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III. Tuning Basics

1. Tuning your instrument

Put the tuner on the stand, close your eyes, and play a B-flat with a full, comfortable tone. Once you are satisfied you are centering the pitch, continue to play, open your eyes, and check the tuner.

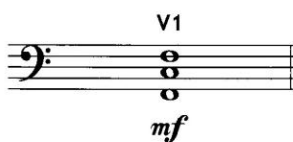
When playing your tuning note, don't bend the pitch up or down with your embouchure as this will throw off your slide placement intonation and compromise the tone. Closing your eyes should help you alleviate this problem so you can get a true reading of where your tuning slide belongs, because you won't be tempted to react to the tuner reading involuntarily with your embouchure.

You should revisit this procedure occasionally as you practice to make sure your tuning slide is still adjusted properly.



Adjust your main tuning slide based on the tuner reading.

Repeat the process to tune your F attachment valve slide. You may choose which note to tune. I like tuning to the C so it's a little high—that way I can bring up the low F, which tends to be flat.



Adjust your F attachment slide based on the tuner reading.

Bass trombonists: repeat the process to tune your second valve slide. Of course, there are many possible configurations for the second valve, a discussion of which is beyond the scope of this book. Tuning to this G-flat is a common strategy.



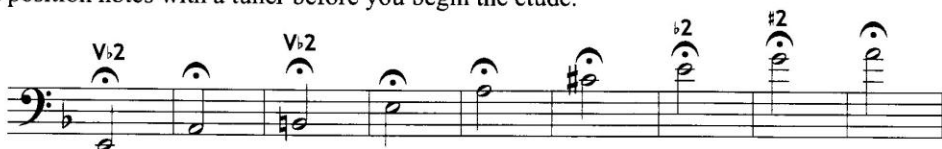
Adjust your second valve slide based on the tuner reading.

IV. Etudes

Part one: Etudes with a tuner

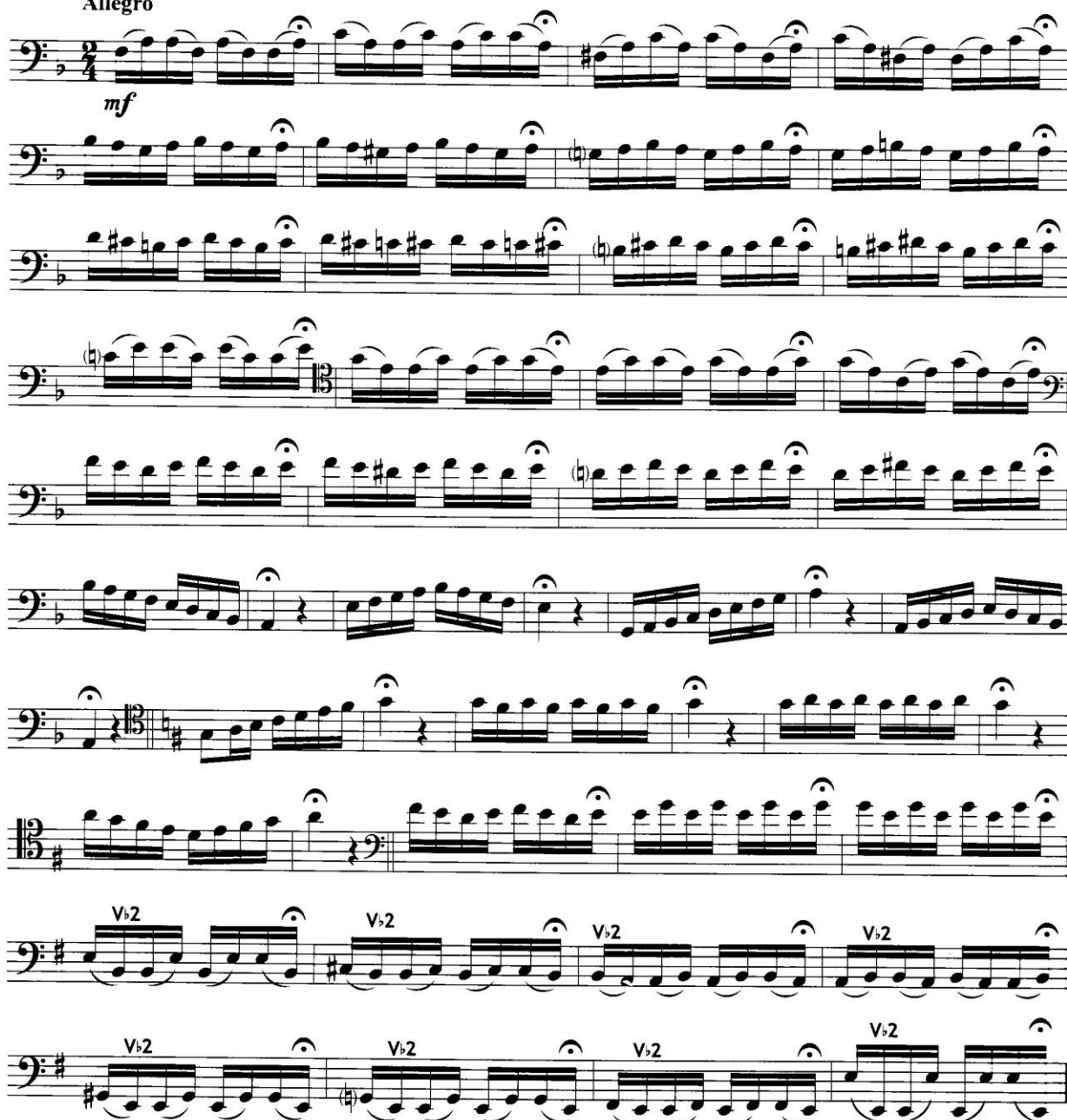
Tune each of these second position notes with a tuner before you begin the etude.

1. Second position



Look at the tuner on the fermata notes and adjust as necessary. When a slide position is given at the beginning of a measure, continue to use that position through the measure. Repeat each measure until you achieve accurate slide placement on the fermatas.

Allegro



Look at the tuner on the fermata notes and adjust as necessary. Pay careful attention to the slide position markings. Repeat each phrase until you achieve accurate slide placement on the fermatas.

Andante

13. Approaching the same note from different positions

mf

The musical score for exercise 13 is written in bass clef with a 6/8 time signature. It consists of nine staves of music. The first staff is marked *mf*. The music features various slide positions (V1, V2, 6, 7) and fermatas. The key signature changes from C major to B-flat major in the second staff, and then to A major in the third staff. The exercise demonstrates different ways to approach the same note from various positions on the fretboard.



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Look at the tuner on the fermata notes and adjust as necessary.

Allegro

22. D-flat

mf

f

marcato

f

mf

mf

mf

mf

mf

f



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V. Duets

Part one: Students and teachers

♩ = 112

Student
1. Unison
chromatic
Teacher



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♩ = 88+

Student

11. G-flat

Teacher

mf

mf

p

p

f

p

mf

f

p

f

f



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Part three: Solos and excerpts

28. Brahms -
Symphony #1

$\text{♩} = 66$

p

p

pp

pp

dim.



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29. Respighi -
Pines of Rome

Slowly

mf

sim.

V#5

mf

sim.

Freely

p

3

p

3

3



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31. Guilmant -
Morceau Symphonique

Andante

p

cresc.

dim.

p

p

f

p



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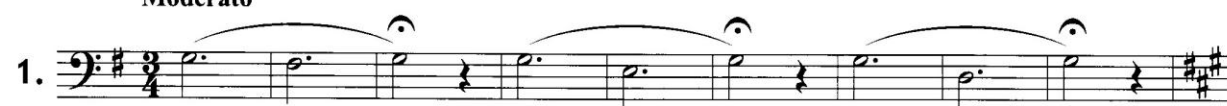
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VI. Daily Routines

1. Second and fourth positions

Play with a drone on G3; play the first two lines with your eyes closed, tuning to the drone.

Moderato

1.  *mp*

Continue the pattern down the G Major scale to low G.

Change the drone to A2.



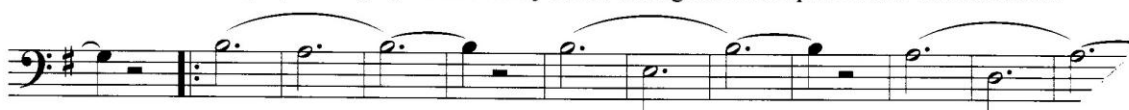
Continue the pattern up the A Major scale to top of the staff A.

Turn off the drone and watch the tuner, adjusting as necessary.



mf

3X: play-buzz-play Don't worry about tuning the mouthpiece buzz with the tuner.





Watch the tuner and keep the pitch steady.

Moderato $\times 4$

2.  *f* *f*

Play with a drone on G3. Close your eyes if possible.



f *f*

Change the drone to A3.



f



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