

A black and white photograph of several brass instruments, including mellophones and marching horns, arranged together. The instruments are shiny and have complex tubing. The title text is overlaid on the top half of the image.

# **A Mello Catechism**

**A Guide to the World of  
Mellophones and  
Marching Horns**

**John Q. Ericson**

# A Mello Catechism



*A Guide to the World of  
Mellophones and Marching Horns*

**John Q. Ericson**

Second Edition

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# A Mello Warm-Up

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## The First Note

♩ = 80-96

Musical notation for "The First Note" exercise, consisting of four staves. Each staff contains two measures of music. The first measure of each staff has a dynamic marking of *pp* (pianissimo) and the second measure has a dynamic marking of *ff* (fortissimo). The notes are connected by slurs, and there are crescendo and decrescendo hairpins indicating the dynamic change. The notes are half notes, and the exercise is in common time (C).

## Center the Embouchure

♩ = 60

Musical notation for "Center the Embouchure" exercise, consisting of three staves. Each staff contains two measures of music. The first measure of each staff has a dynamic marking of *mp* (mezzo-piano). The notes are eighth notes, and the exercise is in common time (C).

## Work Up

Musical notation for "Work Up" exercise, consisting of two staves. Each staff contains two measures of music. The first measure of each staff has a dynamic marking of *mp* (mezzo-piano). The notes are eighth notes, and the exercise is in common time (C).

***Historical footnote: mellophones have long been used as a substitute for horns.***

An example may be seen below in the photo of a typical town band from the first part of the twentieth century, specifically a 1921 photo of the town band of my hometown of Emporia, Kansas, Grady's Band.



In one of the more youthful looking sections of the band, in the second row on the left behind bandleader M. C. Grady, we find four mellophone players. This is in addition to seven trumpets, six trombones, one baritone, two tubas, two piccolos, ten clarinets, five saxophones, and two percussionists. Horn players are not seen; mellophones crooked in F are covering the horn parts of this typical 39 piece band.

