

Natural minor mode scale routines for individual players of low brass instruments

Versions for:

euphonium in treble clef Bb, also applicable for brass band style reading tenor trombone and tubas in Eb or BBb

euphonium in bass clef concert, also applicable for tenor and bass trombones

tubas in F, Eb, CC, and BBb, all in bass clef concert.

Being able to read and play all major scales all over ones instrumental playing range is very good for ones equality, sound, intonation, sight-reading, and any other aspect of ones playing, as the ability to do musical analysis on the fly also is enhanced. Playing the natural minor mode scales is the next step for the progressing player. As the “sound” of these scales are less familiar to western ears, accuracy in intonation is a big issue to work on. Especially in the low range. This editor suggests, that all of the major keys should be mastered consistently in the mid range before the challenge of the minor mode scales is confronted.

The general views, held by this editor, on scale playing can be read in the preface to the major mode scale edition.

A single supplementary comment on the basis of feedback from users the major scale edition:

The low range scales for the contrabass tubas, especially for the BBb tubas, are very hard to play. Partly because very few BBb tubas have either a 4 piston compensating system or 5 valves. Partly because these low range scales are very taxing on the lungs of the players. This editor suggests to take the tempo very much down and to provide a bit of tolerance in the area of intonation. When the low notes start to speak more consistently, then the parameters of intonation and speed can be addressed.

Should the low range not immediately be usable in musical performance, then the mere training of it will still yield a bonus in form of improvements in ones general playing abilities.