

# JAZZ TROMBONE

Masterclass by Jennifer Krupa

Lead trombone in the DIVA Jazz Orchestra

Music Director of the U.S. Navy Band Commodores Jazz Ensemble

## 1. Creativity

- a. Set aside time EVERY DAY to be creative
  - i. On trombone
  - ii. On piano
  - iii. Singing
  - iv. Painting
  - v. Coloring
  - vi. Writing
  - vii. Improv – jokes, acting
  - viii. Movement

## 2. Foundations

### a. Long tones – **focus on quality of sound, while using the least amount of effort**

- i. Use a tuner to lock in your pitch
- ii. A tuner is not ABSOLUTE pitch – you have to tune to others. Use your ears!
  1. Use a toner, while 1 pitch is sounded – find your intonation with your ears to the pitch and confirm with the tuner
  2. Use drones – cello drones on YouTube are a great tool!
  3. Play an octave, 5<sup>th</sup> or triad on keyboard with the pedal

### b. Lip slurs/flexibility

- i. Essential skill of all brass players
- ii. Practice with metronome and tuner
  1. Place metronome on small beats, then expand to big beats
- iii. CONSTANTLY expand the range of intervals

### c. Legato and lyrical studies

- i. Rochuts – Melodious Etudes for Trombone by Joannes Rochut
- ii. Bach Cello Suites

### d. Theory and scales - **Focus is always to improve your technique so that you can play anything that you hear in your head!**

- i. SCALES - Playing scales up and down does NOT MEAN THAT YOU KNOW THEM!
  1. Play scales in 3rds
    - a. Play scales ascending (in 3rds)
    - b. Play scales ascending in (downward 3rds)
    - c. Play scales ascending in (up 3rds, down 3rds)
    - d. Play scales ascending in (down 3rds, up 3rds)
    - e. *½ step approach to scale tones*
      - i. (½ step below 1)-1-3, b2-2-4, b3-3-5, etc.

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2. Play scales in triads (group as triplets, and as 8<sup>th</sup> notes)
    - a. Play scales ascending (in triads)
    - b. Play scales ascending in (downward triads)
    - c. Play scales ascending in (up triads, down triads)
    - d. Play scales ascending in (down triads, up triads)
    - e. *½ step approach to scale tones*
      - i. ( $\frac{1}{2}$  step below 1)-1-3-5, b2-2-4-6, b3-3-5-7, etc.
  3. Play scales ascending in arpeggios
    - a. Play scales ascending (in arpeggios)
    - b. Play scales ascending in (downward arpeggios)
    - c. Play scales ascending in (up arpeggios, down arpeggios)
    - d. Play scales ascending in (down arpeggios, up arpeggios)
    - e. *½ step approach to scale tones*
  4. Play scales ascending in 4ths
  5. Play scales ascending in 5ths
  6. Play scales ascending in 6ths
  7. Play scales using a pedal, with expanding intervals
    - a. Arbans “Intervals” (starts on page 126)
  8. Play scales in triplets
    - a. Arbans “Triplets” (starts on page 136)
- ii. TRIADS
1. Check out Arbans for introduction to triads and chord studies  
“The Perfect Chord in Major and Minor Keys” (starts on page 151)
  2. By quality
    - a. Major
    - b. Minor
    - c. Diminished
    - d. Augmented
  3. Ascending and descending (use different tonguing)
    - a. Use different root movements
      - i. Around the cycle
      - ii. Ascending whole steps
      - iii. Ascending  $\frac{1}{2}$  steps
      - iv. Ascending minor 3rds
    - b. Use different inversions
      - i. Root position (1-3-5)
      - ii. 1<sup>st</sup> inversion (3-5-1)
      - iii. 2<sup>nd</sup> inversion (5-1-3)
      - iv. Play more than 1 octave
        1. 1-3-5-1
        2. 3-5-1-3
        3. 5-1-3-5
    - c. *½ step approach to scale tones*
      - i. ( $\frac{1}{2}$  step below 1)-1-3-5

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## iii. ARPEGGIOS

### 1. By quality

- a. Major 7<sup>th</sup>
- b. Dominant 7<sup>th</sup>
- c. Minor 7<sup>th</sup>
- d. Half diminished 7<sup>th</sup> (minor 7<sup>th</sup> flat 5)
- e. Diminished 7<sup>th</sup>
- f. Augmented, major 7<sup>th</sup>
- g. Minor, major 7<sup>th</sup>

### 2. Ascending and descending

- a. Use different root movements (see triads)
- b. Use different inversions
  - i. Root position (1-3-5-7)
  - ii. 1<sup>st</sup> inversion (3-5-7-1)
  - iii. 2<sup>nd</sup> inversion (5-7-1-3)
  - iv. Play more than 1 octave
    1. 1-3-5-7-1 (or consider using the 9<sup>th</sup> instead of root)
    2. 3-5-7-1-3
    3. 5-7-1-3-5
    4. 7-1-3-5-7
- c. ½ step approach to scale tones
  - i. (½ step below 1)-1-3-5-7

## e. Scale patterns

- i. 1-2-3-5
- ii. 1-2-3-4-5
- iii. 1-3-5-6 (gives your freedom from having to outline the 7<sup>th</sup>)
- iv. Pentatonic Scale
  1. 1-2-3-5-6
  2. Practice in as many inversions as you can think up
- v. Blues Scale
  1. 1-b3-4-b5-5-b7
  2. 1-[b3-3-4-b5-5-b5-5-3-b3] chromatic within blues scale
- vi. Chromatic Fragments of Diminished Scale
  1. Descending Bb diminished chord from root
    - a. Bb, A-Ab, G, Gb-F, E, Eb-D, Db, C-B, Bb

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## 3. LISTENING

- a. What appeals to you?
- b. Can you sing it?
- c. Can you make it your own?
- d. Can you emulate it on your horn?
- e. Can you convey to others your musical style without using words?
  - i. Are you consistent in your approach?
  - ii. Are you open to others styles?
  - iii. Can you adapt *your* playing to fit others?

## 4. Jazz trombone approaches

- |                      |                      |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| a. Kid Ory           | k. Steve Turre       |
| b. Jack Teagarden    | l. Wycliffe Gordon   |
| c. Tommy Dorsey      | m. Steve Davis       |
| d. Tricky Sam Nanton | n. Vincent Gardner   |
| e. J.J. Johnson      | o. Ryan Keberle      |
| f. Al Grey           | p. Michael Dease     |
| g. Trummy Young      | q. Marshall Gilkes   |
| h. Frank Rosolino    | r. Elliott Mason     |
| i. Dick Nash         | s. So many more..... |
| j. Curtis Fuller     |                      |

## 5. Check out other instruments and vocalists and make it your own

- |                       |                      |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| a. Louis Armstrong    | n. Ma Rainey         |
| b. Bubber Miley       | o. Dizzy Gillespie   |
| c. Sweets Edison      | p. Miles Davis       |
| d. Charlie Parker     | q. Dexter Gordon     |
| e. Cannonball Adderly | r. Sonny Stitt       |
| f. Ella Fitzgerald    | s. Wynton Marsalis   |
| g. Sarah Vaughan      | t. Ingrid Jensen     |
| h. Nina Simone        | u. Sherrie Maricle   |
| i. Duke Ellington     | v. Roxy Coss         |
| j. Count Basie        | w. Renee Rosnes      |
| k. Oscar Peterson     | x. Alexa Tarantino   |
| l. Ahmad Jamal        | y. Christian McBride |
| m. Roy Haynes         | z. Herbie Hancock    |