

Trumpet Topics


Improved Single-Tonguing in 15 Minutes Per Day - Part 3

by Brian Goff, Florida State University

This Trumpet Topic page is the third of a series of articles related to improving one's single tonguing. Like so many of our trumpet techniques, great improvement can be seen in our single-tonguing if we simply discipline ourselves to devoting just a few minutes every single day to the development or maintenance of this technique.

I hope that you have incorporated the basic exercises from my past two articles of this series into your daily practice routine. I suggest that you first go through your own warm-up routine, then play these tonguing exercises before you proceed with the rest of your practicing. Be sure that you always practice these tonguing exercises with a metronome.

The following exercise has even longer groupings of sixteenth notes than in the previous exercises:



upward to lower the bell with the ring keys

E major, F major, major, E-flat major
G major, D major, A, F major

Rest briefly, then continue with the following exercise. The tempo has now been increased to mm=132.

9. $\text{♩} = 132$



Repeat this exercise for 1 1/2 minutes:
D major, G major, E-flat major
F sharp major, F major, C major

Take another brief rest then continue. This exercise is for trumpet in C. This series of exercises will gradually lead up to performing the opening excerpt from Ravel's Piano Concerto in G:

$\text{♩} = 120$ Tpt. in C



Repeat this figure for approx. 1 1/2 minutes

Bryan Goff is the Coordinator of the Winds and Percussion division of the School of Music, and is Professor of Trumpet, having served on faculty of Florida State University since 1974. He has appeared as a soloist and clinician throughout the U.S. and Europe, both on modern trumpet and Baroque trumpet. Professor Goff plays Principal Trumpet in the FSU Chamber Orchestra, the Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra, and the Florida State Brass Quintet. He served for 16 years as the Treasurer of the International Trumpet Guild and is a Past-president of the National Association of College Wind and Percussion Instructors.