EMPYREAN

WINDS

2023 Audition Packet

Welcome!

Thank you for your interest in joining 2023 Empyrean Winds! We are looking forward to an exciting season ahead and hope you will be a part of our journey as we soar to new heights!

We will be playing these exercises (and more!) at our audition camps. As you are preparing for camp, use the guide below to help set goals, create practice strategies, and evaluate yourself. Each exercise has three recommended points of focus. This is what music staff will be listening for. Each focus point details how we would like the exercise to be performed, as well as advice on how to achieve it at a high level.

Happy practicing- hope to see YOU at Empyrean Winds!

EMPYREAN WINDS

Long Tones

- Breathing- you only have one count to breathe between notes, focus on making sure you fill your lungs all the way up before the start of the next note. Breathe in through an "O" shaped mouth and fill up from the bottom of your lungs (think stomach) rather than breathing into your chest to do this efficiently.
- Tone Quality- Keep an open oral shape (teeth apart), relaxed upper body, and proper air support to always achieve a resonant, characteristic tone. Listen to professionals on your instrument to model your sound after.
- Attack and Release- Each note should be heard instantly at the start of beat one- we achieve this by using fast air and a light tongue at the start of each note. Notes release at the very start of the following rest- we always end notes with a breath in, never with our tongue.

Bb Remington

- Pitch Center- Center and hold each pitch steady immediately from the start of beat one all the way to the end of the note. Make sure your embouchure is set before playing, keep firm corners, and maintain your air support to avoid any wobbling, flaring, or drooping in pitch.
- Intonation- Imagine the sound of what note is coming next before playing it. This will help you nail the new pitch right from the start or make you aware of an adjustment you

may need to make so we are always in tune. Also, the second Bb of each phrase should return to the exact same pitch as the first Bb of the phrase! Practicing with a drone is a good way to check yourself.

- Note-to-note Consistency- Make sure the tone and volume of the changing note matches the tone and volume of each Bb around it. As the instrument gets longer (i.e., more valves/keys down), you may need to use more air. Embouchure must also stay firm and controlled for low range notes to speak they way they should.

Scale Study

- Finger Technique- In addition to pushing down the correct fingering, make sure that your valves or keys are going all the way up and all the way down for each new note you play. If they are only down/up 90% of the way, tone will be sacrificed.
- Articulation- Use a fast, light, relaxed tongue to articulate so that each note has a clear beginning, tempo is maintained, and tone quality never changes.
- Planning Breaths- The exercise is too long to be played in one breath, and there aren't any rests written until the very end. Have a consistent plan for where you are going to breathe so that you can always perform the exercise with confidence, and not have to worry about when you are running out of air.

Lip Slurs

- Flexibility- You should be able to play through the range of your instrument without major embouchure changes. Keep firm corners and keep the mouthpiece still on your face while playing. Manipulate the pitch by changing your:
    - *Air direction*- point your air down into the mouthpiece as you go higher, or more straight forward as you go lower
    - *Vowel shape/tongue position*- Where is your tongue placed in your mouth- Use a low tongue ("Oh," "Ah") for lower notes, and raise the back of your tongue ("Ey," "Ee") for higher notes.
    - *Aperture*- the size of the hole between your lips. Using a smaller aperture for higher notes, and a larger aperture for lower notes may be useful.
- Range- Maintain the same resonant, characteristic tone across your entire range. Maintain a firm embouchure and use the methods listed above to manipulate your air for the desired pitch. Never use tension, pressure, or a changed embouchure- all three will result in a worse tone.
- Air Support- Just like with Bb Remington earlier, make sure you keep a consistent volume and resonance as the instrument gets longer. Take full breaths, stay relaxed, and use your core muscles to push your air all the way through the instrument.

Bass Clarinet

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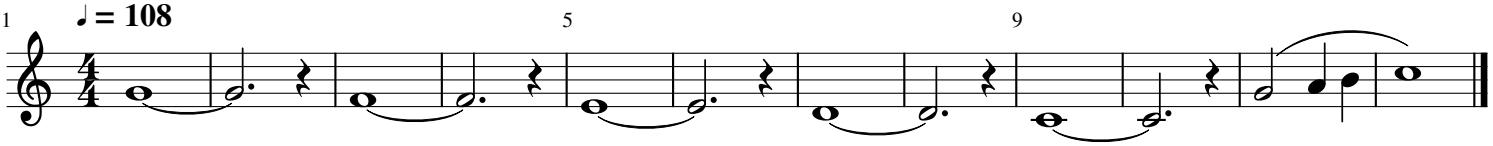
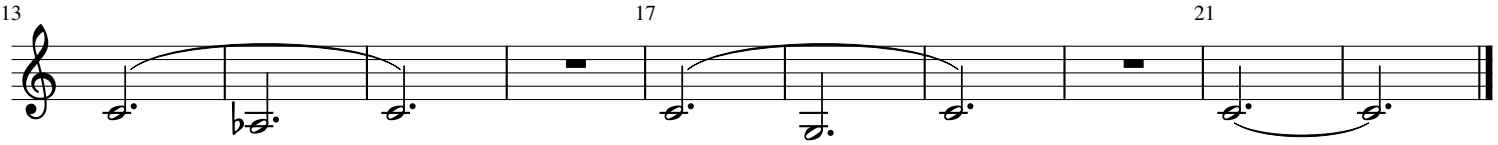
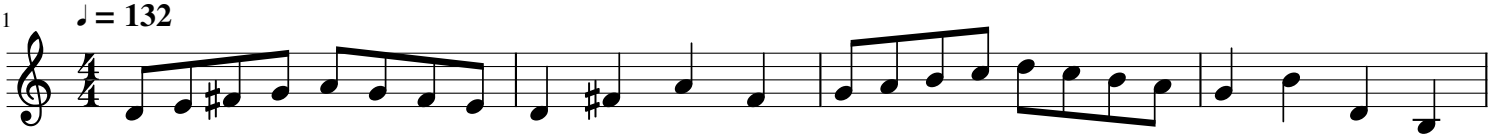
Long Tones

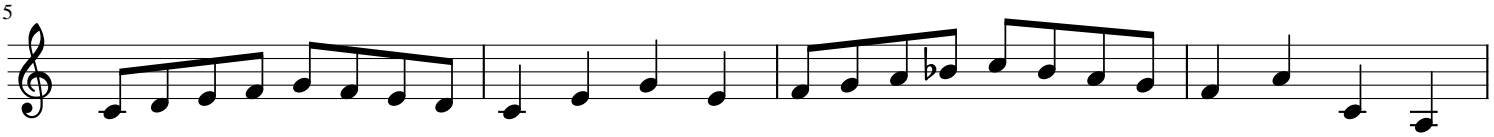


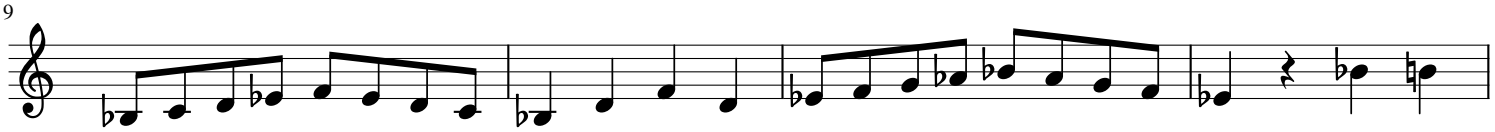
Bb Remington

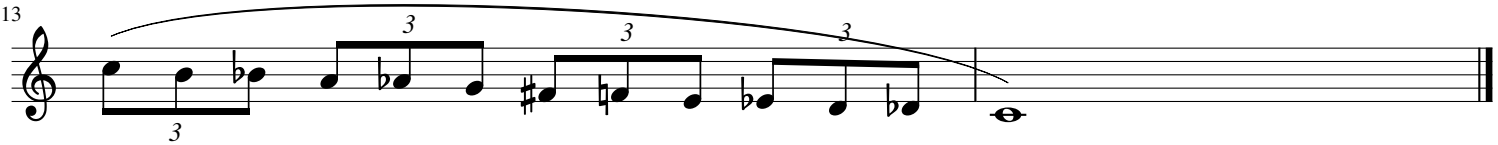


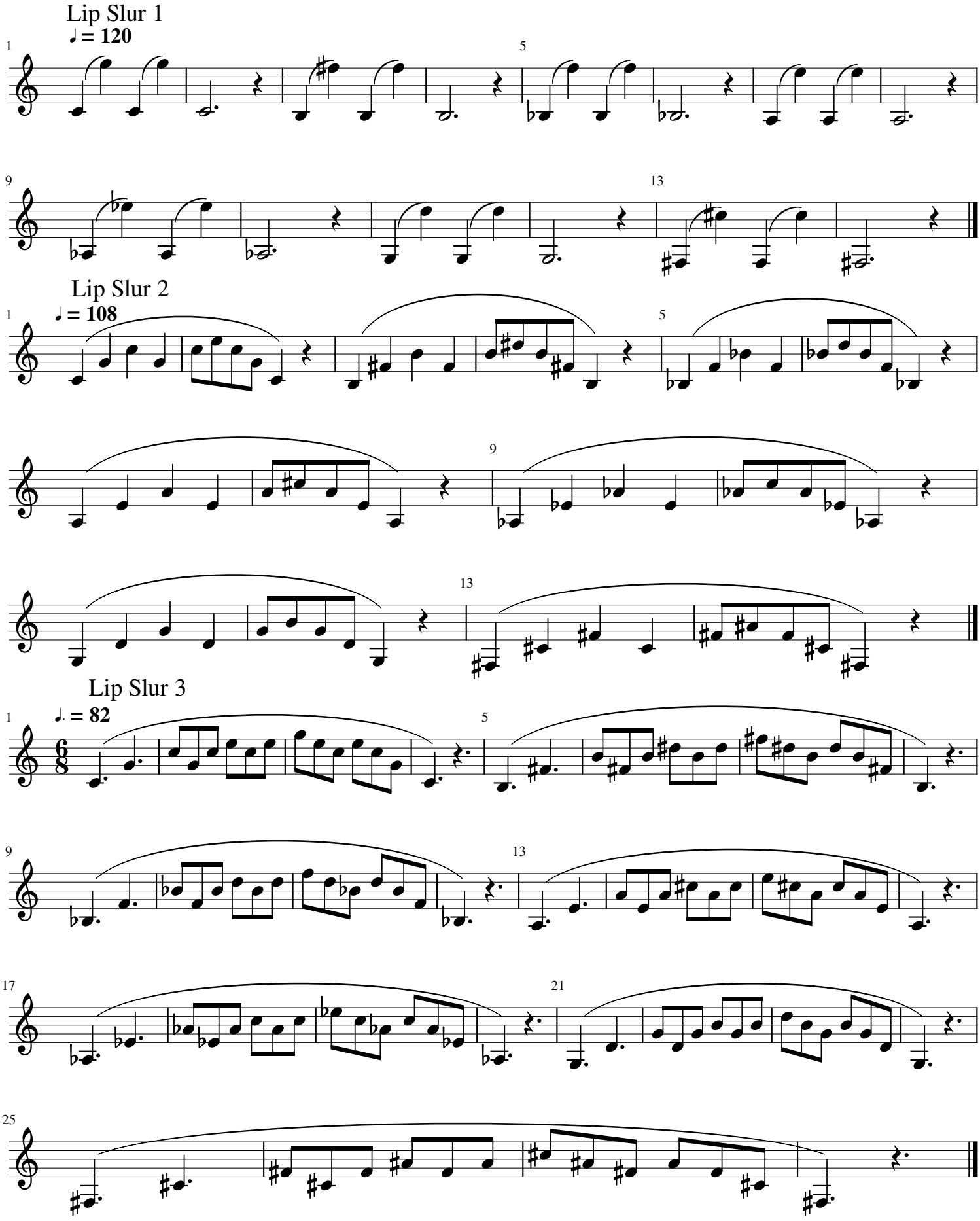
Scale Study










Lip Slur 1
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Lip Slur 2
♩ = 108
Lip Slur 3
♩. = 82