Valve technique for the independent double-valve bass trombone: a pedagogical review and method

Casey Winn Thomas, University of Iowa

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First Advisor
David Gier

First Committee Member
William L Jones

Second Committee Member
John Rapson

Third Committee Member
John Manning

Fourth Committee Member
Jeffrey Agrell

Abstract
Among the instruments of the Western orchestra, the bass trombone has experienced the most transformation. Such evolution has included an expansion of the bore and bell diameter, inclusion of initially one and now two valves, and experimentation with variable-bore hand and tuning slides. Consequently, composers of orchestral music and solo bass trombone literature have expanded the demands placed upon the bass trombonist. Various methodologies have been developed to address the ever-expanding musical expectations of the bass trombonist, with some pedagogical aspects having been addressed more than others. One particular pedagogical subject that bears more investigation is the proper usage of valves, and that is the subject area that the following document examines and seeks to address. The author will provide the bass trombonist and his or her teachers with a basic understanding of the history of the bass trombone, including a short discussion about the limitations of the technical capabilities of the valve-less and single-valve bass trombone. The realized method will provide the bass trombonist with the tools to make intelligent decisions about which valve and slide combinations to use and why, to the point that the informed bass trombonist will become the master of the instrument.

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Basic Techniques For The Double Valve Bass Trombone is a method by Allen Ostrander for the Double Valve Bass Trombone. Written in English, it includes much advice and instruction to obtain the sonority while gaining in speed and agility. The positioning is part of the legend in the book and each lesson is followed by some direct applications and exercises. This method is recognised as the best to acquire the best technique of the instrument: it is a must-have for those willing to gain in technique and skills. Allen Ostrander (1909-1994) is an American trombonist who played in Thomas, Casey Winn. "Valve technique for the independent double-valve bass trombone: a pedagogical review and method." DMA (Doctor of Musical Arts) thesis, University of Iowa, 2015. https://doi.org/10.17077/etd.3ab3and. Follow this and additional works at: https://ir.uiowa.edu/etd Part of the Music Commons. The author’s evaluation of the available methods for bass trombone, however, that aspiring bass trombonists do not have a comprehensive and systematic guide for the valve/slide possibilities of the modern instrument. Therefore, providing a methodology that addresses these shortcomings will provide benefits for future trombone performance.