

Trumpet Topics: Part IV

Improved Single-tonguing in 15 Minutes Per Day

by *Brian Goff, Florida State University*

This Trumpet Topic page is the fourth 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 three web pages 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.

Use a fast tongue motion and get the tongue in and out of the air stream quickly, so the tongue doesn't stop the air flow. Strive to maintain a very steady stream of air on the sixteenth notes and simply "dent" the air stream with your tongue.

The following exercise is similar to the exercise on the preceding page, but the tempo is slightly faster and some finger/tongue coordination is required:

Repeat this exercise 10 times in 15 minutes.

© Brian Goff, Florida State University
 Copyright © 2002, Florida State University

Rest briefly, then continue with the following exercise. The tempo has now been increased to mm=136.

Repetition exercise for the following notes:
 B major, A major, G major
 F major, E major, D major

Take another brief rest then continue with the following exercise based on opening excerpt from Ravel's Piano Concerto in G:

Repeat 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.