

Practice Tips, Warm-ups, and Recommended Materials for Trumpet Students

-compiled by Mark Flaherty

Practice Tips

- **Always play with good air support** - take full breaths and move the air through the instrument!
- Practice consistently - an hour a day (at least five days a week) can work wonders.
- Practice intelligently. Don't exhaust yourself unnecessarily. Break difficult exercises into smaller parts and put the pieces together later. Practice extremely high parts in a lower octave.
- Try singing through troublesome sections to make sure you understand the rhythms and can hear the pitches in your mind. ("If you can't sing it, you can't play it!")
- Never play anything carelessly - **always strive to make music** and learn to play with an effortless technique and a beautiful sound.

Warm-ups

The warm-up is one of the most important aspects of playing a brass instrument. Learn to warm-up properly, and develop a routine to maintain a variety of skills (tone production, tonguing, slurring, dynamic and pitch range, etc.). Here are a few suggestions:

- 1) Always begin by buzzing on the mouthpiece. Do four or five long tones - pick different pitches and hold for at least eight counts (m.m.=60). Then try playing three or four "sirens" - gliss from low to high and back down. Finally, buzz a familiar tune of your own choosing.
- 2) Put the mouthpiece on the trumpet. Play four or five long tones. Hold each note for at least eight counts (m.m.=60).
- 3) Play some lip slurs. Strive for smooth transitions between notes and an even sound in all registers.
- 4) Play a few scales using a variety of rhythms and articulations. Finish warming-up by playing a chromatic scale through the entire range of your instrument.

Method/Etude Books

The most important book for all trumpet players is:

****Complete Method for the Trumpet or Cornet (J.B. Arban) - published by Carl Fischer****
[You should purchase this book after you have been playing for two or three years.]

Other good books include:

Lyrical Studies for Trumpet or Horn (Concone)
Technical Studies (Herbert L. Clark)
First and Second Book of Practical Studies (Getchell)
27 Melodious and Rhythmical Studies (J.L. Small)
Practical Studies for the Trumpet (Goldman)
Selected Studies (Voxman)
Daily Drills and Technical Studies (Schlossberg)
Selected Duets, Volumes I & II (Voxman)

Solo Collections

Solos for the Trumpet Player (ed. by Walter Beeler)
Baroque Music for Trumpet (ed. by Robert Nagel)
The Regal Trumpet (ed. by Robert Nagel)
Concert and Contest Collection (ed. by Voxman)

Listening Recommendations - Classical Recording Artists

Maurice André	Wynton Marsalis
Rheinhold Friedrich	Gerard Schwarz
Håkan Hardenberger	John Wallace

Listening Recommendations - Jazz Recording Artists

Louis Armstrong	Maynard Ferguson
Chet Baker	Dizzy Gillespie
Terence Blanchard	Harry James
Clifford Brown	Wynton Marsalis
Miles Davis	Arturo Sandoval