

Orchestral Playing Basics For Trombonists

Tone:

Pure, Round, Fat, Resonant, Warm, Refined
A tone quality that blends with winds AND strings
Consistent tone quality in all registers

Technique:

Dynamics – cultivate a WIDE range. Play with control from pppp – ffff.
Articulation – never harsh, but always clean. Remember – blend with strings
Clean and precise slide technique
Highly developed sense of time, rhythm, tempo
Impeccable intonation.

Musicianship:

Most often in the orchestra, this means your musicianship AS A SECTION rather than as a soloist.

- Matching tone, articulation style, dynamics
- Breathing together
- Unified sense of time, rhythm
- Balance, blend within the section
- Balance, blend with the rest of the orchestra
- Unified, secure intonation

Listening:

Get to know the orchestral literature through recordings and live concerts.

Practice orchestral passages:

Tenor Trbn.:

- Mozart: Tuba Mirum from *Requiem* (2nd trombone solo)
- Berlioz: Hungarian March from *Damnation of Faust* (1st & 2nd trbn.)
- Mahler: Symphony #3 (1st trbn.)
- Rossini: *La Gazza Ladra* Overture
- Rossini: *William Tell* Overture
- Wagner: Ride of the Valkyries (1st, 2nd, and 3rd trbn.)
- Wagner: *Lohengrin* (Prelude to Act 3)
- Ravel: *Bolero* (1st trombone solo)
- Schumann: Symphony #3 (1st trbn.)
- Strauss: Til Eulenspiegel's Merry Pranks

Bass Trbn:

- Kodaly: *Hary Janos Suite*
- Haydn: *Creation* (chorus #26)
- Wagner: Ride of the Valkyries
- Berlioz: Hungarian March from *Damnation of Faust*
- Wagner: *Lohengrin* (Prelude to Act 3)
- Strauss: *Ein Heldenleben*