FLOW STUDIES

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FLOW STUDIES

Introduction

Flow Studies for Tuba is designed to help you learn how to effectively use your air flow to play tuba. As you play the studies, consider the following questions:

How fast is my air moving?

How much air am I using?

How much air is left in my tank?

Will I make the phrase?

and most importantly...

Am I getting the sound I want?

Using FLOW STUDIES

- There are no tempo markings in *Flow Studies.* You should choose a tempo which allows you to make the phrase in one breath comfortably. As you play the lower phrases, it is acceptable to speed the tempo up gradually in order to make the phrase more playable.

- Never try to squeeze air out beyond your comfort level. If you cannot make the phrase, insert a breath. Helping you learn how to deal with these phrasing issues is one of the goals of this book.

- There are crescendos and diminuendos in *Flow Studies* but there are no dynamic markings. You should choose an overall dynamic which is comfortable and musically sensible.

- Always strive for a smooth sound and gradual changes in dynamics. *Flow Studies* are studies in phrasing and smoothness.

- If you have trouble making the phrases in the fast flow studies, make sure you are not stumbling through the notes because you are uncomfortable with the key. Practice the etudes until you can play every phrase in one breath comfortably and that the technique in that particular key is not a hindrance.

FLOW STUDIES are divided into three groups:

Slow

Medium

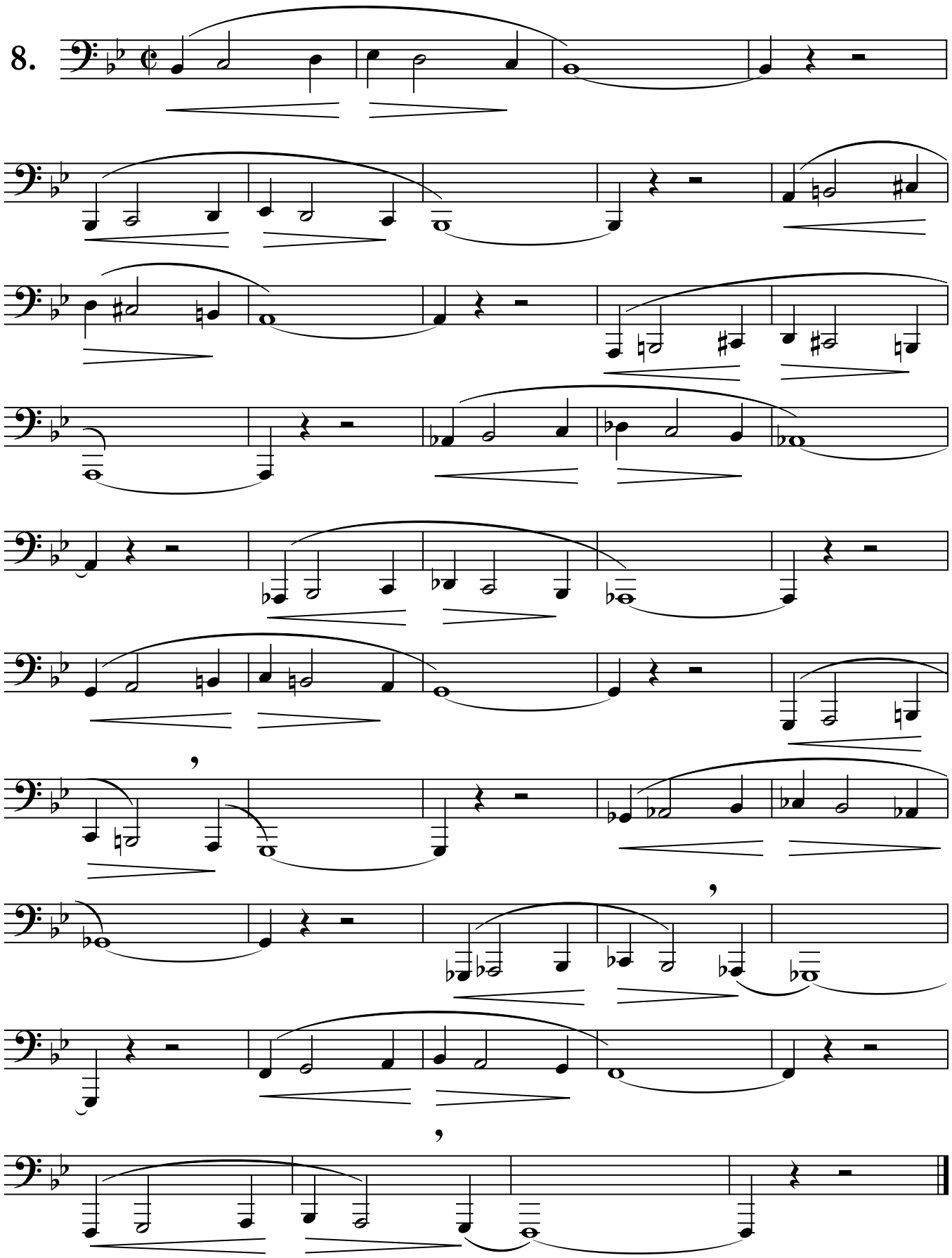
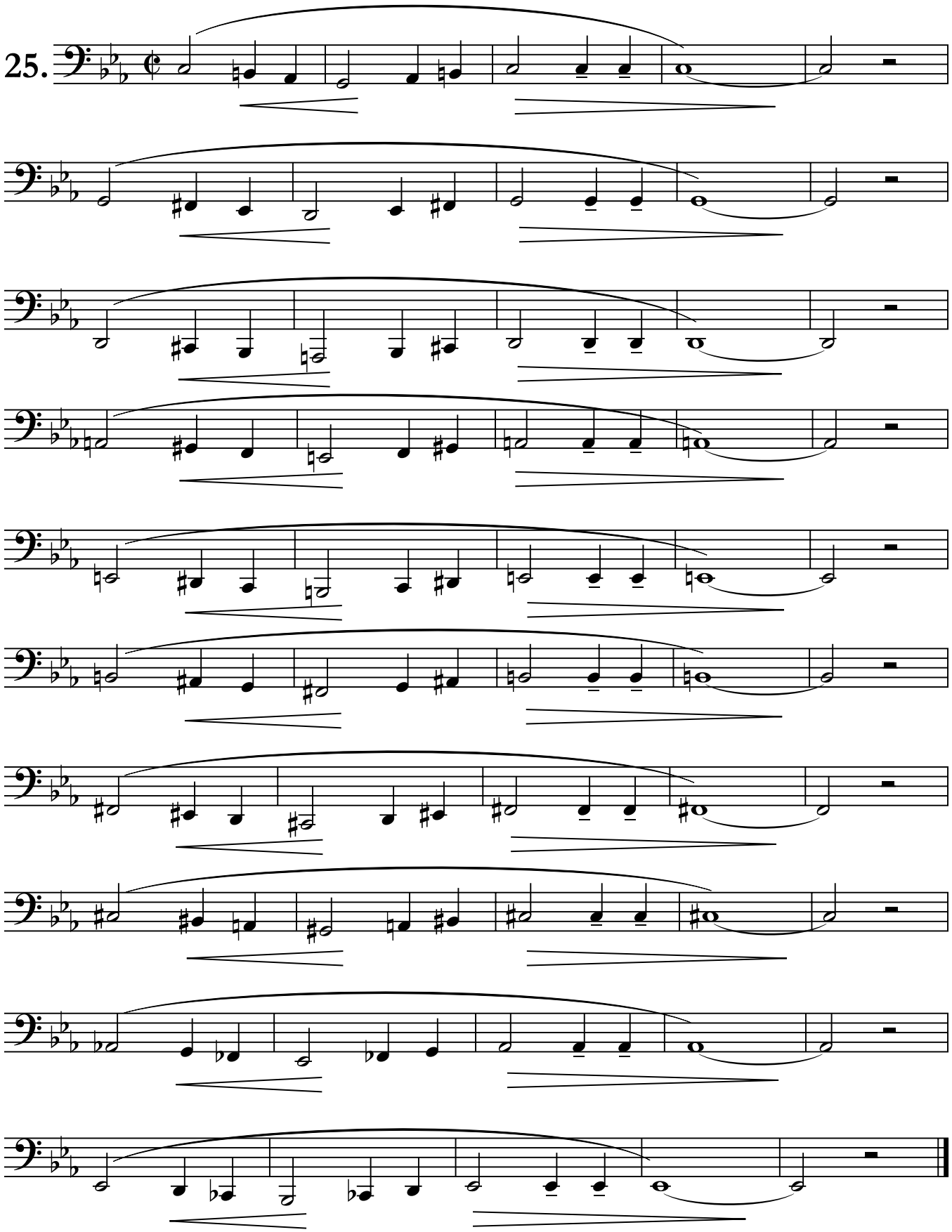
Fast

For maximum benefit, mix two or three different studies from each group every day. A weekly etude rotation has been suggested although players are certainly welcome to mix and match the studies to their liking. If the rotation is followed, players will spend 10 - 15 minutes a day on *Flow Studies* and will play every etude in one week.

Teachers

An effective way to use FLOW STUDIES with your students is to trade phrases. This allows you to deliver an aural model of smoothness and phrasing that your students can emulate.

8. Syncopated Scales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