

# **Extremities in Dynamics and managing and understanding both or trumpet**

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Playing in any extreme dynamic on a brass instrument, especially trumpet can be a daunting task. Typically, most students spend their practice time in the **mf** range of the sound control. Why? Well, to put it simply, it's because it takes the least amount of effort and control. A structured practice session is important for this aspect especially as it reminds them of the areas they need attention in their private practice time.

Dynamics function as a fluctuation in sound control and volume. It's very important for students to be made aware of what a good sound is, and try to imitate it as often as possible at all dynamics as well as never abandoning the idea of a beautiful sound.

## **Soft Playing:**

The aperture in soft playing is so small that the student's lips will almost completely touch. Because of this, the student needs to move fast air, which will keep their aperture barely open enough to achieve their desired dynamic level, while also keeping their lips in a state of gentle vibration. Soft playing is an ability that must be practiced and practiced often. This one of the most ignored aspects of brass playing! When playing softly, students need to remember to keep mouthpiece pressure to a minimum. With so little air to begin with, too much mouthpiece pressure can result in their lips to stop vibrating. Try to maintain a constant airstream moving forward and outward from the instrument to avoid any shakiness or wobbling in the sound. The sound even though is quiet, should always retain a warm core, the sound should never be so quiet that it becomes wispy and brittle.

## **Loud Playing:**

When playing in louder dynamics, the student's aperture will be very open and a large volume of air will be passing through the lips into the their instrument. Their air stream will also be faster than for soft playing. Students need to remember to relax the center of their embouchure as much as possible: the more freely it vibrates, the greater their endurance and resonance will be. They need to remember to keep their mouthpiece pressure to a minimum to allow their lips to resonate freely; this will also increase their endurance as well.