

Haskell Clarinet Studio

Tonguing

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Tonguing – Warm Up, Stroke Work, Flexibility and Stamina



Tonguing Exercises

Part One - Warm Up

Start slowly. Circle the speed every time a new speed is added.
Quarter = 60, 80, 90, 100, 104, 108, 112, 116, 120, 126, 132, 138
Transpose to all other keys.
Practice legato tongue first. Repeat until tongue can touch the same spot on the reed every time, the tongue stroke is light, tongue is relaxed and the sound is beautiful on every note.
More directions given at lessons.

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1 Clarinet in Bb

6

13 Good opportunity to practice a long tone!

19

Complete step-wise in G Major. Transpose to other keys.

24

31

37

43

49

Next exercises call for a light tongue stroke with great precision so that each tongue release sounds identical. Avoid changing air stream.

54

etc. *f*

58

etc. *f* etc.

64

68

72

pp

76

80

84

Kell Staccato Studies - no. 4 opening

88

Part 2 — Tonguing Stroke Flexibility

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92

96

99

102

106

110

114

Play legato and staccato

Semi-detached: start sound with release of tongue. End each note by slight decay of the breath. Only inhale at end of bar 2. Avoid closing off throat or biting during decay.

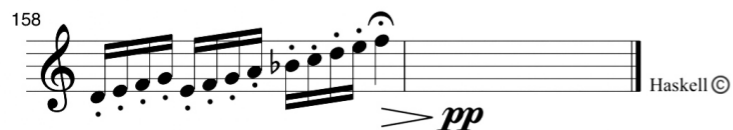
Part 3 — Burst Speed Exercises

118

122



KELL STACCATO EXERCISE EXCERPT - NO. 5 opening - for endurance, great sound quality, and beauty of tongue stroke. Air must be set up well. This exercise comes last, after a great amount of time spent in developing great air support, relaxed tongue stroke in all types of tonguing, and tongue flexibility.



Partial List of Tonguing Resources

My students: please see me before even thinking to begin any of the following!

Preference is given to working on tonguing within clarinet works rather than in exercises.

However, there are times when isolating articulation is helpful.

Below is a list of useful materials.

- Bonade: Compendium — for tongue stroke basics; a method of staccato; finger/tongue coordination.
- Kell: Tonguing from the Beginning.
- Klug: Clarinet Doctor p. 71-76
‘Tips For Tonguing’— this may be the most concise and practical overview of articulation, including common tonguing issues and how to solve them.
- Langenus: no. 11 p. 22 (from Robert Spring’s warmup) — for ‘interval training’, similar to training done by runners. Builds stamina and speed in single tonguing. Start slowly.
- Osborn, Sean — from his website: tonguing endurance study.
- Rose 40 Studies — #6, 11 — also other Rose studies, as well as Rode 20 Studies.

More Advanced Options

- Baermann Method Book 3: staccato study at the end of the book. Also incorporates trills.
- Kell: 17 Staccato Studies — for endurance.
- Stark: Daily Staccato Exercises — for advanced players who are set up well, able to play desiring to work on even tongue stroke in all ranges, as well as endurance.
- Uhl 48: 4, 6, 13 for exploring a variety of articulations (from David Niethamer).