Herzberg Long Tones

By Kristin Wolfe Jensen

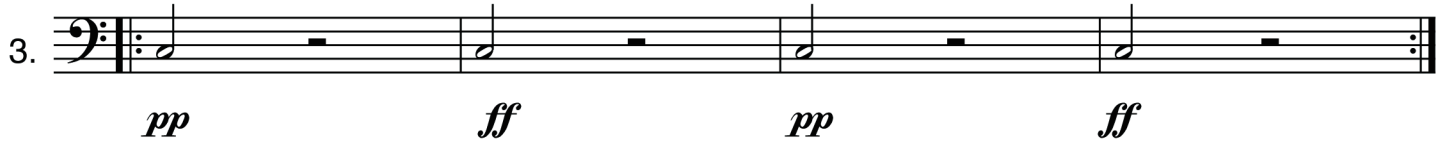
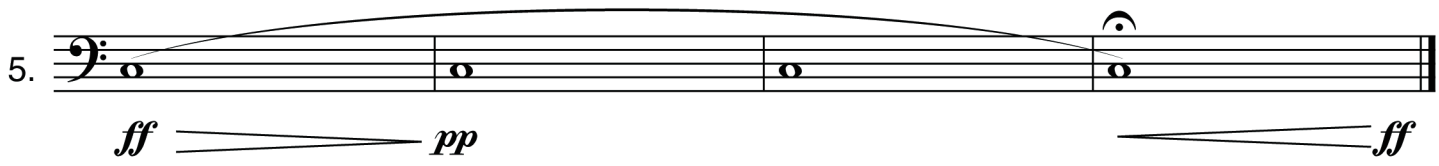
Perform these exercises with a tuner and a metronome set at Quarter Note = 60.

The goal is to play each note exactly with the metronome, exactly in tune, with delicate, well-controlled attacks. These exercises will increase your control over pitch and response. Work on 1-3 pitches on the bassoon each day, and vary the range of those pitches.

These exercises also help in determining the quality of reeds. If you are able to do these exercises well on low D and high D, you have a good reed.

On patterns 1 and 2, once you are secure with the dynamic scheme as written, add one note to each bar, so the initial pp lasts longer, etc. Then add 2 notes, then 3, etc.

On patterns 4 and 5, add one beat to each bar so each dynamic marking last 5 beats; eventually make each bar 6 beats, then 7, then 8.

1. Play each quarter note full value, with the sound stopping at the beginning of the rest.

2. Play as connected as possible, with very gentle articulation.