

FIRST STUDIES

MR. ALESSI

TONE CLONING—In these initial exercises (1-8), there are several points and goals to keep in mind:

- Breathe naturally
- Clone each note so all the notes are the same style and tone quality.
- Avoid excessive embouchure movement.
- Blow through all the notes and, in general, play with a longer style and a firm attack.
- Take a brief rest at every double bar.

DR. BOWMAN

Most students do not begin playing with the Arban's book as their first text. These first studies can be used to improve tone quality, intonation and especially articulation control and clarity at any level of performance. *The sign of a really fine performer is the consistency of everything done technically!* This means that each note has the same clear, clean beginning articulation and tone quality.

One of the best uses of this first section is to help develop clarity of articulation. Using a mirror to check embouchure stability is often very useful. Most articulation clarity problems are not just tonguing problems, but a lack of coordination of the tongue, breath and embouchure. Be sure to work for complete independence of the tongue from the embouchure and the jaw. Pitfalls to avoid would be excess movement of the jaw and the lips. While watching in the mirror play the exercise keeping the embouchure firm and not *chewing* or *kissing* each note with excessive embouchure and jaw motion. Begin each tongue with the embouchure in place rather than letting the articulation form the embouchure. At the same time avoid getting a rigid or stiff embouchure that is not flexible. Listening to your sound is the best aid for improving all aspects of performance. Indications of tonguing/articulation problems include a scooping of the beginning of each sound, a delay in the release of the air and a fuzzy beginning to the sound.

