

Modified Clarke Articulation Study

by Eddie Lewis

I was first introduced to the “Characteristic Studies” by Herbert L. Clarke during my sophomore year in high school (1979). My trumpet teacher at the time was Kenny Capshaw and he used this book with all of his students. In the beginning of the book there are a few pages of articulation rudiments for single and multiple tonguing. I have been practicing the tongue/slur patterns on page seven ever since then.

I'm under the impression that these tongue/slur patterns were intended to be practiced in an effort to gain better coordination between the tongue and the fingers and the sequence of these patterns progresses from easiest to most complicated...in a coordination perspective.

I have recently come to the conclusion that this particular order of patterns does not fit my needs as a player, so I have reordered the tongue slur patterns in an effort to make them better conform to the concept of the Physical Trumpet Pyramid. Now the focus of the studies is no longer coordination. The focus becomes air flow. This new order of tongue/slur combinations serves to gradually introduce the tongue to the air in a way which encourages constant and consistent air support behind each articulation.

Used as a daily rudiment, this modified version the study not only helps solve certain articulation problems but also wards off other problems before they have a chance effect your playing.

Modified Clarke Articulation Study

The image displays a musical score for a Modified Clarke Articulation Study. It consists of 12 staves of music, each containing a sequence of notes with various articulation marks. The music is written in a single melodic line on a treble clef staff. The notes are primarily eighth and sixteenth notes, often grouped with slurs. The articulation marks include slurs, accents, and staccato markings, which are used to guide the performer in achieving specific articulation effects. The score is presented in a clean, black-and-white format.