

A guide to Purple Shade by Peter Meechan

Purple Shade is a really great choice for your grade 3 exam and is a very mellow, sustained piece of music. To get yourself in the style of mellow playing with lots of sustained phrases, have a look on YouTube searching brass slow melody pieces or listening to pieces such as Irish tune from county Derry.

First things first, let's do a couple of exercises to get used to the few main bits in the tune!

Exercise 1 – Slurring

Here really listen that the note you slur to is the same length and not shortened.



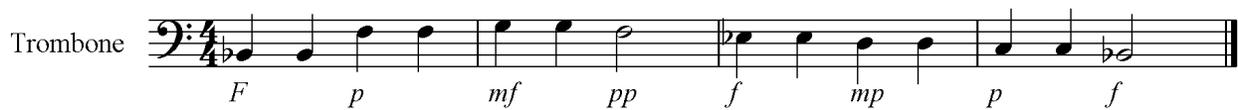
Exercise 2 – Dynamics

There are a lot of dynamics in this pieces there's two exercises here; one for crescendos and the other for sudden changes in the dynamics.

For this first one, push the air out gradually faster to do a smooth crescendo.



For the second exercise you will have to change the speed of your air very suddenly; – a very difficult skill to master. Remember for quiet dynamics to push the air out slowly.



The last exercise is based on the rhythms. The best ways to practice rhythms is to walk around your room at a steady rate and say different words for different beats (fit all the syllables of the word in one step). At first experiment with;

Crotchets – tea

