

Progressive Balancing in Staccato

Advanced Progressive Technical Exercises

Tuba

Angelo Piazzini

EMR 99063

BOOK 4

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Foreword (English)

This “Progressive Balancing in Staccato – Advanced Progressive Technical Exercises” is entirely dedicated to the study of staccato.

This method is composed of a first part in major keys and a second part in minor keys, each of which is further divided into regular and reverse modes. First and foremost, it gives brass players — whether professionals or students — the opportunity to improve speed, precision, and staccato technique by gradually balancing the embouchure and developing attacks, staccato articulation, octaves, register, control, accuracy, and technical speed.

It is recommended to begin at a comfortable metronome speed (75–80) and then gradually increase the tempo to the maximum achievable speed in order to progressively develop these advanced technical exercises.

Dynamics have intentionally been omitted, since in this context they do not play as significant a role as they usually do in music and repertoire. However, it is recommended to practice these exercises using dynamics ranging from *mf* (*mezzo forte*) to *f* (*forte*), or from *mp* (*mezzo piano*) to a solid *mf* (*mezzo forte*).

The performer is left completely free to choose the type of staccato articulation. It is nevertheless recommended to vary it from day to day, for example by practicing single staccato on the first day, double staccato on the following day, and triple staccato on the third day, before returning again to single staccato, and so on.

In addition, the performer may choose to alternate major and minor keys every other day, or to practice only the regular mode one day and the reverse mode the next, entirely at the player’s discretion.

Angelo Piazzini

Prefazione (Italiano)

Questo “Progressive Balancing in Staccato – Advanced Progressive Technical Exercises” è interamente dedicato allo studio dello staccato.

Questo metodo è composto da una prima parte in tonalità maggiori e da una seconda parte in tonalità minori, entrambe ulteriormente suddivise in modalità regolare e inversa. Esso offre innanzitutto agli ottonisti — professionisti o studenti — la possibilità di migliorare velocità, precisione e tecnica dello staccato attraverso un progressivo equilibrio dell’imboccatura, sviluppando attacchi, articolazione dello staccato, ottave, registro, controllo, precisione e velocità tecnica.

Si raccomanda di iniziare con una velocità di metronomo confortevole (75–80) e di aumentare gradualmente il tempo fino alla massima velocità raggiungibile, al fine di sviluppare progressivamente questi esercizi tecnici avanzati.

Le dinamiche sono state volutamente omesse, poiché in questo contesto non rivestono un ruolo importante quanto quello che normalmente assumono nella musica e nel repertorio. Si consiglia tuttavia di affrontare questi esercizi utilizzando dinamiche comprese tra *mf* (*mezzo forte*) e *f* (*forte*), oppure tra *mp* (*mezzo piano*) e un solido *mf* (*mezzo forte*).

L’esecutore è completamente libero di scegliere il tipo di articolazione dello staccato. Si suggerisce tuttavia di variarlo giorno per giorno, ad esempio utilizzando lo staccato semplice il primo giorno, il doppio staccato il giorno successivo e il triplo staccato il terzo giorno, tornando poi allo staccato semplice, e così via.

Inoltre, l’esecutore potrà scegliere di alternare le tonalità maggiori e minori a giorni alterni, oppure di praticare un giorno soltanto la modalità regolare e il giorno seguente quella inversa, secondo la completa discrezione del musicista.

Angelo Piazzini

Préface (Français)

Cette « Progressive Balancing in Staccato – Advanced Progressive Technical Exercises » est entièrement consacrée à l'étude du staccato.

Cette méthode est composée d'une première partie en tonalités majeures et d'une seconde partie en tonalités mineures, chacune étant ensuite divisée en modes régulier et inversé. Elle offre avant tout aux instrumentistes de la famille des cuivres — professionnels comme étudiants — la possibilité d'améliorer leur vitesse, leur précision et leur technique du staccato grâce à un équilibrage progressif de l'embouchure, développant ainsi les attaques, l'articulation du staccato, les octaves, le registre, le contrôle, la précision et la vitesse technique.

Il est recommandé de commencer à une vitesse de métronome confortable (75–80), puis d'augmenter progressivement le tempo jusqu'à la vitesse maximale atteignable afin de développer progressivement ces exercices techniques avancés.

Les nuances ont volontairement été omises, car dans ce contexte elles ne jouent pas un rôle aussi important que dans la musique et le répertoire traditionnels. Il est toutefois conseillé de travailler ces exercices avec des nuances allant du mf (mezzo forte) au f (forte), ou du mp (mezzo piano) à un mf bien soutenu.

L'interprète est entièrement libre de choisir le type d'articulation du staccato. Il est néanmoins conseillé de le varier d'un jour à l'autre, par exemple en travaillant le simple coup de langue le premier jour, le double coup de langue le lendemain, puis le triple coup de langue le troisième jour, avant de revenir au simple staccato, et ainsi de suite.

De plus, l'interprète pourra choisir d'alterner les tonalités majeures et mineures un jour sur deux, ou encore de travailler uniquement le mode régulier un jour puis le mode inversé le lendemain, selon son entière discrétion.

Angelo Piazzini

Vorwort (Deutsch)

Dieses „Progressive Balancing in Staccato – Advanced Progressive Technical Exercises“ ist vollständig dem Studium des Staccatos gewidmet.

Die Methode besteht aus einem ersten Teil in Durtonarten und einem zweiten Teil in Molltonarten, die jeweils wiederum in reguläre und umgekehrte Formen unterteilt sind. Sie bietet Blechbläsern — sowohl professionellen Musikern als auch Studierenden — die Möglichkeit, Geschwindigkeit, Präzision und Staccato-Technik zu verbessern, indem Ansatz, Attacken, Staccato-Artikulation, Oktaven, Register, Kontrolle, Genauigkeit und technische Geschwindigkeit schrittweise entwickelt werden.

Es wird empfohlen, mit einem angenehmen Metronomtempo (75–80) zu beginnen und das Tempo anschließend schrittweise bis zur maximal erreichbaren Geschwindigkeit zu steigern, um diese fortgeschrittenen technischen Übungen progressiv zu entwickeln.

Dynamikangaben wurden bewusst weggelassen, da sie in diesem Zusammenhang keine so bedeutende Rolle spielen wie gewöhnlich in Musik und Repertoire. Dennoch wird empfohlen, diese Übungen mit Dynamiken zwischen mf (Mezzoforte) und f (Forte) beziehungsweise zwischen mp (Mezzopiano) und einem kräftigen mf zu spielen.

Dem Ausführenden bleibt die Wahl der Staccato-Artikulation vollständig frei. Es wird jedoch empfohlen, diese täglich zu variieren, beispielsweise am ersten Tag einfaches Staccato, am zweiten Tag Doppelzunge und am dritten Tag Dreifachzunge zu üben, bevor wieder zum einfachen Staccato zurückgekehrt wird.

Darüber hinaus kann der Spieler nach eigenem Ermessen entscheiden, an einem Tag die Durtonarten und am nächsten die Molltonarten zu üben oder einen Tag ausschließlich die reguläre Form und am darauffolgenden Tag die umgekehrte Form zu praktizieren.

Angelo Piazzini



ANGELO PIAZZINI

English:

Angelo Piazzini is an Italian tuba virtuoso, artistic director, and composer from Florence, Italy. After completing his studies, he further specialized with internationally renowned soloists and musicians from prestigious orchestras, including the Teatro alla Scala of Milan.

As one of the few tubists to pursue a true solo career, he has received numerous First Prizes and Special Mentions in national and international competitions. He has performed throughout many European countries and collaborated as Principal Tuba with several Italian orchestras and ensembles.

Alongside his concert career, he has been teaching for more than twenty years at conservatories, music institutes, and private academies. Many of his students now study at conservatories or perform professionally in orchestras.

He currently serves as Executive and Artistic Director, as well as Tuba Professor, at the Brass Lab Academy Italia in Florence.

Author of more than 100 publications in English and Italian, he has written numerous educational methods, arrangements, and transcriptions for brass instruments. His works are currently used in universities and music institutions around the world.

Italiano:

Angelo Piazzini è un virtuoso della tuba, direttore artistico e compositore italiano originario di Firenze. Dopo gli studi, si è perfezionato con solisti internazionali e musicisti provenienti da prestigiose orchestre, tra cui il Teatro alla Scala di Milano.

Tra i pochi tubisti ad aver intrapreso una vera carriera solistica, ha ottenuto numerosi Primi Premi e Menzioni Speciali in concorsi nazionali e internazionali. Si è esibito in molti Paesi europei e ha collaborato come Prima Tuba con diverse orchestre ed ensemble italiani.

Parallelamente all'attività concertistica, insegna da oltre vent'anni presso conservatori, istituti musicali e accademie private. Molti dei suoi allievi studiano oggi nei conservatori o lavorano professionalmente in orchestra.

Attualmente è Direttore Esecutivo e Artistico, nonché docente di tuba, presso la Brass Lab Academy Italia di Firenze.

Autore di oltre 100 pubblicazioni in inglese e italiano, ha scritto numerosi metodi didattici, arrangiamenti e trascrizioni per strumenti a ottone. Le sue opere sono oggi utilizzate presso università e istituti musicali di tutto il mondo.

Français:

Angelo Piazzini est un virtuose du tuba, directeur artistique et compositeur italien originaire de Florence. Après ses études, il s'est perfectionné auprès de solistes internationaux et de musiciens issus d'orchestres prestigieux, notamment du Teatro alla Scala de Milan.

Parmi les rares tubistes à mener une véritable carrière de soliste, il a remporté plusieurs Premiers Prix et Mentions Spéciales dans des concours nationaux et internationaux. Il s'est produit dans de nombreux pays européens et a collaboré comme Tuba Solo avec plusieurs orchestres et ensembles italiens.

Parallèlement à sa carrière de concertiste, il enseigne depuis plus de vingt ans dans des conservatoires, instituts musicaux et académies privées. Plusieurs de ses élèves poursuivent aujourd'hui leurs études dans des conservatoires ou exercent professionnellement en orchestre.

Actuellement, il est Directeur Exécutif et Artistique ainsi que professeur de tuba à la Brass Lab Academy Italia de Florence.

Auteur de plus de 100 publications en anglais et en italien, il a écrit de nombreuses méthodes pédagogiques, arrangements et transcriptions pour cuivres. Ses ouvrages sont aujourd'hui utilisés dans des universités et instituts musicaux à travers le monde.

PART 1

MAJOR-ORDINARY

B $\flat$ Major

The musical score for Part 1, Major-Ordinary, in B $\flat$ Major, 2/4 time, consists of ten staves. Each staff contains a continuous eighth-note melody in the bass clef. The melody is composed of two main phrases: a descending eighth-note scale from G4 to B3, and an ascending eighth-note scale from B3 to G4. The first phrase is played in the first half of each staff, and the second phrase is played in the second half. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 2/4. The score ends with a final whole note G3 on the tenth staff.

A Major

The musical score is written for the key of A Major (two sharps: F# and C#) in 2/4 time. It consists of ten staves, each containing two parts of music. The notation is as follows:

- Staff 1:** The upper part is a continuous sixteenth-note scale starting on A2 and ascending to A3. The lower part is a continuous sixteenth-note scale starting on A1 and ascending to A2.
- Staff 2:** The upper part continues the sixteenth-note scale from A2 to A3. The lower part continues the sixteenth-note scale from A1 to A2.
- Staff 3:** The upper part continues the sixteenth-note scale from A2 to A3. The lower part continues the sixteenth-note scale from A1 to A2.
- Staff 4:** The upper part continues the sixteenth-note scale from A2 to A3. The lower part continues the sixteenth-note scale from A1 to A2.
- Staff 5:** The upper part continues the sixteenth-note scale from A2 to A3. The lower part continues the sixteenth-note scale from A1 to A2.
- Staff 6:** The upper part continues the sixteenth-note scale from A2 to A3. The lower part continues the sixteenth-note scale from A1 to A2.
- Staff 7:** The upper part continues the sixteenth-note scale from A2 to A3. The lower part continues the sixteenth-note scale from A1 to A2.
- Staff 8:** The upper part continues the sixteenth-note scale from A2 to A3. The lower part continues the sixteenth-note scale from A1 to A2.
- Staff 9:** The upper part continues the sixteenth-note scale from A2 to A3. The lower part continues the sixteenth-note scale from A1 to A2.
- Staff 10:** The upper part continues the sixteenth-note scale from A2 to A3. The lower part continues the sixteenth-note scale from A1 to A2, ending with a final whole note A1.

A $\flat$ Major

The musical score is written for A $\flat$ Major in 2/4 time. It consists of eight staves of music. The notation is as follows:

- Staff 1:** Bass clef, key signature of three flats (B $\flat$, E $\flat$, A $\flat$), time signature of 2/4. The music begins with a series of beamed sixteenth notes, followed by a continuous eighth-note pattern.
- Staff 2:** Continues the eighth-note pattern from the first staff.
- Staff 3:** Continues the eighth-note pattern from the second staff.
- Staff 4:** Continues the eighth-note pattern from the third staff.
- Staff 5:** Continues the eighth-note pattern from the fourth staff.
- Staff 6:** Continues the eighth-note pattern from the fifth staff.
- Staff 7:** Continues the eighth-note pattern from the sixth staff.
- Staff 8:** Continues the eighth-note pattern from the seventh staff.

The music is a rhythmic exercise, likely for a piano or organ, featuring a steady eighth-note pulse with occasional beamed sixteenth notes for variation. The staves are arranged in a single system, with some staves ending with a diagonal line indicating a continuation or a specific ending.

MAJOR-INVERSE

B♭ Major

The image displays a musical exercise titled "MAJOR-INVERSE" for the key of B♭ Major. The exercise is written for a single melodic line in bass clef across ten staves. The notation includes various rhythmic patterns, such as eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests, designed to practice intervallic relationships in the major-inverse scale. The key signature is one flat (B♭), and the time signature is not explicitly shown but appears to be common time (C) based on the phrasing. The exercise concludes with a final measure containing a whole note and a fermata.

A Major

The image displays ten staves of musical notation in bass clef, key of A major (two sharps), and 2/4 time. Each staff contains a sequence of eighth notes. The notation is as follows:

- Staff 1: A continuous sequence of eighth notes across the staff.
- Staff 2: A continuous sequence of eighth notes across the staff.
- Staff 3: A continuous sequence of eighth notes across the staff.
- Staff 4: A continuous sequence of eighth notes across the staff.
- Staff 5: A continuous sequence of eighth notes across the staff.
- Staff 6: A continuous sequence of eighth notes across the staff.
- Staff 7: A continuous sequence of eighth notes across the staff.
- Staff 8: A continuous sequence of eighth notes across the staff.
- Staff 9: A continuous sequence of eighth notes across the staff.
- Staff 10: A continuous sequence of eighth notes across the staff, ending with a half note and a fermata.

A $\flat$ Major

The image displays a musical score for a piece in A $\flat$ Major, 2/4 time. The score is written on nine staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of three flats (B $\flat$, E $\flat$, A $\flat$), and a 2/4 time signature. The music is written in a single melodic line. The second staff continues the melody. The third staff continues the melody. The fourth staff continues the melody. The fifth staff continues the melody. The sixth staff continues the melody. The seventh staff continues the melody. The eighth staff continues the melody. The ninth staff continues the melody.

PART 2
MINOR-ORDINARY

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B♭Minor

The musical score for Part 2, Minor-Ordinary, in B-flat Minor, 2/4 time, consists of nine staves. Each staff contains a continuous eighth-note pattern in the bass clef. The first staff is marked with a 2/4 time signature. The music is written in B-flat Minor, indicated by three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) in the key signature. The pattern consists of a continuous eighth-note scale, with some staves showing a change in the pattern or a repeat. The final staff ends with a double bar line and a fermata over the final note.

A Minor

This musical exercise is for the A Minor scale in bass clef, 2/4 time. It consists of 10 staves of music. The first staff begins with a bass clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a 2/4 time signature. The scale is written in a single line of music, with notes beamed together in groups of four. The first staff contains two measures of the scale, each with four groups of four beamed eighth notes. The subsequent staves continue the scale in a similar pattern, with some staves showing the scale in a single line and others showing it in a double line. The exercise concludes with a final staff that ends with a double bar line and a fermata over the final note.

A $\flat$ Minor

The image displays a musical score for A $\flat$ Minor in 2/4 time. The score is written in bass clef and features a key signature of five flats (B $\flat$, E $\flat$, A $\flat$, D $\flat$, G $\flat$). The music is composed of nine staves, each containing a continuous sequence of eighth notes. The first staff begins with a 2/4 time signature. The notation is consistent across all staves, with the final measure of each staff being cut off by a diagonal line, indicating that the sequence continues.

MINOR-INVERSE

Bb Minor

Musical score for Bb Minor, MINOR-INVERSE, 2/4 time signature. The score consists of nine staves of music, each containing a continuous sequence of eighth notes. The key signature is Bb Minor (three flats: Bb, Eb, Ab). The time signature is 2/4. The music is written in bass clef. The first staff starts with a treble clef and a 2/4 time signature. The subsequent staves are connected by a single line. The final staff ends with a double bar line and a fermata over the final note.

A Minor

This musical exercise is written in A Minor, bass clef, and 2/4 time. It consists of 10 staves of music, each containing a continuous eighth-note scale. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a 2/4 time signature. The scale starts on A2 (the first line of the bass staff) and ascends to A3 (the first space of the bass staff) over the first five staves. On the sixth staff, the scale descends from A3 back to A2. The final staff concludes with a whole note A2, marked with a fermata.

A♭Minor

The musical score for A♭Minor is presented in a single system of nine staves. The key signature is A♭Minor (four flats: B♭, E♭, A♭, D♭). The time signature is 2/4. The notation is in bass clef. The music consists of continuous eighth-note patterns, often with beamed sixteenth notes, creating a dense, rhythmic texture. The staves are arranged in a single system, with some staves having multiple measures of music. The final staff ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign.



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