

Arban method

The **Arban Method** (**La grande méthode complète de cornet à piston et de saxhorn par Arban**) is a complete pedagogical method for students of trumpet, cornet, and other brass instruments. The original edition was published by Jean-Baptiste Arban sometime before 1859 and is currently in print.^[1] It contains hundreds of exercises, ranging in difficulty. The method begins with basic exercises and progresses to very advanced compositions, including the famous arrangement of *Carnival of Venice*.

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Text

Introduction

In the Introduction J. B. Arban covers the range of the cornet (trumpet). He also details alternate fingerings and describes the use of the tuning slide. Arban states his opinion that the mouthpiece should be two-thirds on the lower lip and one-third on the upper. (Herbert Lincoln Clarke recommends the mouthpiece to rest half upper lip and half lower lip.) Arban then stresses the proper "attack" technique. He uses the "tu" pronunciation, which in French is said with the tongue in the "tee" position. Arban concludes with proper breathing technique (see diaphragmatic breathing).^{[2](pp5–9)}

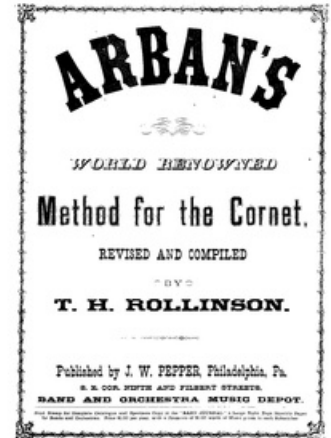
I. First Studies

Arban then begins his method with a focus on tone (Studies 1-10). The next studies (11-50) familiarize the student with fingerings, develop their range, and instill a habit of precision in attacking the notes. In the next section, which is devoted to syncopation, goes from a simple quarter-half-quarter rhythm to a sixteenth-eighth-sixteenth repeated rhythm. Next, Arban focuses on the dotted eighth-sixteenth and eighth-double sixteenth rhythms. He ends the First Studies with 10 studies on the 6/8 meter.^{[2](pp11–36)}

II. Playing Methods: Slurring or Legato Playing

Professor Arban devotes the next section of his vast method to slurring or legato playing. He begins with simple slurs that are accomplished by the variation of valves. He suggests pronouncing "taw-ee" while playing.^{[2](p39)} The editor recommends adding little more air on the top note. (Such a technique is also needed to accomplish trills.)^{[2](p39)} Arban devotes half of this whole section, though, to lip slurs. He concludes this section with a series of advanced studies combining slurred and staccato playing.

Arban's world-renowned method



Front cover of the 1879 edition

Author	Jean-Baptiste Arban
Original title	<i>La grande méthode complète de cornet à piston et de saxhorn par Arban</i>
Subject	Musical Instruments: Studies and exercises, Cornet music, Trumpet music
Genre	sheet music

III. Scales

Arban's series on scales includes studies of major, minor, and chromatic scales, as well as numerous variations thereof. Arban admits to giving minor scales "limited treatment," but Gordon refutes this by citing the nonexistence of "limits on the use of the Trumpet and Cornet."^{[2](p57)}

IV. Ornaments

Next, Arban teaches the student the various ornaments that can be played on a trumpet or cornet. He details the simple appoggiatura, grace note (short appoggiatura), portamento, double appoggiatura, the turn, the trill, and the mordent. Arban concludes the fourth section by combining the various ornaments and integrating them into various tunes.

V. More Advanced Studies

The "more advanced studies" include studies on intervals; broken octaves and tenths; triplets; the four-sixteenth rhythmic figure; major and minor arpeggios; the dominant seventh arpeggio; and cadenzas.

VI. Tonguing

Next, Arban focuses on triple tonguing, double tonguing, and fanfare tonguing. Arban uses various "tu-ku" pronunciation combinations, and Gordon subsequently replaces these with "tee-kee" combinations.^{[2](p153)} In his studies on double tonguing, Arban includes a score of studies in which he combines double tonguing with slurs occurring on various beats and within them.^{[2](pp183-187)}

The Art of Phrasing: 150 Classic and Popular Melodies

The Art of Phrasing was written by Arban in 1866, but was never added to the original French edition of the Method. These songs and duets first appeared in the American Edition of the Arban Method published by the Jean White Company in 1872. This new version added 28 duets entitled 28 Recreations, 32 Melodies, and 100 Art of the Phrasing songs. Carl Fischer and J.W. Pepper also added the Art of Phrasing to their Arban Methods in the late 1800s.

68 Duets for Two Cornets

As in his other sections, Arban progresses from simple pieces to more challenging ones. All of these, however, require their performers to be synchronized with one another.

14 Characteristic Studies

Before his final 12 fantasias, Arban provides 14 challenging characteristic studies. His concluding remarks preceding these are as follows:

Those of my readers who...want to attain...perfection, should...try to hear good music well interpreted. They must seek out...the most illustrious models, and...purify their taste, verify their sentiments, and bring themselves as near as possible to that which is beautiful.^{[2](p283)}

These passages are challenging and are longer than all of the previous sections' pieces. Each is a full page long (in the platinum edition), and they crescendo in difficulty as they progress; the fourteenth study is two pages long and the only piece in this section in $\frac{12}{8}$ time.

12 Celebrated Fantasias and Airs Varies




A chromatic scale exercise from Arban's Method.

In addition to the eleven fantasias (fantasies) for B-flat cornets, there is one for the A cornet ("Fantasie and Variations on Acteon"). Arban's celebrated composition "Fantasie and Variations on *The Carnival of Venice*" is the eleventh fantasia in the list. The platinum edition of Arban's Method includes an accompaniment CD for the twelve fantasia. (Each accompaniment includes pauses for the various cadenzas in each song.)

Notes

1. Gates, Charles R. (1992). *An examination of Jean Maire's edition of J.B. Arban's Grande méthode complète pour cornet à pistons et de saxhorn (c.1859) and its contribution to modern trumpet pedagogy, with suggested augmentations of Maire's edition based on identification of requisite technical skills inherent in trumpet performance* (https://web.archive.org/web/20150402125216/https://etd.ohiolink.edu/ap:10:0::NO:10:P10_ACCESSION_NUM:osu1302723971). Columbus: Ohio State University. OCLC 30720266 (<https://www.worldcat.org/oclc/30720266>). Archived from the original (https://etd.ohiolink.edu/ap:10:0::NO:10:P10_ACCESSION_NUM:osu1302723971) on 2015-04-02. Retrieved 2015-03-06.
2. Arban, Jean-Baptiste (2005). *Arban's Complete Conservatory Method for Trumpet Platinum Edition*. Carl Fischer Music. ISBN 9780825858529.

External links

 Media related to Jean-Baptiste Arban's Method for Cornet at Wikimedia Commons

- [Sound samples of some solos and exercises \(http://abel.hive.no/trumpet/arban/ra/\)](http://abel.hive.no/trumpet/arban/ra/)

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