



# THE LESSON EVERYONE SKIPS

## BOOK OVERVIEW

*The method is persistence.*

ALBERT CAMUS

| TERM TO KNOW                         | MEANING   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| A relevant word for the lesson ahead | Definitions and important things you should know. |

## WELCOME TO *ESSENTIAL TRUMPET LESSONS*

Hi, and welcome to the fun-filled world of playing trumpet! If you're new to trumpet playing, this book will get you started on the right foot and help to instill good habits. If you already play or are a teacher, this book may give you new insight and information. The goal of this book is to help you along in your journey toward mastery of the trumpet and to give you the necessary resources to achieve your goals. Once you've absorbed this book, you'll have a great foundation from which to build a lifetime of playing music on your trumpet.

### WHY *ESSENTIAL TRUMPET LESSONS*?

This book contains knowledge and shortcuts I've learned from over 35 years of playing and 20 years of teaching. You'll start with the most basic ideas and build on them until you've learned about the trumpet from end-to-end, inside and out. If you're already a player, this book is a great reinforcement for things you may already know, and maybe some things you don't. Use it as a reference to review your skills, to beef up your knowledge, to study for an audition, or to practice more challenging tasks like double-tonguing, transposing, and circular breathing.

All that being said, you still should use this book in conjunction with all other trumpet books you can lay your hands on. Get information from any source you can find. Don't limit yourself to one source. Though this book is pretty comprehensive, it doesn't cover everything, and even if it did, you'll benefit from getting the same information from a different source using a different approach. There are a lot of choices, at least where books are concerned. You'll find most of the best books for trumpet players listed in these pages, too.

# OVERVIEW OF ESSENTIAL TRUMPET LESSONS

## GENERAL INFORMATION

*Essential Trumpet Lessons* will take you through all the basics of trumpet, from its history, to recorded trumpet music, and of course, how to actually play the thing. All this information is shown to you in small doses so you won't feel overwhelmed by all that needs to be learned. Lessons are short and easy to get through, though mastering the information they contain will usually continue long after the lesson has been read. That's a good thing. This book is meant to be a reference, which means you will come back to it again and again on your journey towards trumpet Mastery. Reading the book one time through will certainly increase your understanding, but you'll have to spend some serious time with these concepts to make them truly stick and become a part of your musicianship. Come back to the book from time to time for a review.

*Essential Trumpet Lessons* deals with specific aspects of playing the trumpet and not much time is spent on the skills of reading music. Basic concepts will be explained, but for more specific information on reading music, check out *Basic Music Theory: How to Read, Write, and Understand Written Music*. You can find it at [www.sol-ut.com](http://www.sol-ut.com) (including free samples of the book and the best price), ask for it at your local music or book store, or find it on Amazon at <http://amzn.to/1V2zvJ2>.

## THE STRUCTURE OF THE BOOK

### THE LESSONS

Lessons contain information on one technique and they're short enough to take in without feeling overwhelmed. At the beginning of each lesson you'll see a brief overview of the lesson and a list of terms the lesson covers.

### THE ICONS

Icons in this book will alert you to things you should know as a trumpet player.

#### NOTICE!



This icon is placed near information that is particularly useful to know. Heed these tips and you'll avoid common mistakes.

#### MUSIC THEORY



This icon has two functions: it tells you things about reading music that are helpful, and is also next to information that isn't absolutely necessary but which you might find interesting. It looks like a Cyclops smiley-face, but it's a whole note with a fermata



**TRUMPET VIDEO**

This icon will alert you that there is a supporting video where you can learn more. Sometimes it'll be a video I've produced specifically for this book, sometimes it'll be an example of another trumpet player demonstrating or teaching the concept in a great way. Sometimes it'll just be something cool and instructive. Sure wish I'd had this resource as a beginner!

**WEB RESOURCES**

Links lead to just about anything useful: more information, a forum, pictures, a trumpeter's web site, an article you should read, or most frequently, a video to watch and listen to. You can find pretty much everything at [www.EssentialTrumpetLessons.com](http://www.EssentialTrumpetLessons.com). Clickable in the eBook.

**THE APPENDIX**

This is an appendix that will never need to be removed surgically (I hope—don't get any crazy ideas). In the back of the book you'll find fingering charts, a book index for quick lookup of a specific technique, an exercise tracking form you can copy to your heart's content (or get the printable PDF from the link below), as well as a piano keyboard to help you understand some music theory concepts like intervals and transposing.

**ONLINE BONUS: FREE VIDEO LESSONS AND MORE**

Over at [www.EssentialTrumpetLessons.com](http://www.EssentialTrumpetLessons.com) you'll find the free video lessons that go with this book, as well as a whole slew of other resources: bonus lessons like how to play didgeridoo or find your own trumpet, trumpet discographies (hyperlinked for easy access), sheet music lists, scales of many types, blank staff paper, blank practice journals and practice sheets. All printable, all free, all the time.

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## **ESSENTIAL TRUMPET LESSONS: BLOW BY BLOW**

**LESSON 0 - THE LESSON EVERYONE SKIPS**

You're reading it. An overview to get you started on the right foot; or the left foot, if you're goofy-footed.

**LESSON 1 - LEARN TO PLAY PEDAL TONES: HOW LOW CAN YOU GO?**

The trumpet can make sounds way below the actual lowest note on the horn (a low F $\sharp$ ). These ultra-low notes are called pedal tones and are great to do as a warm-up. Pedal tones are useful because they get your chops loose and relaxed, they require a lot of air and they train your ears because notes way down there don't "lock in" like notes within the normal range of trumpet. Learn all about pedal tones in this lesson.

**LESSON 2 - BUILD UP YOUR ENDURANCE: POWER FOR THE WHOLE PERFORMANCE**

Playing a long gig can be a grueling affair both for your chops and your brain. Training for such a thing is important and your strength and endurance can be increased by paying attention to certain exercises in your practice schedule and by using specific techniques while playing. Learn how to increase your endurance in this lesson.

**LESSON 3 - DOUBLE AND TRIPLE TONGUE: LEARN TO PLAY FAST AND CLEAN**

This is a technique used to articulate fast passages, like the sixteenth note triplets in *Scheherazade*, or in *Flight*

*of the Bumblebee*, or in your burning bebop solo. Pretty easy to learn, which you'll discover in this lesson, but it will take some serious practice to master, just like anything else. Learn the techniques, get some exercises, and get started.

#### LESSON 4 - PLAY THE BEST SOUND EFFECTS: SOUND MORE INTERESTING AND MORE EXPRESSIVE

The trumpet is capable of a whole range of sounds in addition to regular notes. You can make the trumpet speak by incorporating these techniques into your playing. In addition to the items listed in the lesson title, learn about vibrato, lip trills, flutter tonguing, doits, falls, turns, mordents, and the use of alternate fingerings.

#### LESSON 5 - TRANSPOSING FOR TRUMPET: JAM, PLAY ORCHESTRA MUSIC, HYMNS, AND LEAD SHEETS

Have you tried playing with a sax player, a guitar player, or maybe tried to read along with a hymn in church? How did it go? If you didn't know about transposing, it was probably a confusing experience. In a perfect world, all written notes would have the same relative pitch, but it just doesn't work that way. If you want to play orchestral trumpet music, you must be able to transpose. To transpose, you play a different note than what is written on the page. What must you do to read and play music to be transposed? If you don't know, this lesson will help you avoid confusion and play in the proper key.

#### LESSON 6 - TECHNOLOGY FOR TRUMPETERS: IMPROVE YOUR PLAYING AND MAKE PRACTICE MORE FUN

Are there any killer apps for trumpeters? What is a condenser microphone and should I mic my trumpet with one? How do you mic a trumpet? How do you play with a mic when the mute is in? What kind of stuff do I need if I want to play with a band that doesn't have extra sound equipment for me? What kind of options for recording equipment do I have so I can listen to myself? How about slowing down a piece of music I'm trying to learn by ear. How do I do that? All these questions and many more will be answered in this lesson.

#### LESSON 7 - LEARN CIRCULAR BREATHING: PLAY WITHOUT STOPPING

Circular breathing is one of many extended techniques. It's fairly easy to learn, but with practice you should have no trouble. This lesson takes you step-by-step through the process, giving you detailed information about each step to help you master the skill and wow your audience. Lots of examples provided, and a free video lesson.

#### LESSON 8 - THE PRACTICE OF PRACTICE: MAKE YOUR PRACTICE TIME COUNT

It takes steady and persistent effort to get better at anything, and playing trumpet is no different. There are ways to make this progress more enjoyable and more rapid. In this lesson you'll find suggestions about how to practice that will help you become a better player as quickly as possible. Though there are as many ways to practice as there are players, there are certain things the best players do that will help you, too. Learn about them here.

## APPENDIX

### BOOK INDEX

Look up a topic you're interested in. If it's in the book, the subject and page number will be listed here.

### FINGERING CHART

Find all the fingerings up to high E as well as alternate fingerings.

### PIANO KEYBOARD

The piano is the best instrument there is for understanding many musical concepts from intervals to chords and beyond. That's why you'll find a paper piano keyboard in the back of the book. Included are the regular notes of the piano keyboard and also the names for trumpet notes.

### EXERCISE TRACKING FORM AND MORE

Keep track of where you are when learning a new tune, an etude, or a scale. If you keep track, you'll be able to immediately pick up where you left off, and best of all, you'll see the progress you're making, which helps with motivation to continue improving.

ALL MATERIALS IN THE APPENDIX ARE FREE AND PRINTABLE AT [WWW.ESSENTIALTRUMPETLESSONS.COM](http://WWW.ESSENTIALTRUMPETLESSONS.COM).

## UP NEXT

Wherever there is blank space, I'll fill it up with music staves like these. Use them to jot down ideas, notes from trumpet lessons, or just to generally mark it up. Try doing *that* with an eBook.

In *Essential Trumpet Lessons*, Books 1 and 2 you learned a lot about playing trumpet, and you've probably discovered that your chops can get tired quickly, if you're not in shape. If you're looking to improve your endurance, the first lesson is where to start. Let's jump in!

# FOR THE FREE BONUS MATERIAL BELOW

## FREE VIDEO LESSONS: WATCH AND LEARN

There are over a dozen free videos I created for this book. Find them at [www.EssentialTrumpetLessons.com](http://www.EssentialTrumpetLessons.com).

## BONUS LESSON: LISTEN!

This lesson is before any information about exactly how to play the trumpet because you don't need any special skills to push play on your CD player, mp3 player, radio, or whatever you use to listen to music. And it's important that you start listening to trumpet music as early as possible because it will help you understand how the horn can sound. Most are hyperlinked, so click a recording and you can sample and/or buy it.

## BONUS LESSON: TRUMPET REPERTOIRE

Repertoire is the music that is recognized as crucial to a player's vocabulary. There is so much material out there that it's impossible for one person to get to all of it. Here's where you'll start making choices about what you want to play. If you want to get paid to play trumpet, learning all styles is almost mandatory. Studio musicians do it. So can you.

## BONUS LESSON: TRUMPET MASTERS

This is a lesson highlighting some of the great players who have come along and shown us what's possible.

## BONUS LESSON: PERFORMANCE PRACTICE

This bonus lesson is all about performing; how, where, and even why. Free online at this book's web site.

## BONUS LESSON: HOW DO YOU DIDGERIDOO

Want to learn how to play the oldest trumpet on the planet? Didgeridoo is an Australian instrument made from a termite-hollowed eucalyptus tree limb. If you think that's weird, wait till you hear it. The didgeridoo produces a bass drone and with the right rhythm, the sound can be truly hypnotic and primal-sounding. Playing didgeridoo will even help you to play trumpet better. In this bonus lesson find out just what the didgeridoo is, how to play it, and how to develop the skill of circular breathing.

## FREE PRINTABLES

To save paper and printing costs and to make the book more affordable, I've put printable items up on the web at [www.EssentialTrumpetLessons.com](http://www.EssentialTrumpetLessons.com). All free, all printable.