BASS TROMBONE ETUDE #1

Paul Garza

Lew Gillis, 20 Etudes for Bass Trombone: Pg. 1, no. 1, "Fast"

Vital Information

Tempo: ♩ = 92–104

Time Signature: 2/4. Quarter note receives the beat, two beats per measure
Key: G Major
Scales to Practice: G Major, D♭ Major
Technique Targets: Flexibility over large leaps, double tonguing, valve technique
Form: ABA'

Learning the Piece

Style: In this etude, keep the mood light and easy; this means several things. First, the lowest notes should *not* always be the loudest notes! Play this piece so it is clear where the downbeat of each measure is. Second, the eighth notes should be *slightly* separated. Sixteenth notes should be connected and may be single or double tongued. Do not attempt to articulate too harshly, a firm legato will likely be enough. Record often!

Practice Tips: Play through each phrase slowly, always ensuring that you're playing the correct notes and rhythms. Pick which valve positions you want to use for the piece early so you have time to get used to them. Try utilizing the Gb valve for C and B in #3rd and #4th positions, respectively. Experiment and discuss with your teacher. *Always practice with a metronome.*

Air, Gliss, Tongue: Try playing each phrase in three stages. First, play through each phrase with only air and slide, no buzz or tongue. Airflow should be constant with no "bumps." Your arm should be accurate, quick, and relaxed. Second, gliss the entire phrase, making sure that the glissando between notes is just as loud as each note. Finally, play it again normally, and add as much tongue as you need to play but as little as you can get away with. Your sound should be much more resonant, continuous, and even.

Playing Rhythms: For the more technical passages (especially continuous sixteenth notes) try playing with a variety of rhythms. For any passage, I recommend the following variations on rhythms. Play through every pattern shown for each measure, and eventually through two measures, three measures, etc. Afterwards, the regular notes should be much easier.

Regular   Long-short   Short-long   Long-short-short-short   Short-short-short-long