

# Trumpet Solo Class Lecture #17

## “Pitch Tendency Exercises for Trumpet”

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#### Intonation

**In order to play in tune, there are two important elements that must be understood.**

- 1) The **tendency** of your instrument on any given pitch, (is a particular note flat/sharp) including the elements which also effect the pitch (dynamic level, direction of approach, fatigue and the use of mutes). Using repeated patterns and a tuner develops this awareness.
- 2) How the pitch that you are playing must be **tempered** in order to sound in tune (how the thirds, fifths and sevenths of major and minor chords must be raised or lowered in order to resonate). Working on repeated patterns with one or two other players develops this awareness.

#### Using the *Pitch Tendency Exercises*

- 1) Make several copies of the first page. With your partner using a tuner, play each pitch and have your partner mark the tendency of each note. Repeat this process each week using a clean copy and the track your progress. Once you have developed a solid sense of intonation using the chromatic scale, play the notes in random order.
- 2) Begin to work through the patterns. In time you will memorize the distance of each interval and also learn the intonation tendencies of your instrument. Each interval is approached from above and below; keep track of how this affects the intonation tendency.
- 3) Once you have developed a strong sense of intonation and an awareness of the tendencies, play through the patterns with your partner. One player should hold the first pitch of each pattern (use a tuner and contact microphone) and the other should play every interval against the held note.
- 4) You will notice that even if the tuner indicates that a note is in tune, you will find that many notes need to be tempered in order to be correctly in tune (beat-less) while sounding with another player.
- 5) Once you have learned each of the tendencies of your instrument (as well as how each variable effects the pitch) and how to play each interval with beat-less intonation, apply this information and skill to your solo, lesson and ensemble music.