

Michael Hoeltzel
Mastery of the French Horn
Technique and musical expression



ED 9935

 **SCHOTT**

Michael Hoeltzel

Mastery of the French Horn

Technique and musical expression

English Translation by
William Melton

ED 9935



Mainz · London · Madrid · New York · Paris · Prag · Tokyo · Toronto

© 2006 SCHOTT MUSIK INTERNATIONAL GmbH & Co. KG, Mainz · Printed in Germany

Bestellnummer: ED 9935

Covergestaltung: H. J. Kropp
Cover-Photo: Modell 103 der Firma Alexander, Mainz
© 2006 Schott Musik International, Mainz
Printed in Germany · BSS 51997

Preface	5	Which Horn for Which Music?	79
Advanced Daily Technical Exercises	6	Intonation, Sound Color, and Combination Possibilities on the B flat/F Double Horn	79
Warm-up, Scales, and Arpeggio Exercises	6	The B flat/High F Descant Horn	82
Legato Exercises throughout the Entire Range	19	Articulation on the B flat/High F Descant	83
Legato and Portamento in the Repertoire	44	Fingering Chart for the High F Horn	90
The Art of Practicing	46	The Horn and Horn Playing over the Centuries (a Short Manual of Style)	91
Methods of Effective Practice	46	Baroque Style	91
Example of Detailed Practice on Mozart's <i>Solfeggio in E flat</i> , K. 393	52	Viennese Classical Style	92
The Way to an Individual Tone	56	The Horn in the Romantic Era	94
The Effect of Breath, Hand Position, and Manner of Holding the Horn on Sound Color	56	A Detour: the Wagner Tuba	98
Centering the Tone (Intonation Exercises)	58	From Richard Strauss through Modern Music	109
Tuning	60	The Cadenza in the Solo Literature	113
Vibrato	61	A Personal Cadenza —	113
Shaping the Music	64	Rules to Follow	113
Different Types of Articulation	64	Sample Cadenzas with Their Introductory Accompaniments	115
Phrasing	66	Competitions, Juries, Auditions, and Solo Performances	131
Ornamentation	70	The Psychological Preparation	131
		Horn Playing as a Profession	133
		Managing Your Own Career	133
		Literature about the Horn	134
		About the Author	135

Preface

Mastery of the French Horn is meant to aid hornists in improving their technique, with the goal of using the horn as a means of musical expression. Though experience shows that some teachers and pupils tend to avoid reading the accompanying text, this third volume of my *Method for French Horn* contains much that should be read. In order to form a musical personality, certain technical, tonal, stylistic, and

aesthetic themes must be addressed, because their development leads to independent artistic work and creation — and this process requires a few words. The last chapter treats topics that are often given short shrift: the psychological preparation for juries, auditions, and solo performances, the basic rules of stage presence, and even the managing of your own career.

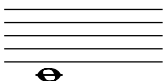
Michael Hoeltzel

Advanced Daily Technical Exercises

Warm-up, Scales, and Arpeggio Exercises

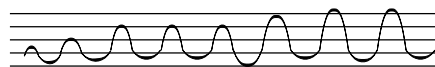
This topic is addressed in detail in the first and second volumes of my *Method for French Horn*. But even advanced students must deal with the question of how much warm-up is necessary each day to stabilize the embouchure. Such a daily session can become so ingrained that a player feels defenseless if circumstances require that it be shortened or even skipped completely. In order to cope with stress of this kind, it is recommended that the student sometimes go directly to orchestra excerpts or solo concerti after just two to three minutes of the most essential warm-up (an amount of time that is almost always available). This is meant solely in the sense of emergency training.

There are various methods of warming-up the embouchure and getting blood flowing to the lips. First is buzzing the lips, which can prepare the player very well for playing the instrument by isolating proper breathing and use of the lip musculature. It is important that the breath functions as if the horn were on the lips, and that long, viable tones result. Persistent buzzers can master exercises of an astonishingly wide range and so enormously strengthen their embouchure muscles. To learn this technique play a c'

(in F ).

While playing move the horn mouthpiece away from the lips, still buzzing further while keeping the airstream and lip tension constant. This probably won't work perfectly on the first try, but its mastery is well worth the effort involved. Soon this c' can be buzzed without beginning it on the horn, and an octave and more can gradually be reached tone by tone. The great advantage of this hornistic "dry run" lies in developing a gradual increase of tension in the embouchure

that does not yield to hypertension, even in the highest register. Daily training will be rewarded with a noticeable strengthening of the facial muscles within a relatively short time. Playing on the mouthpiece alone can also aid the embouchure, especially if a mirror is used to help monitor the process. Ever-widening glissando spirals help develop relaxed, minimal pressure playing of great flexibility. For example:



It is of enormous importance for any warm-up that the following hornistic virtues are closely monitored:

1. Posture: relaxed shoulders, for example
2. Horn position: hand position in the bell, finger position on the valve levers
3. Relaxed breathing and tone production

The following exercises, taken from volume two of my *Method for French Horn*, lead gradually from the warm-up into a daily technical program. They don't require a virtuosic, rapid tempo, but rather a cultivated approach to scales and arpeggios with scrupulous attention to articulation, dynamics and intonation.

If this program is practiced conscientiously, assured results will include a mobile, dynamic, and healthy sounding low register, an open lower-middle register free of audible breaks, a dependable upper register, and above all an ease in moving through all ranges. Only then will the requirements have been met for playing difficult entrances (like the beginning of the *Horn Concerto* by Reinhold Glière, Richard Strauss' *Heldenleben*, or Richard Wagner's *Rheingold*) with a secure, beautiful sound, pure intonation, and proper dynamic.

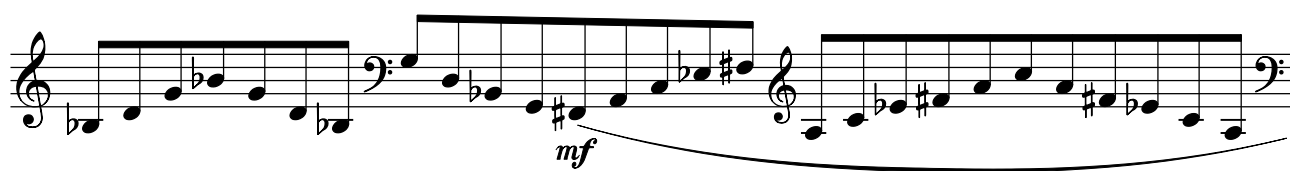
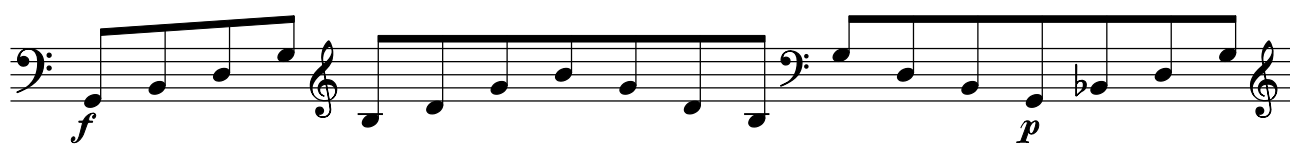
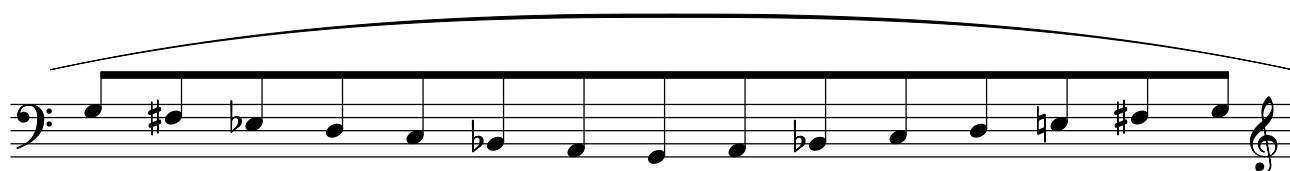
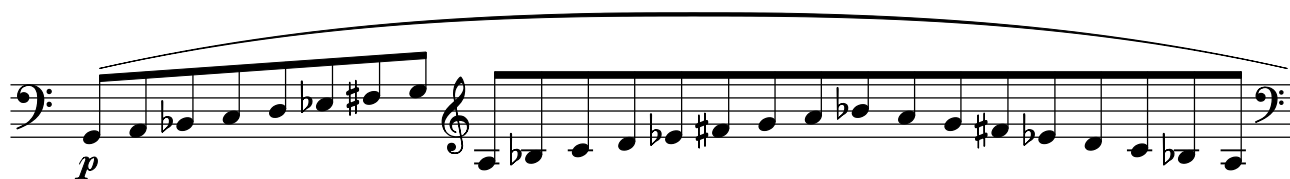
Daily Exercises

$\text{♩} = 52$

The exercises are as follows:

- Exercise 1:** A two-staff exercise in C major. The bass staff starts with a half note G2, followed by quarter notes A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F3, G3, and a half note A3. The treble staff starts with a half note C4, followed by quarter notes B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4, and a half note B3. A dashed slur covers the first four measures of each staff. Dynamic markings include *mf* and accents.
- Exercise 2:** A two-staff exercise in C major. The bass staff starts with a half note G2, followed by quarter notes A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F3, G3, and a half note A3. The treble staff starts with a half note C4, followed by quarter notes B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4, and a half note B3. A solid slur covers the first four measures of each staff. Dynamic markings include *f* and accents.
- Exercise 3:** A two-staff exercise in C major. The bass staff starts with a half note G2, followed by quarter notes A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F3, G3, and a half note A3. The treble staff starts with a half note C4, followed by quarter notes B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4, and a half note B3. A solid slur covers the first four measures of each staff. Dynamic markings include *p* and accents.
- Exercise 4:** A two-staff exercise in C major. The bass staff starts with a half note G2, followed by quarter notes A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F3, G3, and a half note A3. The treble staff starts with a half note C4, followed by quarter notes B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4, and a half note B3. A solid slur covers the first four measures of each staff. Dynamic markings include *f* and accents.
- Exercise 5:** A two-staff exercise in C major. The bass staff starts with a half note G2, followed by quarter notes A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F3, G3, and a half note A3. The treble staff starts with a half note C4, followed by quarter notes B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4, and a half note B3. A solid slur covers the first four measures of each staff. Dynamic markings include *p* and accents.
- Exercise 6:** A two-staff exercise in C major. The bass staff starts with a half note G2, followed by quarter notes A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F3, G3, and a half note A3. The treble staff starts with a half note C4, followed by quarter notes B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4, and a half note B3. A solid slur covers the first four measures of each staff. Dynamic markings include *f* and accents.
- Exercise 7:** A two-staff exercise in C major. The bass staff starts with a half note G2, followed by quarter notes A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F3, G3, and a half note A3. The treble staff starts with a half note C4, followed by quarter notes B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4, and a half note B3. A solid slur covers the first four measures of each staff. Dynamic markings include *f* and accents.
- Exercise 8:** A two-staff exercise in C major. The bass staff starts with a half note G2, followed by quarter notes A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F3, G3, and a half note A3. The treble staff starts with a half note C4, followed by quarter notes B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4, and a half note B3. A solid slur covers the first four measures of each staff. Dynamic markings include *f* and accents.

Daily Exercises



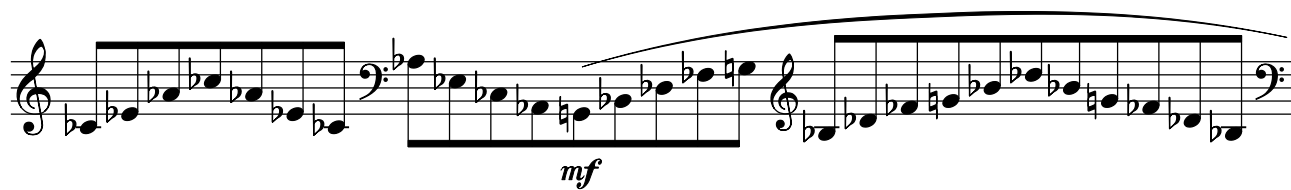
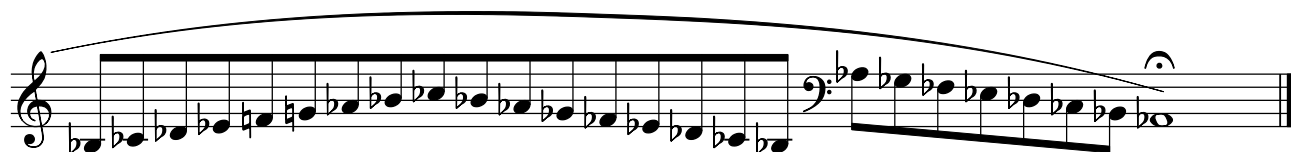
Daily Exercises

$\text{♩} = 52$

The exercises are as follows:

- Exercise 1:** Bass staff starts with *mf*. Treble staff ends with a fermata. Both staves have a dashed slur over the first six measures.
- Exercise 2:** Bass staff starts with *f*. Treble staff ends with a fermata. Both staves have a solid slur over the entire piece.
- Exercise 3:** Bass staff starts with *p*. Treble staff ends with a fermata. Both staves have a solid slur over the entire piece.
- Exercise 4:** Bass staff starts with *f*. Treble staff ends with a fermata. Both staves have a solid slur over the entire piece.
- Exercise 5:** Bass staff starts with *p*. Treble staff ends with a fermata. Both staves have a solid slur over the entire piece.
- Exercise 6:** Bass staff starts with *f*. Treble staff ends with a fermata. Both staves have a solid slur over the entire piece.
- Exercise 7:** Bass staff starts with *p*. Treble staff ends with a fermata. Both staves have a solid slur over the entire piece.
- Exercise 8:** Bass staff starts with *f*. Treble staff ends with a fermata. Both staves have a solid slur over the entire piece.

Daily Exercises



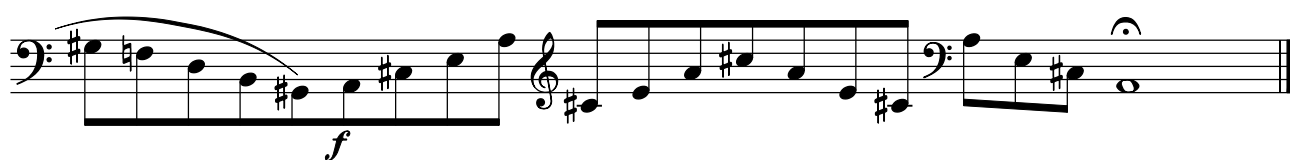
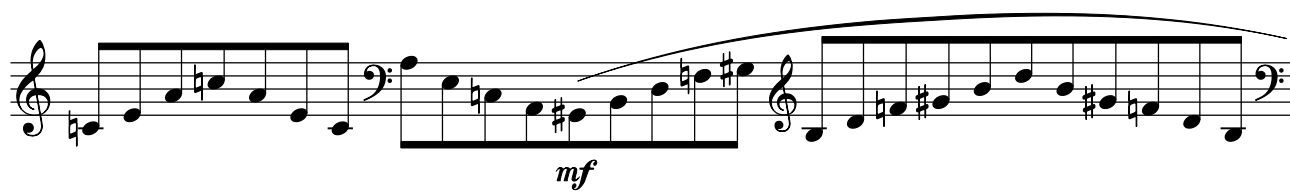
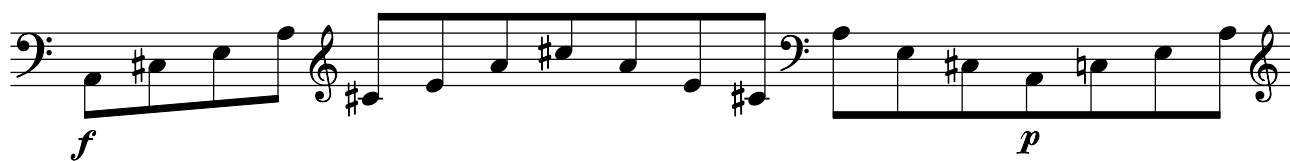
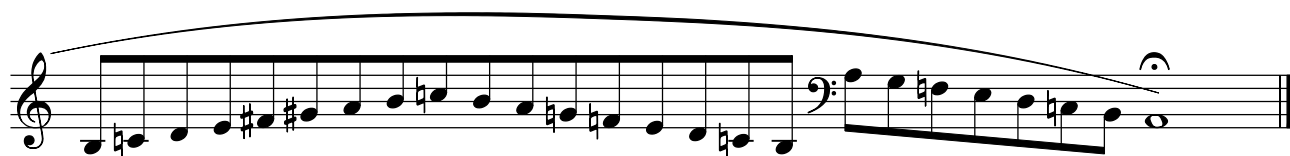
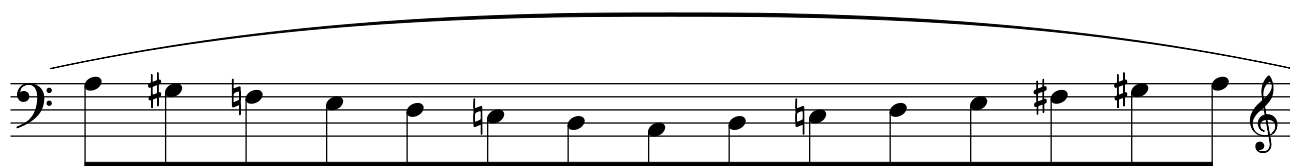
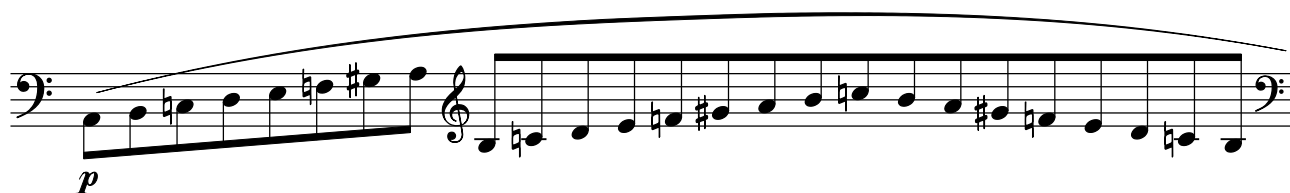
Daily Exercises

$\text{♩} = 52$

The exercises are as follows:

- Exercise 1:** Bass staff starts with *mf*. Treble staff ends with a fermata.
- Exercise 2:** Bass staff starts with *f*. Treble staff ends with a fermata.
- Exercise 3:** Bass staff starts with *p*. Treble staff ends with a fermata.
- Exercise 4:** Bass staff starts with *f*. Treble staff ends with a fermata.
- Exercise 5:** Bass staff starts with *p*. Treble staff ends with a fermata.
- Exercise 6:** Bass staff starts with *f*. Treble staff ends with a fermata.
- Exercise 7:** Bass staff starts with *p*. Treble staff ends with a fermata.
- Exercise 8:** Bass staff starts with *f*. Treble staff ends with a fermata.

Daily Exercises



Daily Exercises

$\text{♩} = 52$

The exercises are as follows:

- Staff 1 (Bass Clef):** A half-note scale starting on G-flat, moving up to D-flat. Dynamic: *mf*. Includes a dashed slur over the first six notes.
- Staff 2 (Treble Clef):** A half-note scale starting on G-flat, moving up to D-flat. Includes a dashed slur over the first six notes.
- Staff 3 (Bass Clef):** A half-note scale starting on G-flat, moving up to D-flat. Dynamic: *f*. Includes a solid slur over the entire staff.
- Staff 4 (Treble Clef):** A half-note scale starting on G-flat, moving up to D-flat. Dynamic: *p*. Includes a solid slur over the entire staff.
- Staff 5 (Bass Clef):** An arpeggiated half-note scale starting on G-flat, moving up to D-flat. Dynamic: *f*.
- Staff 6 (Bass Clef):** An arpeggiated half-note scale starting on G-flat, moving up to D-flat. Dynamic: *p*.
- Staff 7 (Treble Clef):** An arpeggiated half-note scale starting on G-flat, moving up to D-flat. Dynamic: *f*.
- Staff 8 (Treble Clef):** An arpeggiated half-note scale starting on G-flat, moving up to D-flat. Includes a solid slur over the first six notes.