TUBA

Performance Notes for 2010-2011 All-State Band Auditions

by

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JUNIOR BAND: Getchell/Hovey, Second Book of Practical Studies for Tuba, p. 7, no. 77, low notes, no repeats [no dal segno], quarter note = 92.

The biggest challenge here is the dynamic changes from forte to piano. Make sure that you make a clear difference. "Forte" is three dynamic levels louder than "piano." Remember that forte means loud, not as loud as possible. Always keep a controlled tone. Be careful that the dotted eighth-sixteenth note rhythms are not played as triplet patterns.

CLINIC BAND: Tyrrell, 40 Advanced Studies for Tuba, p. 5, no. 5, play to the 4th measure of line 6, quarter note = 72.

This study has a lot of repetition, so added dynamics will help keep it from getting boring. Rising lines should get gradually louder and descending lines should get gradually softer. Be very careful not to rush the tempo in measures 1, 3, 5, 6, 9, etc. The sforzandos in measure 7 should be heavy and broad, but you should not blast them. Be careful to observe the rest at the end of measure 8, because a common error is to start measure 9 too early. Remember that staccato means separated, not short. A staccato quarter note should sound longer than a staccato eighth note.

SENIOR BAND: Tyrrell, 40 Advanced Studies for Tuba, p. 11, no. 11, play through the end of the 3rd measure of line 4, quarter note = 96.

This is a short study, but one filled with rhythmic challenges. The tendency will be for the player to be late after the quarter note tied to a sixteenth. Practice with a metronome and do not drag after the ties! At the marked tempo do not make too much of the staccato marks on the sixteenth notes. Better clarity is achieved by blowing through these notes. The eighth notes with staccato marks are not a problem, so let them have some bounce. Notice in measure 6 that the eighth note at the end of the measure does not have a staccato mark, but the notes in the following measure do. Make sure that the listener hears the difference by playing the first eighth note connected. Remember that "accent" means to emphasize a note by playing it a little louder, a little longer, of a combination of the two. It does not mean hammer it with an edgy tone. Even with accents, keep a good sound at all times.