

A message to you

Welcome to *Trombone Basics*, the exciting and modern way to learn the trombone. Before you begin, here are some ideas to make sure you get the best out of your trombone playing!

- Get together with other trombone-playing friends whenever you can – there are lots of duets and some group pieces (you'll have to borrow your teacher's book for some of these) which will prepare you for playing in ensembles, bands and orchestras.
- Always use the backing tracks (🎧) when you can. They can be accessed from **fabermusic.com/audio** or via the QR code. If you want to change the tempo (speed) of a track, there are many programmes available on the internet that will do this for free.
- Always ask your teacher if there's anything you're not quite sure about, or if anything goes wrong with your instrument.
- Try to practise regularly – it's the time when you do most of your learning! Do as much as you want to – don't set yourself time limits. If you

include the '4Ps' in every practice session, you'll be doing well. Here they are:

- **Posture** Think about how you are standing (or sitting) and how you are holding and playing the instrument (your teacher will tell how to do these things properly!)
- **Pulse** Always (and we mean always!) count yourself in (one or two bars) before you begin any piece, exercise or improvisation. The difference this will make will be immense! And understanding rhythm will never be a problem.
- **Phonology** This is just a fancy word for sound! Listen to the sound you make. Is it the best you can? Are you continually listening to other players? When you can, are you putting lots of contrast into dynamic levels?
- **Personality (of the music)** Are you always putting character into your pieces?

Enjoy your trombone playing – you are setting off on a wonderful journey that will give you a skill to last all your life.

A message to your parent/teacher

This tutor is based on a number of principles which have emerged from our experiences as teachers, from sharing ideas with fellow teachers and from observing the reactions of the pupils we have had the pleasure of teaching.

Young players like and respond positively to structured, imaginative and methodical teaching.

They also:

- prefer catchy tunes to exercises and studies
- would rather be entertained than lectured
- enjoy fun titles
- learn best what they want to know and what they need to know
- like to laugh.

We have tried our best to follow these principles!

New features are introduced and then reinforced in a logical and uncluttered fashion. Information is provided only on a strictly 'need to know' basis. There are, of course, exercises and studies but most of these are all carefully disguised and there is a broad mixture of newly composed music together with old favourites and popular tunes.

We have tried not to get in the way of the teacher but, instead, to provide a method that both pupil and teacher can enjoy together. The separate teacher's book contains a mix of piano accompaniments (🎹) and trombone duet parts (👤👤).

Learning to play the trombone is certainly demanding; but we very much hope that this tutor will make it a highly enjoyable challenge.

Paul Harris and Jonny Watkins

Study no. 123

Allegro grazioso

mf

f

Activity box

- What is the key signature of F major? _____
- Which notes make up an F major scale? Say them going up and down.
- When you play an arpeggio which notes of the scale will you play? _____
- Play the scale and arpeggio of F major from memory in a **grazioso** style, and then in a *creepy* style.

Clap the following rhythm:

Now make up a tune using some scale and arpeggio patterns. Begin with the notes suggested.

_____ by _____

Choose another favourite piece you have recently been working on and try to learn it from memory. Perform it to friends, relatives and pets!

Infinite ceremonial canon

Molto grandioso

*

Fact file

This piece works as a canon for any number of players (maximum 76!) Each player starts from the beginning and the next player begins once the player before them gets to beat one of bar 3.

Activity box

Clap the following rhythm:

Using the highest and the lowest notes you know, play each as loud as you can, then as soft as you can, then as long as you can and finally as short as you can! Find some trombone-playing friends and challenge them to see who can play the loudest/softest and longest/shortest, or maybe challenge your teacher!

Make up a piece that includes lots of *glissandi*.

_____ by _____