# Trombone

potesonery strum leepermely First Songs for Band Tablits of Musicianship

This Book Belongs To:



# Fundamental Music Instruction



<u>First Songs for Band</u> – a beginner's "starter kit".

The goal of this book is to help the very beginning student explore the first sounds, begin a study of basic rhythmic playing, learn to play in a smooth, pleasing fashion and master several notes appropriate for this level of study, all leading to the ability to perform both on a solo level and as part of an ensemble.

To make the most progress possible, a student must find a quiet place to practice and get in the habit of truly listening to the sounds being produced. Learning to critique one's sound is the best tool for building a lasting mastery of musicianship on every level. The music in this book is sequential from initial sounds to songs that are appropriate for the first performance to the beginnings of intermediate and advanced level ensemble materials.

If you patiently and consistently study the lessons enclosed, you will embark on a journey of musical performance that will set the tone for a lifetime of musical experience.

Ed Kelly, Fundamental Music Instruction Administrator







Assembly There is very little to assemble on a trombone. Place the mouthpiece into the lead pipe (near the 1st brace) with a gentle twisting motion. *Do not hit or pop the mouthpiece into place*. Popping the mouthpiece can cause a vacuum and get the mouthpiece stuck. If this happens please don't struggle to get it out – the best way is to bring it to a music store that should have a special clamp to un-pop the vacuum. Twisting too hard will simply snap the braces on the instrument and cause more problems. When attaching the slide to the bell section, make sure you don't move the bell section too close to the slide (You need room for your hand to move and to prevent the bell from hitting the slide, which can result in a dent). Always leave the slide locked when you put your horn down or in your case.

# 'Buzzing' to play your first sounds

(On the mouthpiece only)

The first step in the process is learning to "Buzz". To do this, start by slightly pulling the comers of your mouth back - keeping them against your teeth. Hold the lips gently together as though you are saying EMmm

The teeth are slightly apart so that the air can get through. (Probably the muscles in your mouth will get a bit tired after a while because you are now using muscles you are not used to.) In order to produce a Bu sound simply hold this shape and blow a steady stream of air from the back of your lips and through the closed front of the lips - usually this isn't terribly difficult to start as long as you don't squeeze your lips closed but rather stretch them across the teeth.

Once you are able to Buzz, its time to place the mouthpiece up to your mouth. It is generally divided evenly between the top and bottom lip and of course is lined up in the center of your mouth and not off to one side or the other. Now that the mouthpiece is in place, do the exact same buzz as before.







If you get the air to move at a fast enough speed past the lips and into the mouthpiece, you will hear the sound of a "Duck Call".

(Make this "Duck Call" sound at different pitches. Speed up and slow the Buzzing by rnoving the corners of your rnouth back or rnore forward - always keeping these corners against the teeth)

## (Don't Puff Your Cheeks)



Dizzy Gillespie was famous far puffed cheeks but so far as I know he is the only person to have become so famous with such a muscular difficulty.

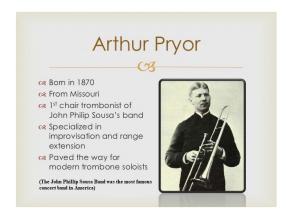
The biggest problem to avoid is "Puffing the Cheeks" otherwise known as "Chipmunk Cheeks". Keeping the corners of the mouth pulled back and against the teeth will make it nearly impossible to Puff so if you are having "Chipmunk Cheeks" it is likely the corners of your mouth are not set correctly. Likewise if the sound is similar to the sound you might get playing in a plastic bubble, the lips are probably squeezed shut and not letting air get through. (Don't squeeze lips together - let the air do the work not over rnuscling the lips)

### **Famous Trombonists:**





Joe Allesi







## **Holding the Trombone**



To hold the trombone properly put your left thumb above the brace on the bell section and reach the other fingers to curve around the 1st brace of the slide section. Your pointer fingers can stretch forward to the mouthpiece (see picture below). The right thumb is placed is placed under the 2nd brace of the slide section and 3 finger tips on on the top of the 2nd brace (see picture below). At the beginning most players will tend to grab the slide and almost look like they are punching as they slide out – try to avoid this as this will limit slide reach and slow the player down as you begin playing advanced level music. It is hard to break a long standing habit and would be better to simply start out right.







## **ALL sound is created through vibrations!**

- On brass instruments the source for vibrations is the lips. A full,
   rich buzzing sound translates into a warm rich trumpet sound.
- The faster the Vibration, the higher the pitch
- Steady Air-stream = steady sound

You can change the sound of the trombone without even moving the slide! How? The trick is ... to change speed of the air.

| Shape for tongue                                                                      |    | Air speed | Range of note |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|-----------|---------------|
| The more you stretch your lips across your teeth and the faster you make the air move | То | Slow      | Low           |
|                                                                                       | Te | Medium    | Middle        |
|                                                                                       | Ti | Fast      | High          |

Steady, supported Air-stream - The Air-stream is the "Power Source" of the Trombone Keeping it fast, steady and supported will created a clear sound

Have you ever watered plants with a garden hose?

When you want to water plants that are far away, you put the sprayer on jet spray (a smaller thinner opening for the water pressure) – causing thinner faster water spray, making it go farther.

<u>Corners of mouth - against teeth - relaxed center of lips, stretched across teeth for buzzing speed -</u> thinner lips = faster buzz - thicker lips = slower buzz

Buzzing speed changes from slow to medium to fast and very fast by stretching the corners of your mouth more and more across the teeth and making the air move faster into the trombone- not by squeezing your lips together and pressing the mouthpiece against your teeth.

This is a picture of someone playing a high note/fast buzzing - notice the corners of the mouth are

stretched back and mouth is not squeezed shut.







<u>"Brass instruments do not produce sound</u>

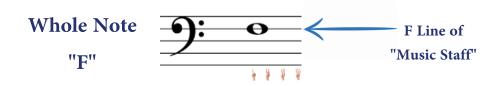
<u>Brass players produce sound"</u>

this translates to- buzzing of the lip as the driving force of the brass sound.

Joe Alessi - Lead Trombone - New York Philharmonic



Notes tell us how long to play and when placed on the music staff, what pitch to play



## Loooong Tone F

A whole rest = 4 counts of silence

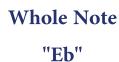




## Quarter F's





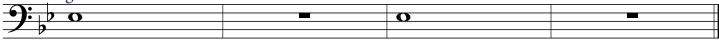




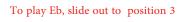
Read Eb on the Music Staff

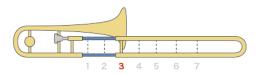
The "Space" below the F Line is for the Eb Note





Eb







#### Quarter Eb's





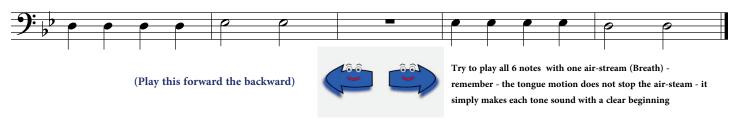








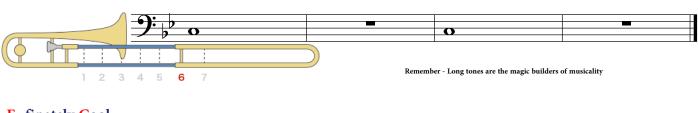
#### Forward and Backward



First Song - "Rain Rain"









## **Putting all Together**



So Far we have:

- Played Whole Notes, Quarter Notes, Half Notes
- Counted Whole Rest and Quarter Rests
- Played Long Tone and Rhythms on F Eb D C Bb
- Worked on Embouchure, Tongue sound "Too", Conversational Tone







Play the 7 notes with 1 air-stream- use the "Too" sound to make the beginning of each note clear without stopping the air-stream

Bb is the Line below the C

Space on the "Music Staff"

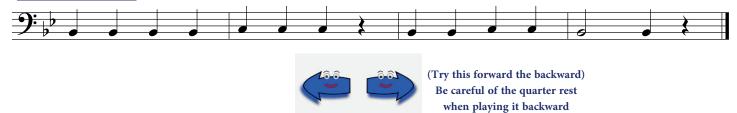


**Trouble controlling Buzzing Speed?** 

- Are your lips wet (or dry)?
- Is the Air-stream steady and firm?
- Lips closed in Mmmm position?
- Mouthpiece placed approx. 50/50
- Pinching? Don't (let the aire do the work)
- Are you puffing cheecks! DON'T











# First Songs For Band

The Top portion of the page focuses on D - C and Bb

The bottom of the page includes more advanced material for

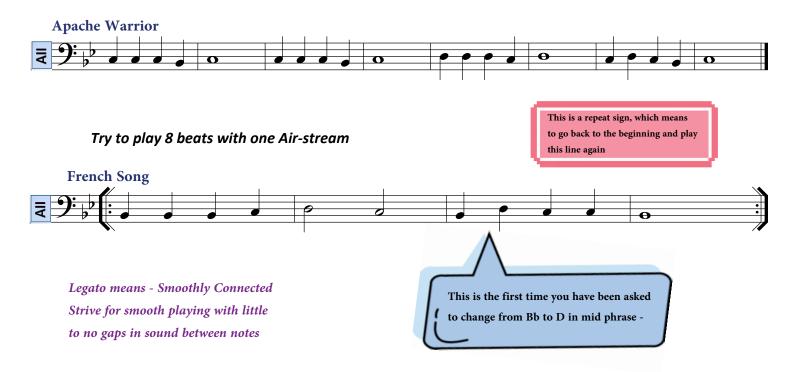
students who are ready

Continue to work for a smooth, Legato style with a warm, pleasing tone

**Hot Cross Buns** 



Steady, Firm Air-stream - Too sound that does not stop the buzz, makes the beginning of notes clear



# First Songs for Musicianship

Each Page will include pieces that will help develop musicality (Rhythm, Phrasing, Breath Control - support reading skills)

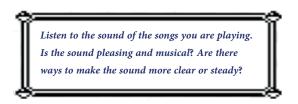


\*Speed - start at a medium pace and build up to a speed that will allow you to play each 2 measure phrase in one breath\*

#### Tisket A Tasket







#### **Christmas Chimes**



#### Mary Had a Little Lamb



#### Down by the Station



Playing Legato on Trombone means the buzzing does not stop - change notes supporting the air-stream, continuing the buzz even through the Too sound of the tongue - you will need to coordinate the Too sound exactly when you are in the new slide position



Learning to make your own judgments about the sounds you are making will go a long way toward helping you become a polished performer!

A Curved line connecting groups of notes or measures is a "Phrase Marking" for the Legato style (Smoothly Connected) Try to play all the notes of a phrase in 1 breath - this may mean you will have to play at a fast enough speed to make this possible

# First Songs for Musicianship

#### Either Or





# First Songs "4 Note Section"

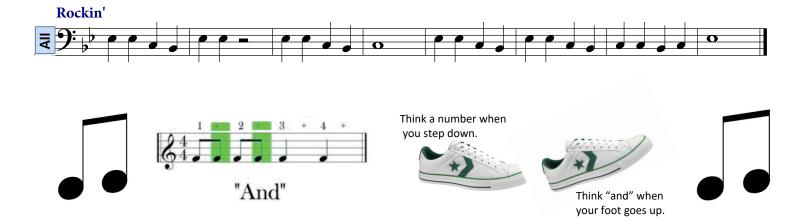
Review Eb - D - C - Bb





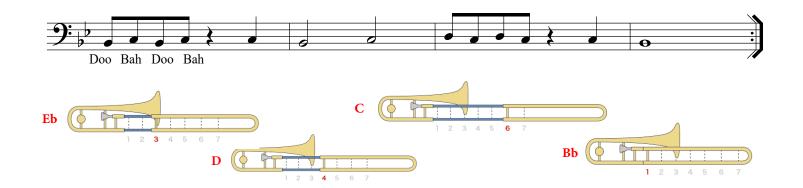








Doo Bah Doo Bah









Allegro (Fast)



Play all of these songs Adagio, Moderato and then Allegro

## Peter Piper Picked a Peck of Pickled Peppers Polka











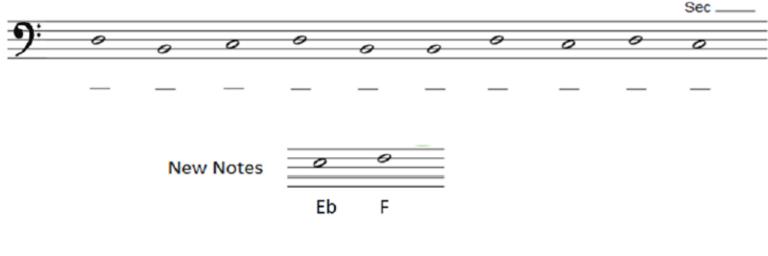


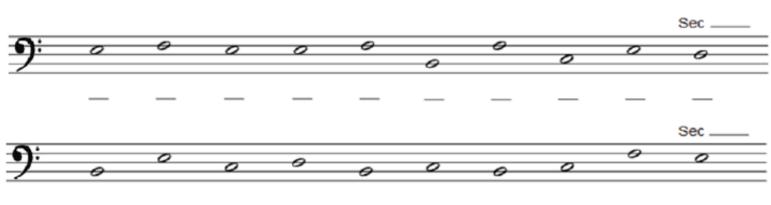
This page is a Speed Drill. The object is to see how long it takes you to correctly identify each note

How fast can you identify these notes?



(Put down how many seconds it took you for each line)





# Trombone Technique

## Three elements create the pitch:

- wind speed,
- embouchure size and
- tongue position.

| Shape for tongue                                                                      |    | Air speed | Range of note |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|-----------|---------------|
| The more you stretch your lips across your teeth and the faster you make the air move | То | Slow      | Low           |
|                                                                                       | Te | Medium    | Middle        |
|                                                                                       | Ti | Fast      | High          |

\*\*Faster air-stream speed – higher pitch; \*\*Thinner lips (stretched across teeth) – higher pitch; \*\*Higher tongue position – higher pitch. Above all - keep the air-stream steady and firm

'Eee' (Tee or Ti) shape INSIDE the mouth for higher notes (written G and C in the staff). Oh (To or Toe) shape Inside the mouth for Low C

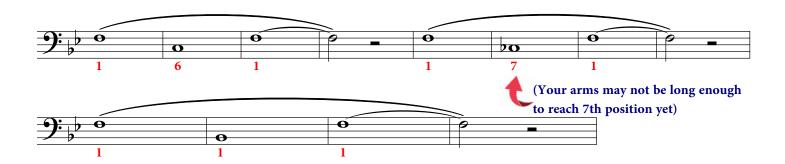
# Trombone Technique

The goal is to make each note to have the same tone quality and ease as F (second line). To improve your sound on the trombone play this as steady as you can. Take a deep and relaxed breath so you can finish each phrase with a full tone without strain.



Play each phrase in 1 breath - no tonguing required - follow the positions (since we have not studied all of these notes yet)





Play these notes in one breath - change notes without "Too" sound



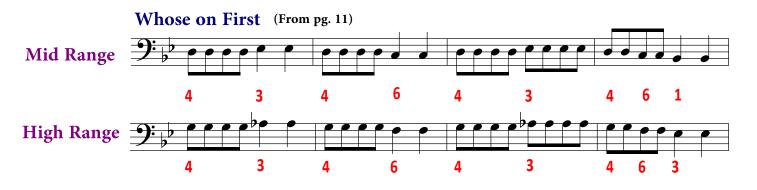
# Trombone Technique

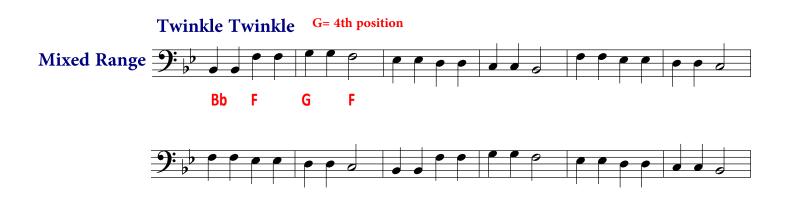
These songs will give you practice changing from id range Buzzing "Teh" shape to Fast Buzzing "Tee or Ti shape

Slide positions are provided since many of these notes have not been studied yet - also, alternate fingerings are used to keep the 2 versions of each song as close to the same as possible



\*\*\*\*F can also be played in 6th position\*\*\*\*



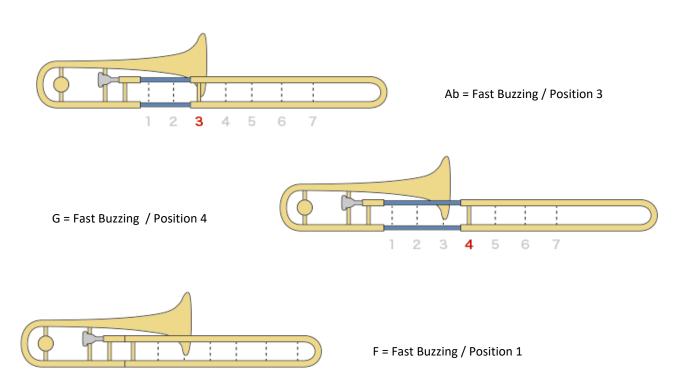


Trombone players change the "Range" of their notes by changing the shape of their mouth as they "Buzz"









# First Songs "Review 5 Note Section"

There will be several new concepts introduced in the next few pages: (Refer back to this page as these concepts are introduced)

## New Repeat Signs;

- D.S. al Fine means to start back at the "Segno" mark and continue playing until you reach the bar-line, marked with the word fine. This command stands for dal segno al fine, and literally means "[play] from the sign to the end." (segno sign )
- 1st and 2nd Endings Many times the composer will want to repeat a passage of music exactly as it was played the first time, with the exception of the final few notes or measures. In this case, the composer will use first and second endings.

## **New Time Signature:**

Until Now, we have been using
"Common Time"
known as the 4/4 Time
Signature

## 3/4 Time Signature



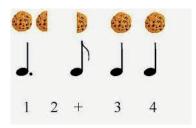
Dotted Rhythms: Adding a Dot next to a note increases the length of the note by Half

Example: A Half Note with a Dot adds 1 more beat



Here is an explanation using cookies for understanding

Quarter Notes with a Dot



# First Songs "Review 5 Note Section"

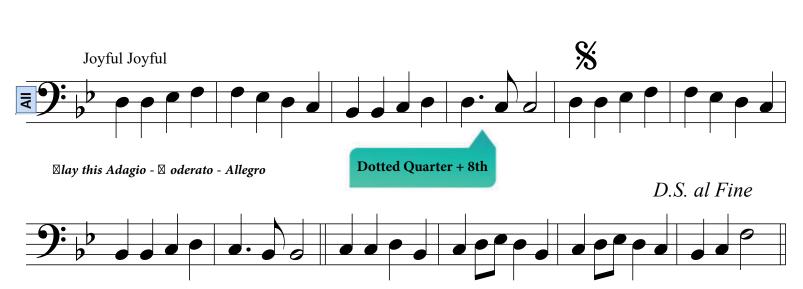


Play 7 Note phrases (Take a new beath on each quarter note rest)



Remember -the tongue gives a clear beginning to each note but does not stop the steady air-stream - play smooth phrases

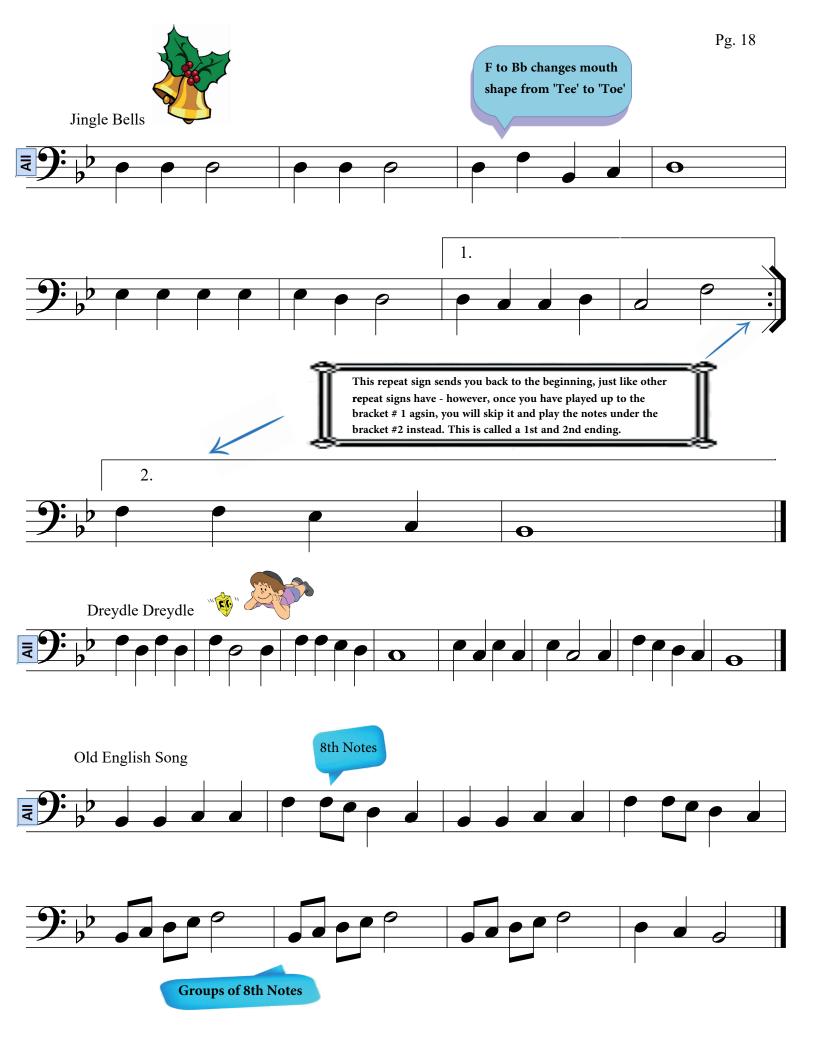


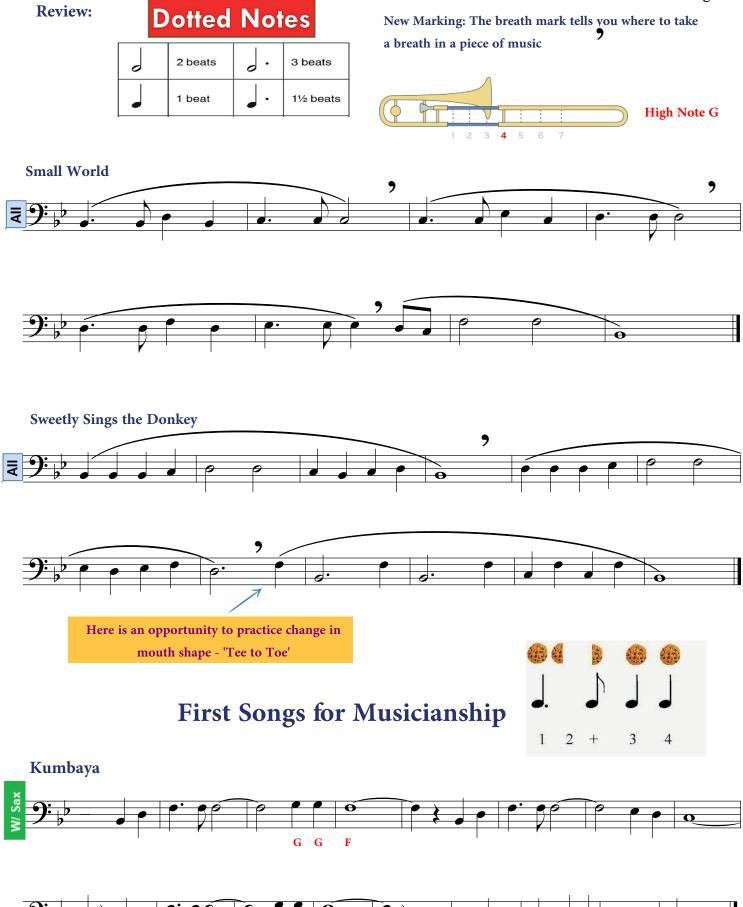






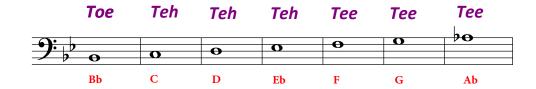






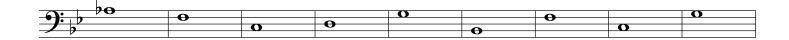
## **Trombone Notes**

**Mouth Shape:** 



1. Write the mouth shape above each note (Toe - Teh - or Tee) and the Slide Position below each Note





A phrase marking (Legato) is a curved line connection two or more notes of different pitches.

Legato passages should be played as smoothly as possible.

# Legato and Ties

2. Draw in the Phrase Marking for each Dotted Line



3. Write the total number of beats for each set of Tied Notes



## Bb, C, D, Eb, F (plus G + Ab)

You will now be slowly introduced to the notes of the lower register - Starting with A, then F

Playing more advanced pieces, musical way, require the ability to control your breath - playing longer, smooth sounding phrases.

The curved line is called a phrase marking which reminds you to use 1 breath for the phrases

New Note
Low A

Syncopated Rhythm

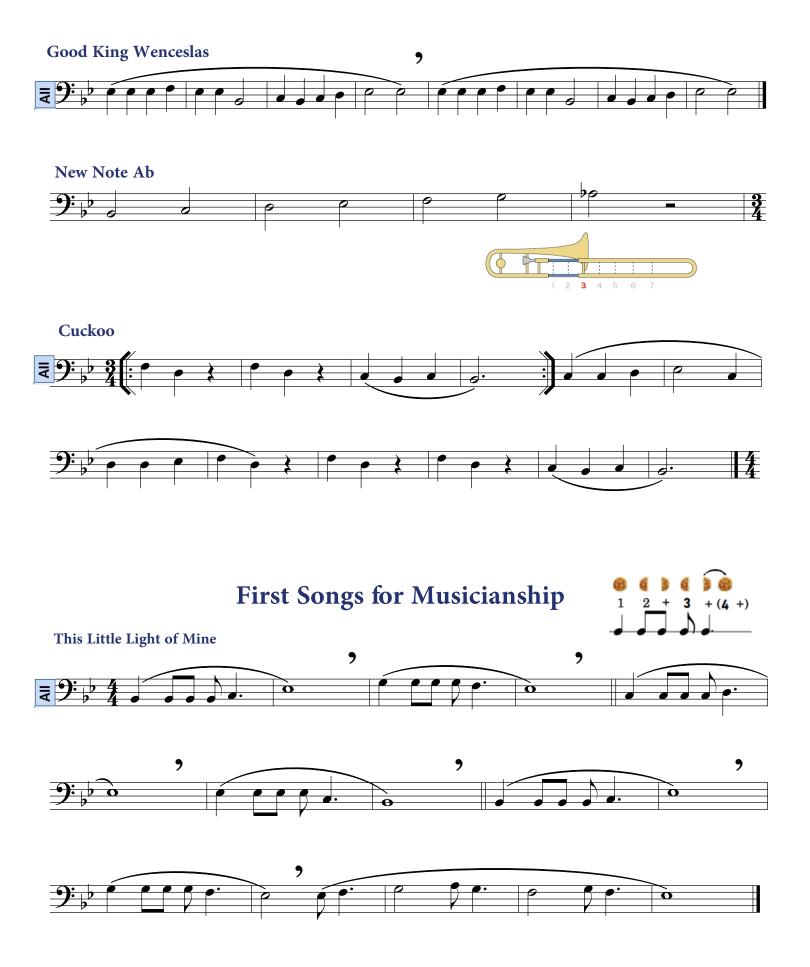
Joshua

A

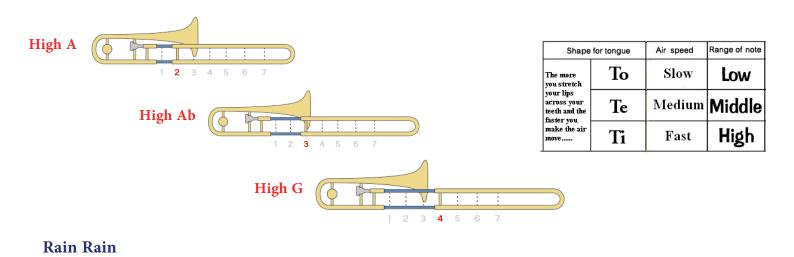
## Angels We Have Heard on High



Low note like low F require an open shape "Toe or Ahh"



# Intermediate Music Section



Factors that affect Tone: 1) air speed 2) tongue position and 3) corners of the mouth

Slow air = flat, unsteady, unclear sound. Fast air = vibrant, steady, clear sound.

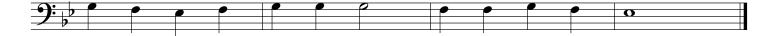


Low tongue position (ah) = unfocused. High tongue position (ee) = focused.

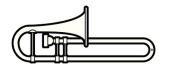
Corners should squeeze in towards the back teeth. Air-stream should be steady, fast and supported. Center of lips should not be squeezed - let the air-stream do the work.

#### Mary Had a Little Lamb









Try "this page in "Cut Time' (Alle Breve) This will mean to play each note for half of it's written value (Half note = 1 Beat, Quarters = 1/2 Beat)







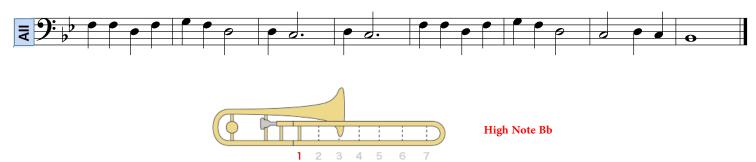
Play 4 bar Legato phrases - especially when playing Alle Breve



Legato means - Smoothly Connected Strive for smooth playing with little to no gaps in sound between notes

#### **Camptown Races**

#### Allego to Vivace (Alle Breve)



#### The Blues



#### **Good Night Ladies**



#### **Grandfather's Clock**



A pickup note (formal name: Anacrusis) is a partial measure of notes that come before the the first, full measure. It is sometimes also called an "upbeat"

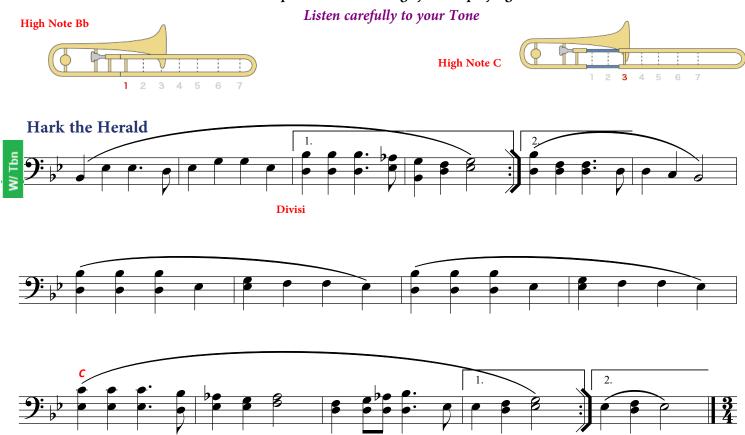


High Note Bb is used in Sing Noel - remember, when you play high notes - shape the throat, tongue and mouth in the 'Eee' - support fast moving 'cold' air (See fingering below)





'Hark the Herald' has a wide range of notes - including new High Notes **Bb** and C. This is a wonderful opportunity to work on the mouth shape needed to play very High Notes with a warm, rich tone (not a pinched, squeezed tone). Support the air-stream with your stomach muscles so the air is always steady. Adjust the Tongue, Throat and mouth shape to match the range you are playing -





In music, an anacrusis (also known as a pickup) is a note which precedes the first downbeat in a bar in a musical phrase.

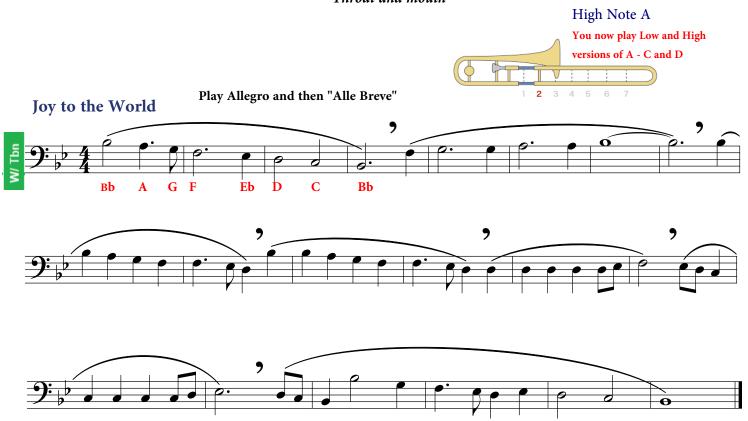


**Amazing Grace** 



'Joy to the World' is based on a C Scale - including new High Note A. Play with a warm, rich tone (not a pinched, squeezed tone). Support the air-stream with your stomach muscles so the air is always steady. Adjust the Tongue,

Throat and mouth





# First Songs for Band

"On Parade"

Trombone 2







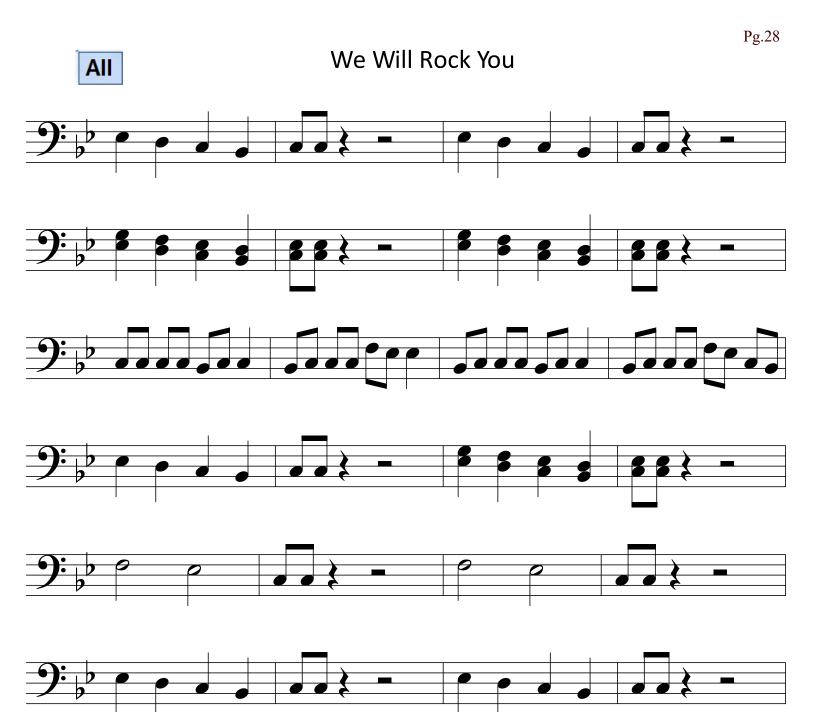
## Trombone 1

(to be added after learning Trombone 2)









This song focuses on the notes Eb D C Bb but then adds High Note G

Practice both the lower and Higher parts (Seeing 2 notes like this means "Divisi" and you choose one of the parts while another student plays the other)



# **Holiday March**

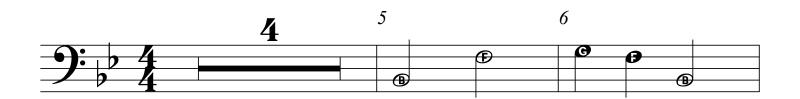


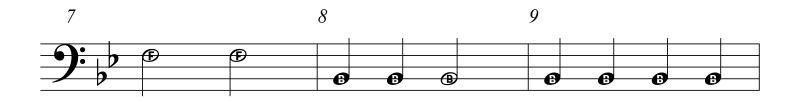


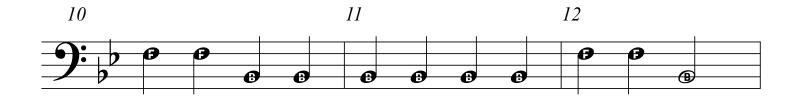
This black boxes with numbers over them means you will rest 4 measures (count 4 beats of rest for each measure - or-count to 4, 4 times)

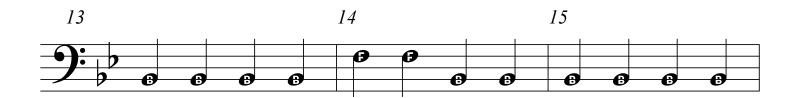


# Olympic Theme

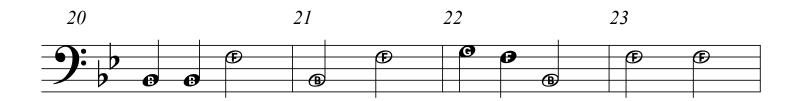


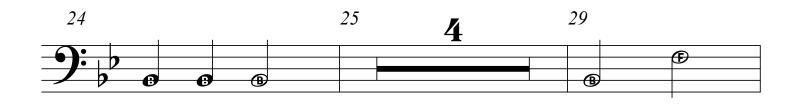


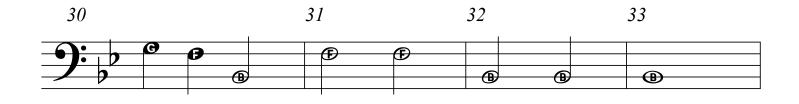


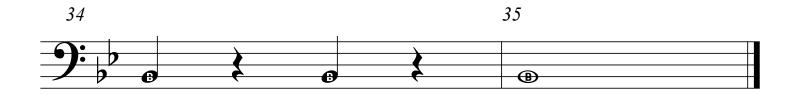














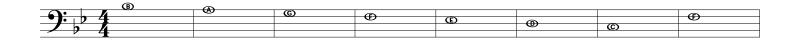


I'm a believer



I'm a believer











This is a great piece for expanding your rage to include High note Bb and A. You can then play a complete Bb Scale

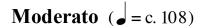


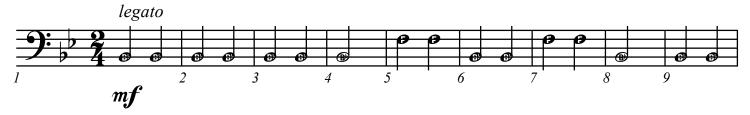
# The Crusaders





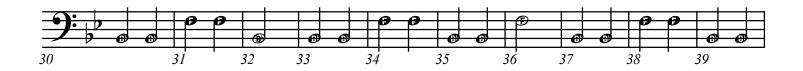
# Twinkle Twinkle Little Star









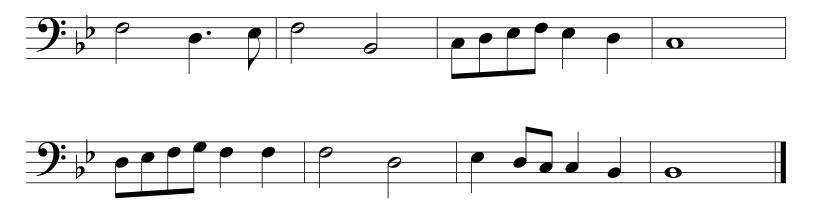






## Hail the Conquering Hero

Trombone 1





## Hail the Conquering Hero

Trombone 2

