Twenty-One Vocalises
Extra Low Bass Clef Version

By

Marco Bordogni

Edited by

Ferdinand Gumbert and John Ericson
Horn Notes Edition
Foreword

These classic vocalises (vocal etudes) by Marco Bordogni (1789-1856) are very well known today in a version for trombone by Johannes Rochut (1881-1952), published in 1928.

However, for this new edition I have gone back to the 1880 edition by Ferdinand Gumbert (1818-1896 – no relation to the horn teacher Friedrich Gumpert). While similar to that of Rochut, it was intended for vocalists, and there are a number of interesting differences, with more articulations and less slurs, providing for us today a bit more musical variety to the treatment of the original Bordogni melodies.

This Extra Low Bass Clef Version follows Gumbert closely for the first 21 of these classic melodies, but with a few exceptions. The biggest change is that all of his breath marks are eliminated. There really were a lot of them, to the extent that you have to wonder about his concept of breath control – not to mention they actually conflicted with the larger phrase structure in many locations. Breathe when you need to, with the larger phrase structures always as a guide. As to other changes, on occasion I have cut full bars of rest or long held notes, all trills were eliminated, and most of the ornaments have been written out.

On the first page, below the first number, I have also included a few additional performance notes. The main thing I would add and emphasize here is that these are not to be played like etudes, strictly following printed dynamics and markings. The challenge is to make the melodies and phrases work for you, to make them convincing to your audience on every level. While you could add lots of markings to show your phrase ideas, I suggest you not do this; instead, leave the music relatively clean and use your mind to form the melodic shapes, singing them to the audience with your instrument.

The final item to mention is that these studies, although highly suited to bass trombone or tuba, are very worthy of study by any instrument in bass clef. It is in this context that I hope that this new E-Book edition will find wide use.

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The Bordogni-Gumbert-Ericson Collection
Try all the versions that work for your instrument!

Standard Treble Clef
(trumpet, horn, tenor horn, mellophone)

Low Treble Clef**
horn, tenor Wagner tuba

Standard Bass Clef
(trombone, Euphonium, baritone)

Low Bass Clef**
(all low brass, horn, bass Wagner tuba)

Extra Low Bass Clef
(bass trombone, tuba)

Ultra Low Bass Clef
(tuba)

**Horn players, be sure to check out the special "Low Horn Boot Camp" edition, which includes the first eleven of the low treble clef and low bass clef versions of these etudes, with further notes on low range development for the horn player.

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