
Introduction

It is imperative that the basic elements of trumpet playing are reestablished and refined each day. Precise intonation is one of these important elements. "Pitch Tendency Exercises" will help you develop a strong awareness of correct intonation. Begin by working at a moderate dynamic level and expand from there. Start in the staff and continue into the upper and lower registers. Play one of these patterns each day and rotate throughout the entire set. You may find it helpful to sing and buzz these patterns in order to refine the pitch center.

The most important element in learning to play with good intonation is developing a critical aural sense. In other words, learn to use your ear to determine correct intonation. One of the benefits of these patterns is the memorization of the perfect intervals. Once you can hear where the note must be placed for exact intonation, it is a matter of placing the pitch where you want it to go.

Once you have begun to use a tuner, it is possible to see and hear your pitch tendencies and those of your instrument. Every instrument has good and bad notes. Several factors can cause intonation problems including range, dynamics, fatigue, fingering and the natural tendencies of the harmonic series. Learning to overcome your inherent intonation tendencies with a tuner (using equal temperament) will greatly assist you in developing excellent intonation that will work well while playing with keyboard (or other fixed pitch) instruments.

In order to learn how to tune tempered intervals (thirds, sixths and sevenths), play the patterns with a partner. Have your partner hold the first note throughout the pattern. Tuning against a fixed pitch will help develop the fine tuning necessary to perform in an ensemble setting.

Elements to Consider

- ▶ Work with a tuner
- ▶ Always play with your best sound
- ▶ Keep the embouchure firm and supported by a good air stream
- ▶ Start at a moderate dynamic level and expand to piano/forte
- ▶ Practice these patterns when your embouchure is fresh and not fatigued
- ▶ Breathe fully and play in a relaxed manner
- ▶ Practice in front of a mirror to observe your embouchure and posture
- ▶ Concentrate on playing correctly
- ▶ Protect your practice time from distractions

Pitch Tendencies #3

The musical score consists of 19 numbered staves, each containing a sequence of notes and rests. The notation includes treble clefs, various time signatures, and accidentals (sharps and flats). The notes are arranged in a way that demonstrates specific pitch tendencies. A large, diagonal watermark reading 'www.hickeys.com' is overlaid across the middle of the page.



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