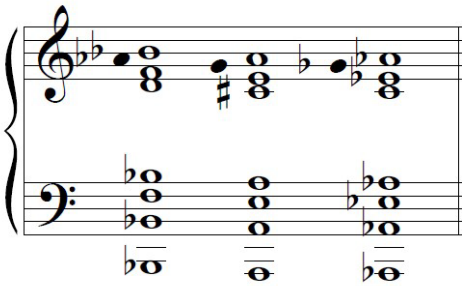
High Register
A Beginning

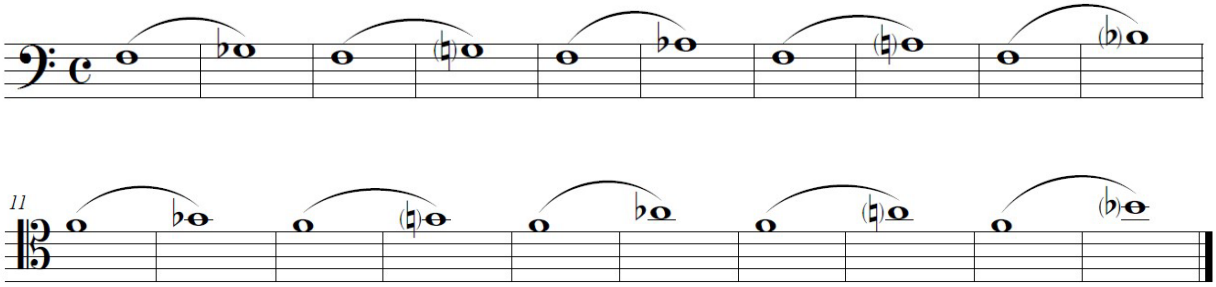
FRESNO STATE
Trombone and Euphonium Studio

The upper register takes time to develop. These exercises will get you started. Remember to increase your air speed as you go higher. “Lungs deal in pounds and the embouchure deals in ounces” ~Brad Edwards. Blow faster air, round your embouchure and raise your tongue. Experiment with what gets the note out, then find a relaxed way of producing the high register.

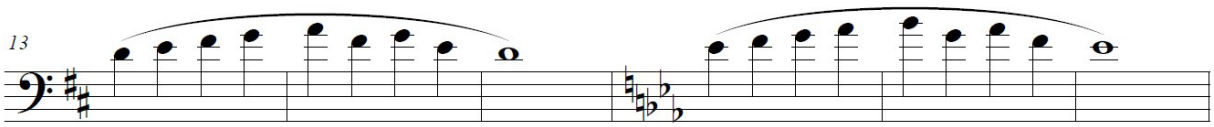
The 7th Partial: Trombonists use the 7th partial to perform G and Gb/F# three leger lines above the staff. These notes are incredibly flat and must be raised. For G use a short 2nd position and Gb a short 3rd position. Note, we do not use Ab in first position since we cannot raise the pitch enough to perform the Ab in tune.



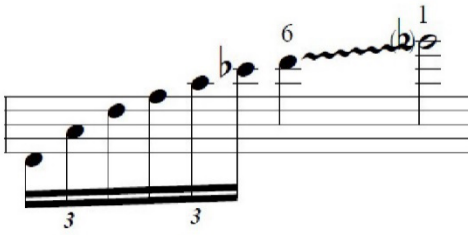
Long Tones: Inverting the Remington long tone pattern will allow you to reach higher notes. Performing a set off fourth line F then F two ledger lines up will help with intonation.



Hearing the Pitch: Select an easy melody that can be transposed up by step. You will be more accurate with intonation. The horn and your air will respond in a more natural way. You can use a five-note pattern, scales, arpeggios, or a simple tune. Here is an example from Schlabach.



Glissing-up: This exercise helps reduce mouthpiece pressure and gives the performer time to speed up their air. Starting on low F rip up to F two ledger lines above the staff. Then gliss up by step. Speed up your air as you go higher. Use a fermata to see how long you can stay on a given pitch.



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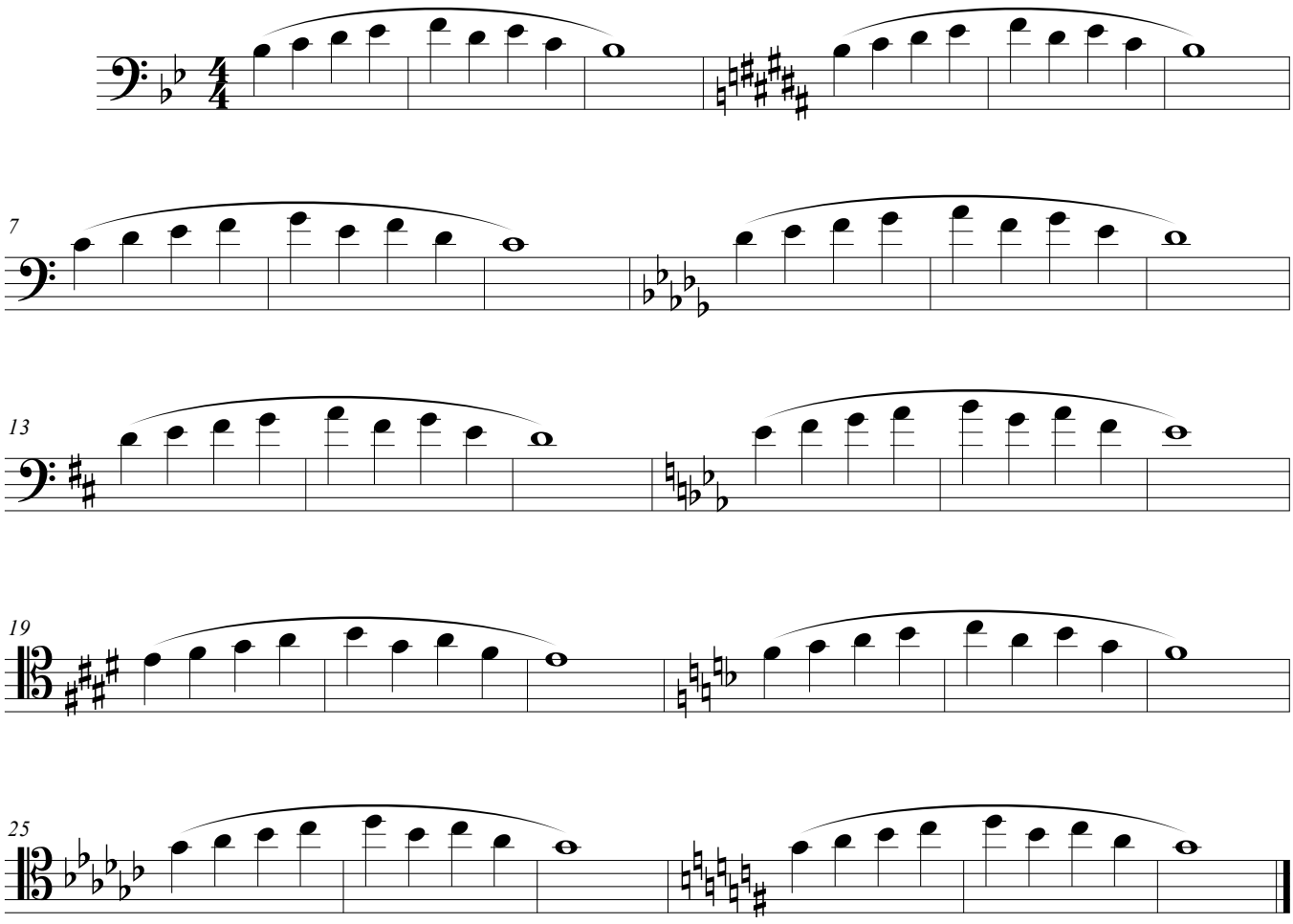
Melodies Headed Up



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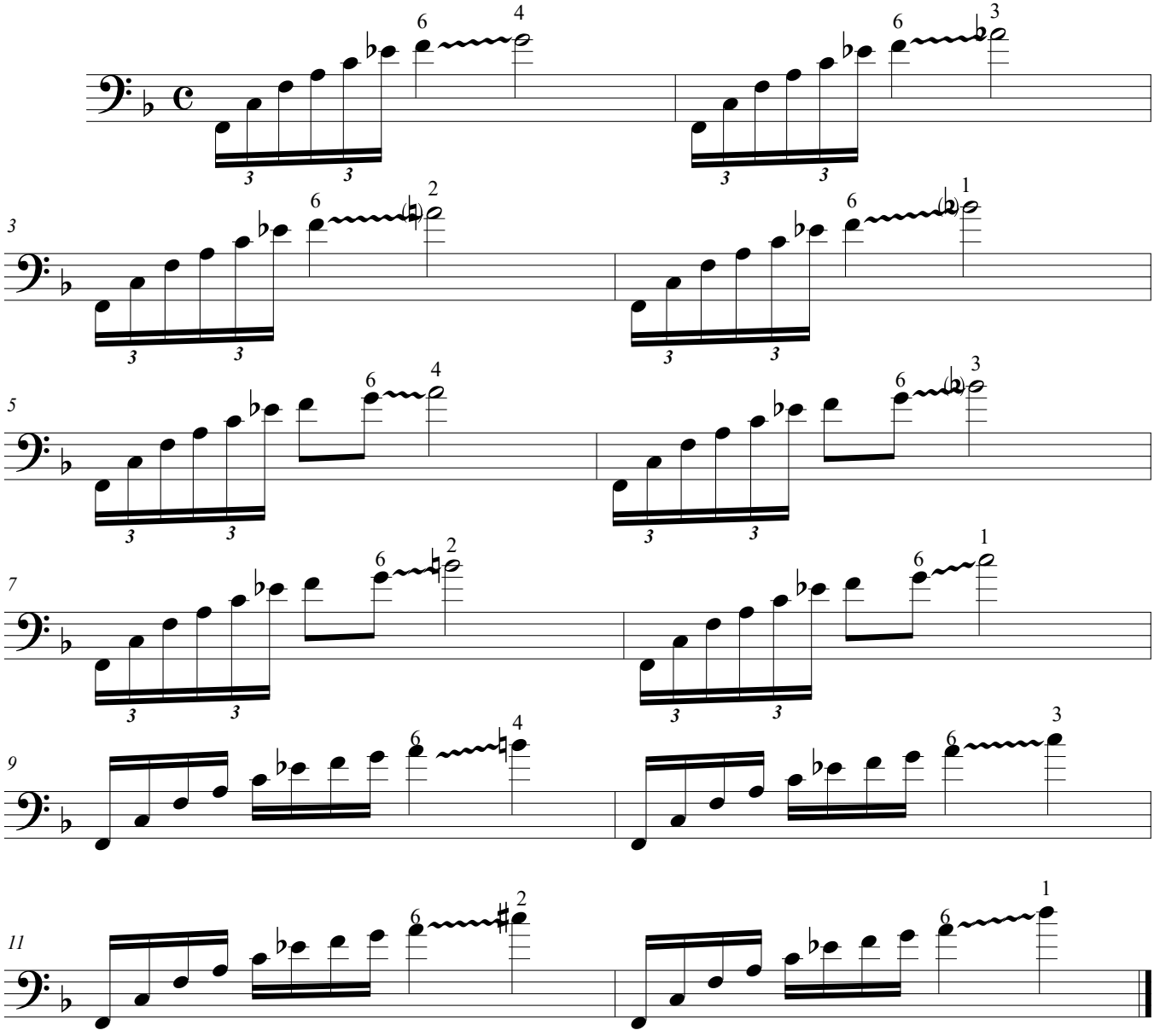
Glissing Up



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