

A Systematic Approach to Musicality for Brass Players

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Factors of musicality

Listening
Tempo
Dynamics
Color

Listening will help you...

Consider Form
Phrasing

Tempo

Try as best you can to adhere to tempo markings

You must consider rhythm

With *ritards* and *accelerandos*, pacing is key

Don't be in a hurry one way or the other

With *ritards*, make sure that the penultimate note gets some attention

With *accelerandos*, do not be afraid to push. i.e. sequenced passages

Plan your breaths based on the above elements

Dynamics

Most good music gives you some room to create your own dynamic scheme ...take advantage!!!!

Don't play doorbells

Allow the long notes to go or come from somewhere (keep your phrasing in mind)

Ties across the barline imply some sort of suspension that needs intensity

Remember that dynamics are relative

E X P A N D your dynamic range

Color

Tough because we play monochromatic instruments

Long notes...

often require a change in speed usually slow to fast
need a wider vibrato

Ties across the barline need this intensity

Some notes will not need vibrato, i.e. open strings on cello

Don't vibrate penultimate notes

Save the "sweetness" for the last note

If you've played a really intense passage (fortissimo etc.) usually the next passage is much softer coupled with no vibrato makes for a nice color change

Adhere to articulations!

Tips for Unaccompanied Music/Cadenzas

Find the melodic material and/or rhythmic motives and highlight them in your interpretation

Plan *every* breath (unless suggested by a rest)

Enjoy the silence

Adhere to articulations!

General Comments

Don't be afraid to take risks

Exaggerate your musical gestures

Try to leave your emotions out of your performance

This can and will cause tension, loss of air and increased heart rate. None of which are good for precision.

Ask performers/conductors about what aids their musicality

Experience is your best teacher

For Booking Information-

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