

ORIGINAL **Louis Maggio** SYSTEM for Brass

BY
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If you have any questions about the Maggio system or wish to schedule a brass clinic on the Maggio System, contact:
Ron Michaels, 312 Winsor St., Bound Brook, NJ 08805 (732) 489-8130
Maggio memorabilia including Maggio Shirt, Embouchure poster, CD and additional books are available through Ron Michaels as mentioned above.

TEACHING AIDS

1. THE PLAYING POSITION

THE PLAYING POSITION CAN BE EITHER SITTING OR STANDING. I WOULD USUALLY SIT IN LOUIE'S STUDIO, BUT ON OCCASION WOULD STAND IN ORDER TO LOOSEN UP.

THE INSTRUMENT SHOULD BE HELD FIRMLY WITH THE LEFT HAND. THE RIGHT HAND (SLIDE OR VALVE HAND) SHOULD BE RELAXED, BUT STILL UNDER CONTROL. THE BELL OF THE HORN SHOULD BE TILTED SLIGHTLY DOWN TO ALLOW THE MOUTHPIECE TO FIT THE NATURAL CONTOUR OF THE LIPS.

2. THE EMOUCHURE

"THE LIPS ARE LIKE REEDS. THEIR ONLY FUNCTION IS TO VIBRATE." ----- MAGGIO

THEY SHOULD ALWAYS BE:

1. "WET"
2. "TOGETHER"
3. "IN A FORWARD POSITION"
4. "CORNERS OF MOUTH IN TO EYE TEETH" (AS IF TO WHISTLE)
5. "RELAXED AND SUPPLE" ----- LOUIS MAGGIO

3. POSITION OF MOUTHPIECE

REFER TO PHOTOGRAPHS

PHOTO #2 PLACE MOUTHPIECE DIRECTLY UNDER NOSE.

PHOTO #3 MOVE THE MOUTHPIECE DOWN UNTIL THE LOWER LIP FILLS ABOUT THE BOTTOM 1/3 OF THE CUP, LEAVING 2/3 ON THE TOP LIP. THERE IS ALWAYS THE DANGER OF THE MOUTHPIECE SLIPPING DOWN TOO FAR ON THE TOP LIP, THEREFORE THE STUDENT MUST KEEP A CONSTANT VIGIL AGAINST THIS HAPPENING.

4. HOW TO TAKE A BREATH

REFER TO PHOTOGRAPHS

PHOTO #1 "TAKE A BREATH LIKE A DROWNING MAN GOING DOWN FOR THE THIRD TIME." ----- LOUIS MAGGIO

LOUIE'S MEANING WAS TO GET AS MUCH AIR AS POSSIBLE INTO THE LUNGS IN THE SHORTEST AMOUNT OF TIME.

PHOTO #2 RETAIN THE AIR AND RELAX.

"SIT ON THE AIR WITH YOUR SHOULDERS, ALLOWING IT TO SHIFT TO THE BOTTOM PART OF THE LUNGS." ----- MAGGIO

LESSON 1

PRODUCTION OF SOUND

SYLLABLES

(THE PURPOSE OF USING SYLLABLES IS TO PLAY IN THE EXTREME REGISTERS WITHOUT MAKING A CHANGE OF EMBOUCHURE.)

1. PRECEDE THIS LESSON WITH WARMUP A.
2. THE THROAT IS IN AN "AH" POSITION AT ALL TIMES.
3. PRONOUNCE THE SYLLABLES WITH THE TONGUE.
4. IN THE HIGH REGISTER, A HISSING SOUND IS CREATED WITH THE TONGUE UP AND FORWARD.
5. BE SURE AND RELAX.

(REFER TO TEACHING AIDS 8 AND 16)

SYLLABLES TO PRONOUNCE IN DIFFERENT REGISTERS

SYLLABLES	TAH	TAY	TEE	TICH
<p>TRUMPET All B\flat Instruments</p> <p>F FRENCH HORN</p> <p>TROMBONE All C Instruments</p>				
TA -----		TA ----- AH		
<p>2</p>				

LESSON VI
DIFFERENT ATTACKS

"SONNY, PLAY THEM LIKE A STRING OF PEARLS." ----- LOUIS MAGGIO

1. PRECEDE THIS LESSON WITH WARMUP C.
2. OBSERVE SYLLABLES AND PRONUNCIATIONS.
3. TAKE NOSE BREATH WHEREVER NEEDED.

TAH-----

TAY TAH-----

1

(Sub)

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TAH----- TAY TAH-----

2

(Sub)

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LESSON VII FLEXIBILITY

1. PRECEDE THIS LESSON WITH WARMUP C.
2. PLAY SOFT TO MODERATE VOLUMES WITHOUT CONSTRICTING AIRSTREAM.
3. RETAIN FORWARD MAGGIO (PEDAL) EMOUCHURE IN ALL REGISTERS.
4. SUGGESTED METRONOME SPEED - 60 - INCREASE DAILY.

TA-----AH

1

(Sub)

(Sub)

TA-----AY-AH

2

(Sub)

(Sub)



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LESSON IV

EXTREME REGISTERS

1. PRECEDE THIS LESSON WITH WARMUP B.
2. ALTERNATE THE SLUR AND TONGUE FROM DAY TO DAY.
3. THE SLUR IS USUALLY THE EASIER WAY TO PLAY THE TOP NOTES AND PEDAL REGISTER.
4. MAKE A CONSTANT EFFORT TO INCREASE YOUR RANGE EACH DAY.
5. DON'T BE DISCOURAGED ABOUT A SMALL SOUND IN THE UPPER REGISTER AT FIRST. SEE MAGGIO QUOTE,

(REFER TO TEACHING AID 9)

TAH TAH TAH TA-----AH TA-----AH TA-----AH TA-----AH TA-----AH

1

(Loop)

TAH TAH TAH TA-----AH TA-----AH TA-----AH

2



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THE LOUIS MAGGIO LIP FORMATION
Reproduced from an actual photograph in
Louis Maggio's studio, this picture proved
to be invaluable in assisting students to
grasp the idea of placing the lips in a
forward position.



#2

← lower

D.C. Octave



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WARMUP A

MOUTHPIECE PLACEMENT SHOULD BE:

1. 2/3 UPPER, 1/3 LOWER.
2. CORNERS OF MOUTH IN TO EYE TEETH (AS IF TO WHISTLE).
3. LIPS TOGETHER.
4. BOTTOM LIP SLIGHTLY UNDER AND BEHIND TOP LIP.
5. BUZZ DOWN.

(REFER TO TEACHING AIDS 2 THROUGH 7)

TA-----AH TA-----AH TA-----AH

1

TA-----AH TA-----AH

2



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