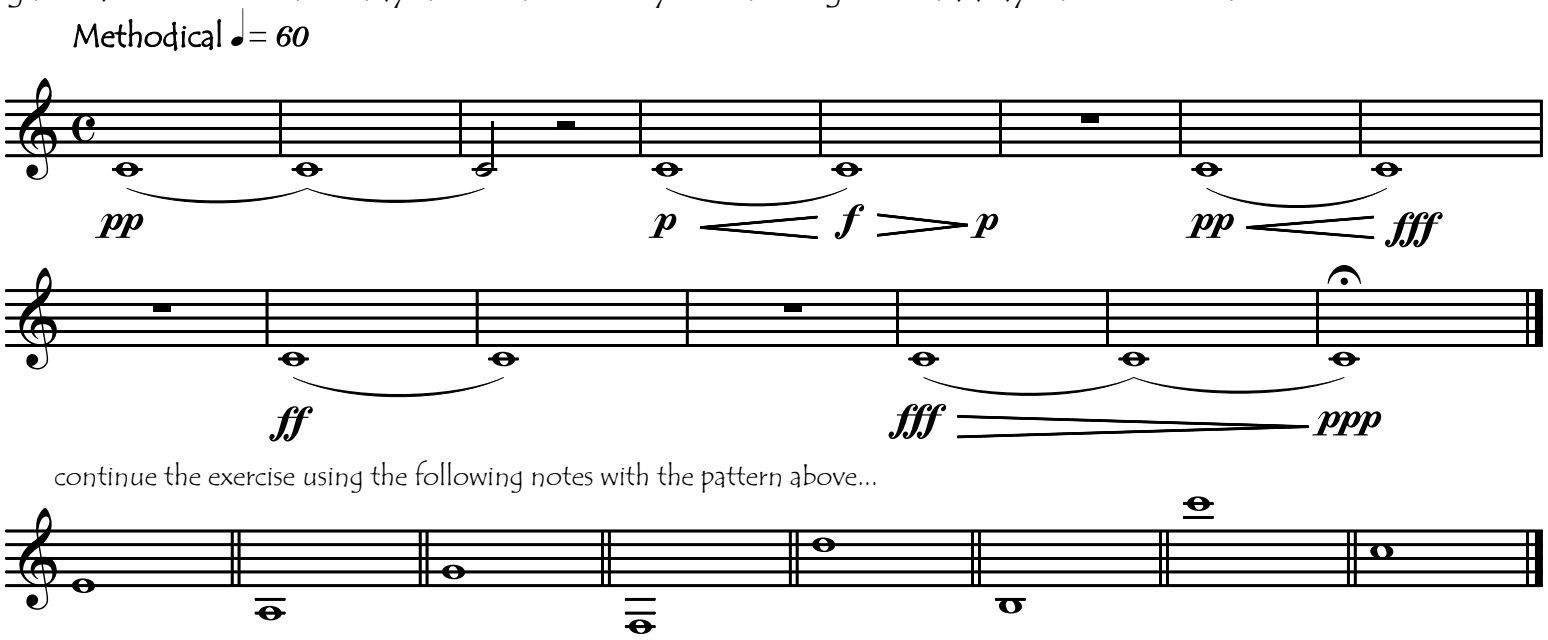
Long Tones

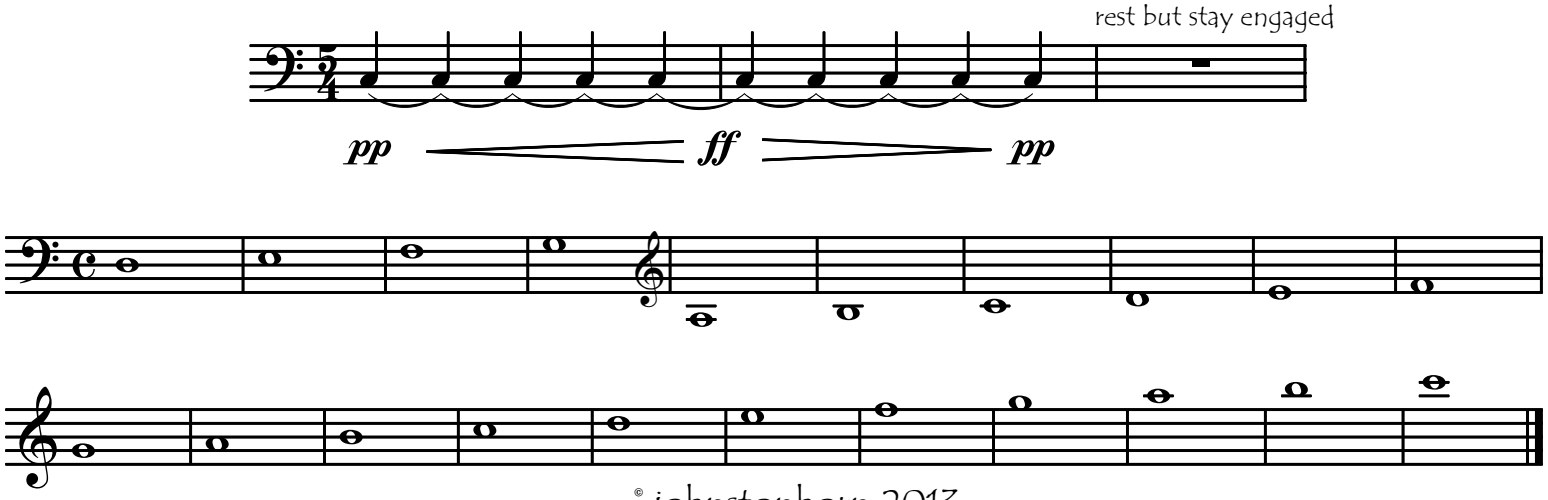
Doug Hill
arr. J. Johnton

HILL LONG TONES: Written by Doug Hill, one of the greatest horn teachers of the 20th century. This exercise extends endurance, range, dynamic control, pitch control, centering, and usually improves one's overall sound. Do try to extend yourself toward a greater lengh of tone (play slower) as you get stronger and learn to pace your air better.

If you are a beginner to the horn, play the exercise with no dynamic contrast and concentrate on a pure, uninterrupted tone (smooth airstream with no bumps, burps or blips). Once you have gained control of a steady airstream then you can begin to add dynamic contrast.



STANDARD LONG TONES: The long tones below are from the Joseph Singer Embouchure Building book. This study can give maximum benefit to the embouchure if it is done with measured proportioning of crescendo and diminuendo. Try to build up endurance so that the entire 3 octaves can be done without removing the mouthpiece from the lips. At first, however, avoid undue strain by resting briefly after two octaves, and by playing the highest notes, if necessary, without crescendo. When playing in various keys, always continue until the highest register of the horn has been reached, rather than ending on the tonic. Below is the pattern you will use.



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