12 Modern Preparatory Etudes for Horn

John Ericson
Horn Notes Edition
Foreword

These new etudes, composed in a modern style, are intended to fill a gap in the horn etude literature, functioning as a concise, modern version of the classic Schantl/Pottag book of Preparatory Melodies.

What I had noticed was that the jump from the typical 19th-century technical etude to those of Reynolds and Schuller was too large. Clearly there was a need for a short group of etudes to bridge that gap, etudes that were easier and shorter than the typical modern studies. Years of looking told me that there was no material available that could provide the bridge that was needed, and I took on the challenge to create the needed materials.

The etudes are by design short and can be learned relatively quickly. Various technical issues are a focus, but the goals overall are accuracy and to prepare students toward playing more difficult 20th-century etudes and musical works of a similar character.

To the etudes specifically, some have clear requested tempos and others do not. My goal with that is to reflect the reality of the music we perform. Some composers are very specific as to tempos and every marking, but others are much more open ended about it all. Thus, in some of these studies the performer will have to “search” the music itself and derive tempos that are effective or at least make sense to them.

Finally, I would note that following the study of etude 6 students are highly encouraged to study the opening of Bruckner 4.

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Dedicated to the memory of Verne Reynolds