

GETTING READY TO PLAY *FANTASY ON AMERICAN SAILING SONGS* By Clare Grundman

WHAT TO PRACTICE for first rehearsal:

First, and most importantly, **LISTEN** to the practice soundfile while watching your music at least 8 times before Sept 18. Seriously - it is the quickest way to get comfortable with the piece. Much more effective than a ton of practicing of notes when you don't know what the phrase means or its correct style! Better to have listened a lot than and not practiced much rather than to have practiced with no listening!

When you play, we are going to be starting with the beginning up to the first note of letter B. Then we will move to the end of the piece, letter S to the end. Letter S starts around 5:29 in the recording, (5 minutes & 29 seconds). Start listening before S, perhaps at letter R, which is 5:09ish.

Sooo...

- Listen to those spots a lot
- Figure out how to simplify the spots where you are thinking, "You want me to do WHAT????).
- See if you can hear (because you've listened a lot) some places that can be "landmarks". These would be places where your ear picks up something from another instrument, or something in your own part, that can tell you where the band is (vs where you are! We all get lost).

TRUMPETS - you need to have (and bring) **STRAIGHT MUTES**. If you don't have a straight mute, see below for some suggestions. There are hundreds (well, lots) of different kinds of mutes so I've selected 2 for you to consider. ALSO below - Trumpet vs Cornet parts.

FLUTES - at Letter F, it says "Picc." I'd like piccolos only here, so if you are not one of our piccolo players, rest for those 8 measures and come back in after G where it says, "Flute". It is a fun passage to play, though, so you might want to practice it! If you are an advanced player, but no piccolo, you can play it, but do it up an octave!!!

EVERYONE -

- At each **key change**, MARK the first few new sharps/flats/naturals **before** you start practicing! There are lots of key changes!! The goal to to reduce the number of mistakes you make! ;-)
- At each **meter change** (2/4 to 4/4 to 12/8) it is wise to write in the counting under the first couple of measure of notes or rests.
- **MARK the error corrections** listed for your instrument in the Sailing Songs Errata page (in the music dropbox folder).
- **Cues**: Don't play the cues unless I ask you to do so.
- For now, if it says, "**One only**" or "**Solo**", everyone may play and we will figure out later if we are doing solo parts. "**Tutti**" means all play.

- **Trills** go from the note printed to the next note higher in the key signature. So if we are in the key of Bb (Bb and Eb) and the trill is marked on a D, you'd trill between D & Eb. If we were in the key of C (no sharps no flats) we'd trill from D to E natural. If the fingering is awkward, there is most likely an alternate trill fingering. Google trill charts for your instrument.

- "**Soli**" means the main part, but shared with other instrument.

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BELOW THIS LINE IS INFO FOR TRUMPETS AND THE CORRECT LINK TO THE SOUNDFILE FOLDER

Happy practicing!! I'm looking forward to working on this, one of my favorites, piece with you!

Diane

TRP vs CORNET parts:

- Trumpet vs Cornet parts. When this piece was written, 1952, Cornets were more popular and the basic instruments used in bands. The conical bore blended better with the instruments of the time. Trumpets (cylindrical bore) are more strident and fanfare-ish and were added for "color". In this piece, the trumpet mostly doubles the first and second cornet parts, **except** at letter M. From M-N, it would be nice to have two people play the trumpet part, please (one person who is playing first cornet parts and one who is playing the second parts). Play the trumpet part unison, except the last note, then, one play the high and one the LOW A.

TRUMPET/CORNET STRAIGHT MUTES:

If cornet/trumpet music only says, "Mute" it refers to the straight mute. There are many other types of mutes including cup mutes, wah-wah mutes, practice mutes, bucket mutes and others, including just the business end of a sink plunger!! (The hardware store guy looked at me really oddly when I asked for 6 sink plungers (trumpet) and 6 bath plungers (tbone), hold the sticks!)

For trumpet straight mutes I recommend either (both are excellent and standard):

- the Humes and Berg stone-lined 101 trumpet straight mute (the basic and classic) which runs about \$20 (There are many red and white Humes and Berg mutes for different purposes, make sure you get the stone-lined **straight** mute.

- the Dennis Wick trumpet straight mute (DW5504) which runs about \$45 (\$65 for a copper bottom which supposedly has a warmer tone)

If you are interested, you can look at all FIVE pages of trumpet mutes on the Music and Arts website! <https://www.musicarts.com/trumpet-cornet-mutes> (and this is a fine place to purchase a mute)

Don't just go by looks - make sure you are getting a straight mute and either the Humes and Berg or the Dennis Wick. There are a lot of cheap look-a-likes.

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Here is the NEW (as of yesterday, August 23) link to use for soundfiles:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/sb5umlbxvpi6vhdrkcbwx/AG0yLwJs2OgTsmuqmHKstuY?rlkey=ky6rivj94cmcjn2phvviwcw2r&st=jgz3qpmh&dl=0>