, J.	Intrada	Editions Bim
Turrin, J.	Caprice	Brass Music Ltd.

#### **Books**

Bate, P.	The Trumpet and Trombone	WW Norton
Cassone, G.	The Trumpet Book	Zecchini Editore
Dudgeon, R	The Keyed Bugle, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Edition	Scarecrow Press
Farkas, P.	The Art of Brass Playing	Wind Music
Frederiksen, B.	Arnold Jacobs: Song and Wind	Windsong Press
Galway, T.	The Inner Game of Tennis	Random House
Haynie, J. and A. Hardin	Inside John Haynie's Studio	UNT Press
Hickman, D.	Trumpet Pedagogy	<b>Hickman Music Editions</b>
Johnson, K.	Brass Performance and Pedagogy	Prentice Hall
Pilafian/Sheridan	The Breathing Gym	Focus on Excellence

Pilafian/Sheridan The Breathing Gym Focus on Excellence Sanborn, C. Music Business Tactics Chase Sanborn Sanborn, C. Brass Tactics Chase Sanborn Chase Sanborn Last Stop, Carnegie Hall: New York UNT Press

Philharmonic Trumpeter William Vacchiano

Smithers, D. The Music and History of the Baroque

Trumpet before 1721

Tarr, E. The Trumpet Hickman Music Editions

Thurmond, J.M. Note Grouping JMT Publications

Weekly Planner

Semester

Sunday															
Saturday															
Friday															
Thursday															
Wednesday															
Tuesday															
Monday															
	7:00	8:00	9:00	10:00	11:00	12:00	1:00	2:00	3:00	4:00	5:00	90:9	7:00	8:00	9:00

\*Include classes, meals, practicing, rehearsals, studying, exercise, everything \*\*MUST include two non-consecutive hours of practice (minumum) each day

# APPLIED LESSON NOTES to be photocopied and filled out by the student during every lesson

Date:	
Scales	
Practice Tips	
Assignments for Next Lesson	
Grade:	
Date:	
Scales	
Practice Tips	
Assignments for Next Lesson	
Grade:	

# **Student Practice Journal**

To be filled out *every* practice session Must be submitted at every lesson in Trumpet Notebook

A commission tel	Results/Positive Comments							
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	Guar(s)							
Examples /Etmdo/Solo								
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