



ELEMENTARY INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC!



Trumpet

Weekly Focus: Learning our Notes

We are going to make sure when we see notes on a music staff, we know the **letter name of the pitch and valves to press**. Why? Because reading pitches on a music staff is how trumpet players decode notation from a page to music that is heard by the listener.

MUSIC VIDEO LESSONS: For Trumpet Lessons, go to Seattle Public Schools YouTube site. <https://www.youtube.com/c/SeattlePublicSchoolsTV>

Explanation of Lesson Focus

I see many students writing the letter names of pitches below notes, or the valve numbers in their music. This is ok for the first 2-3 weeks of learning your music, but students need to identify pitch names and valves *without a written cue* if they want to be able to decode music notation with speed and accuracy.

Warm Up

We will begin by playing these notes with the pitch name and the valves to press:

	0	13	12	1	0	12
	C	D	E	F	G	A

You can use the diagrams below to help you press down the right valves:

0=no valves down	13= 1 & 3 pressed	12=1 & 2 pressed	1= 1 pressed

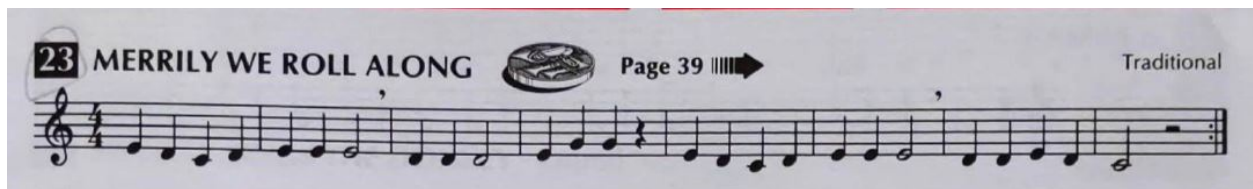
Now, after you have practiced playing with the labels in place, try it again and see if you can say the name of each pitch and the valves **before blowing the note**.



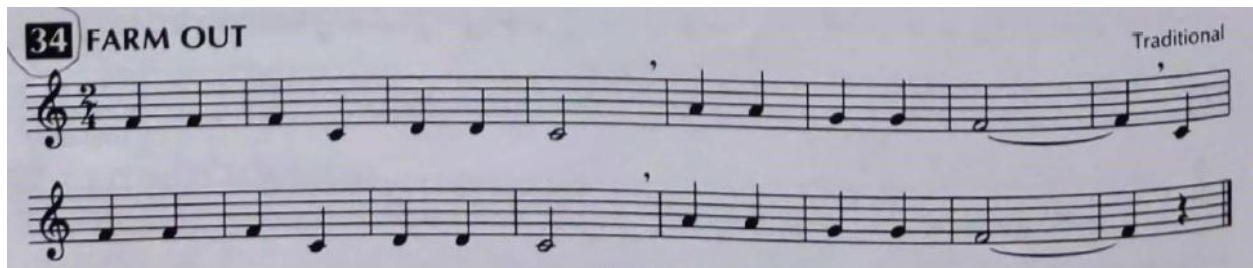
Musical excerpts

P. 9 and p. 10 from *Standard of Excellence, Book 1 for Trumpet* by Bruce Pearson, c. 2006 Neil A. Kjos. (see below).

Take some time to play some songs starting with #23 *Merrily We Roll Along*, also known as *Mary Had a Little Lamb*. Focus on thinking and saying out loud the name of the pitch and the valves.



Try to play #34 *Farm Out*. This song is also known as *Old MacDonald Had a Farm*.



Practice Strategies

I like to think about practicing by using the word **BRASS**. Each letter represents a concept you should try to do every time you practice:

B- buzz and breath. Warm-up by buzzing on your mouthpiece only and always blow with warm, fast, air.

R- repetition and rest. Always play exercises, warm-ups and small sections of bigger songs many times and make sure you rest your lips.

A- articulation and agility. Tongue notes; slur notes and do lip slurs to keep your lip muscles in shape.

S- sing it! Try and sing your music before you play it. If you can sing it, you can play it.

S- share it! After you learn a song, share it with family and friend