



# ELEMENTARY INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC!



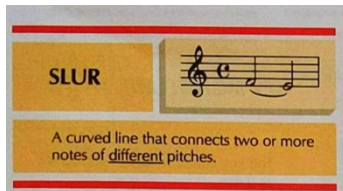
## Trumpet Lesson 6

### Weekly Focus: Articulation: connecting pitches

**Articulation** is the word we use to describe if a group of notes is played separated or smooth. How do we play notes that sound crisp and clear or smooth and connected? When we understand how our breath, combined with the placement and rhythmic movement of our tongue creates either separated or smooth sounding pitches.

### Explanation of Lesson Focus:

We are going to focus on how to play notes with articulation that is connected. This is a very important skill for any brass player and is tricky for trumpet players. Notes that sound connected are achieved with something we call a **slur** and is notated in music with *a curved line that connects two or more notes of different pitches*. That really doesn't give us enough information to play slurs. We'll start by doing **lip slurs** where we just use our lips to move between two pitches. Then we'll do



*regular slurs.*

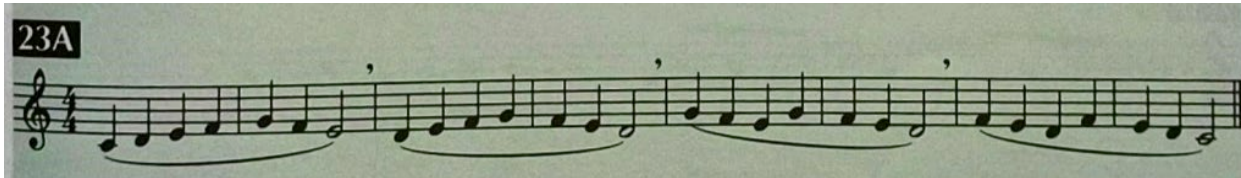
### Warm Up:

Let's begin by playing some lip slurs exercises. Take a good breath, and **only tongue the first note and loosen your lips to play the lower pitch, then tighten your lips to play the higher pitch**. Connect the pitches in the slur.

$\text{♩} = 120$       0 valves      2nd valve

5      1st valve      1st & 2nd valve

Now let's play some regular slurs that you will find in #23A on p. 39, *Standard of Excellence, Book 1 for Trumpet* by Bruce Pearson, c. 2006 Neil A. Kjos. Make sure you **tongue the first pitch in the group of slurred pitches, but then only move your valves to play the other pitches connected by the slur.**

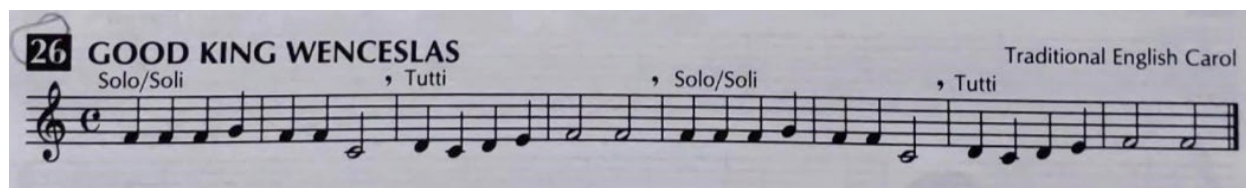


If you are having trouble, play 23A first with no slurs, tonguing each note, then add in the slur, making sure the rhythm is not changed when you slur between pitches

## Musical excerpt:

Now play *Good King Wenceslas* (from p. 9, *Standard of Excellence, Book 1 for Trumpet* by Bruce Pearson, c. 2006 Neil A. Kjos.) two different ways:

**First with no slurs as written.**



**Second, with the slurs written in.** Only tongue the first note of the slur and make sure you make changes with your valves only to connect the pitches in the slur.

