

*Musicianship for Professional Trombonist in Symphony Orchestra*

Thassanai Phensit, Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University, Thailand

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**Abstract**

The purpose of the study “Musicianship for Professional Trombonist in Symphony Orchestra” is to study skills and techniques of musicianship for Trombonist in Symphony Orchestra. This research is a qualitative research by collecting data through interviews from the musicians in Symphony Orchestra and music teachers in universities, totally 17 persons and is analyzed by content analysis. The research result shows that 1) skills for a trombone musician are to play the songs from trombone method books from basic to advanced stages and to read notes from new song sheets accurately and quickly. The special techniques of a trombonist are slur and glissando with a trombone manner. The Trombone musicians must be responsible for both practicing and time-managing. These are very important for a professional trombonist.

Keyword: Trombone, Professional Musician, Symphony Orchestra

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## **Introduction**

At present music study in universities in Thailand is widely available for those who would like to study music comprehensively and who would like to enter the music profession and further their careers. According to music study in undergraduate degree, there are two types of study programs: Western Music and Thai Music. Most of the universities provide these two programs equivalently. However, each of the program can be sub-categorized based on learning activities and course management; for example, Western Music course can be sub-programmed as Music Performance, Music Composers, Popular Music and Jazz etc.

The universities whose music study is available are 1) National Universities 2) Autonomous Universities 3) Private Universities which are universities, Rajabhat universities, institutes, and colleges under the Higher Education Commission.

To have the same directions and practices, Thai Qualifications Framework for Higher Education; TQF: HEd is established so that National Education Act concerning education standards can be concretely practiced by focusing on Learning Outcome Management for graduates in each expected qualification through specifying directions to control and develop the standards of education as well as for evaluation standards of the 6 areas of music study which are Virtue and Ethics, Knowledge, Cognitive Skills, Interpersonal Skills and Responsibility, Numerical Analysis, Communication, and Information Technology Skills, Psychomotor Domain.

After conducting the research, most of the music study programs focus on the importance of graduates to possess international music abilities, to value music creation, and to realize aesthetics, morality, and ethics in the profession. However, some of the programs are consistently-designed so as for graduates to live their lives in the society. Moreover, with the international cooperation, some of the programs are competitively-designed towards globalization, advanced science and technology, and unlimitedly wireless communication system. Based on these changes, music harmoniously plays an important role in the society although types of music has been varied greatly; furthermore, music can be found in organizations, both government and private, or in businesses such as advertisement, public relation, soundtrack, sales promotion, etc. This is why most musicians prefer to apply music to fit activities in their professions.

Professions in music are more diverse according to changes in the digital age. One of the music professions that many music performers think it is well-established are a musician in the orchestra which is gained more attention from musicians in Thailand; nevertheless, being a musician in the orchestra is not that easy because the audition is very competitive: to compete with both Thai and foreign music performers, and musical talents and the performance techniques need demonstrating vividly. Another reason why the audition is so difficult is that the vacancy (for trumpeter, trombonist, and violinist, etc.) is limited. Why so many musicians go for the orchestra audition is that the remuneration is somewhat high and experiences they shall get from local and international performances are priceless. Not only a talent does play an important role

for being a musician but morality and ethics are also necessary for being in the music industry.

In this study, the researcher is interested in the importance of teaching activities for music study in higher education in Thailand towards standardization, improvement, constructionism, and theoretical and practical music abilities under the supervision of Thai Qualifications Framework for Higher Education; TQF: HEd via bringing National Education Act concerning education standards into concrete use by focusing on Learning Outcome Management for graduates in each expected qualification through specifying directions to control and develop the standards of education.

### **Objective**

This research is to study skills and techniques for musicianship for professional trombonist in Symphony Orchestra

### **Research Methodology**

The universities providing 79 music study courses from 49 universities in Thailand are as follows

#### **University**

<b>1</b>	<b>Chulalongkorn University</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Burapha University</b>
2	Mahidol University	10	Thaksin University
3	Silpakorn University	11	University of Phayao
4	Kasetsart University	12	Ramkhamhaeng University
5	Khon Kaen University	13	Payap University
6	Naresuan University	14	Rattana Bundit University
7	Maharakham University	15	Siam University
8	Rungsit University	16	Assumption University

#### **Rajabhat University**

<b>1</b>	<b>Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>Roi Et Rajabhat University</b>
2	Bansomdejchaopraya Rajabhat University	17	Rajabhat Rajanagarindra University
3	Chandrasakem Rajabhat University	18	Rambhai Barni Rajabhat University
4	Phranakhon Rajabhat University	19	Lampang Rajabhat University
5	Kampaeng Phet Rajabhat University	20	Loei Rajabhat University

6	Chiang Rai Rajabhat University	21	Valaya Alongkorn Rajabhat University under the Royal Patronage
7	Chiang Mai Rajabhat University	22	Sisaket Rajabhat University
8	Chiang Mai Rajabhat University	23	Sakon Nakhon Rajabhat University
9	Nakhonratchasima Rajabhat University	24	Songkhla Rajabhat University
10	Nakhon Si Thammarat Rajabhat University	25	Suratthani Rajabhat University
11	Nakhon Sawan Rajabhat University	26	Surindra Rajabhat University
12	Buriram Rajabhat University	27	Muban Chombueng Rajabhat University
13	Pibulsongkram Rajabhat University	28	Muban Chombueng Rajabhat University
14	Phetchaburi Rajabhat University		
15	Phuket Rajabhat University		
16	Roi Et Rajabhat University		
17	Rajabhat Rajanagarindra University		

### **Institute of Technology and University of Technology**

1	<b>Rajamangala University of Technology Thanyaburi</b>
2	King Mongkut's Institute of Technology

According to the objective above, the research is a qualitative research and is conducted by

1. The researcher has chosen to research music study courses from 5 out of 49 famous universities in Thailand are as follow:

- |                              |                          |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1.1 Chulalongkorn University | 1.2 Mahidol University   |
| 1.3 Silpakorn University     | 1.4 Kasetsart University |
| 1.5 Rangsit University       |                          |

2. Selecting a topic and an objective

Because the researcher teach music in higher education whose subject relates to trombone practice, the interest in studying techniques and methods for teaching trombone shall be developed so as to find out international standards for the guidelines and the practices of trombone practice with the reference to Thai Qualifications Framework for Higher Education; TQF:Hed by focusing on Learning

Outcome Management towards the specified goals to be developed for improving desired effective teaching in accordance with international standards and to assure education quality to graduates to further their careers consistently with the supervision of Office of the Higher Education Commission.

### 3. Sampling

The target samples and the population of the research are the specialists in teaching and practicing trombone, trombone instructors, and trombonists in orchestras in the country.

### 4. Collecting data

1. Data is collected from in-depth interviews with target samples and the population which are the experts in trombone, trombone instructors, and trombonists in orchestra totally 17 persons.

2. Questionnaires are filled by trombone instructors.

3. Music study programs in higher education in Thailand are researched.

4. Results of higher education in accordance with Thai Qualifications Framework for Higher Education; TQF:Hed are studied.

### 5. Analyzing Data

According to the analysis,

1. The data from the in-depth interviews are analyzed and synthesized the results of higher education in accordance with Thai Qualifications Framework for Higher Education; TQF:Hed that have impacts on the course of music study for universities whose Thai music study courses are available so as to find out how to practice trombone properly with quality and efficiency according to international standards as well as exercises for trombone practice.

2. Questionnaires which are filled by trombone instructors are analyzed to find the results of higher education in accordance with Thai Qualifications Framework for Higher Education; TQF:Hed that have impacts on the course of music study for universities in Thailand.

3. The data from the observations and the note-taking are summarized for the results of higher education in accordance with Thai Qualifications Framework for Higher Education; TQF:Hed that have impacts on the course of music study for universities in Thailand.

## Result

The results of the study skills and techniques of musicianship for Trombonist in Symphony Orchestra are as follows:

From trombone teaching's point of view, learners shall have knowledge of western music, together with the practice of trombone:

- Rudiments and Specify Staff, Major-Minor and other Scales, Note Values, Time Signature, Interval, and Articulations and Accidental Note and relating drills.
- Trombonists shall have a clear understanding of musical structures or compositions in order to properly interpret and get the mood of the songs.
- Trombonists need to know and understand their roles in the performance and be responsible for their duties by rehearsing or reviewing a song thoroughly.
- Trombonists shall have knowledge and understanding of related Western Music histories as well as famous composers in each era in order for trombonists to understand more a song.
- Trombonists shall have the knowledge and understanding of different forms.

The exercises for trombone practice used to enhance skills and prepare trombonists for orchestras are slightly different according to the interviews of trombone instructors and trombone experts. Practically speaking, basic and advanced techniques are available in exercises which can be brought into practice. Importantly, regular practice is advised for a good musician because practice with different forms of music can help understand quickly. Moreover, the more the rehearsal is done, the more techniques, tones, mood, etc. can be easily conceptualized. The mostly-used song for practice is Trombone Orchestra Excerpt.

In addition to specific practice, trombonists or musicians shall have morality and ethics in the music profession so that working or living, responsibility for themselves and others, discipline, punctuality and generosity can be made.

## Samples of Trombone Exercises

### Essential Tenor Trombone Orchestral Excerpts

#### Freshman/Sophomore Level

**Requiem** Mozart

Nº 2 Tuba mirum  
Andante



1 4 8 12 16 20 24 28

#### Hungarian March

Hector Berlioz



1 5 9 13 17 21 25 29 33 37 41 45 49 53 57 61 65 69 73 77 81 85 89 93 97 101

#### Till Eulenspiegel

Immer sehr lebhaft.  
Strauss



1 4 8 12 16 20 24 28

#### Till Eulenspiegel continued Excerpt 2

31 *molto marc.*



31 35 39 40

#### Till Eulenspiegel continued Excerpt 3



36 40 44 48 52 56 60 64 68 72 76 80 84 88 92 96 100 104 108 112 116 120 124 128 132 136 140 144 148 152 156 160 164 168 172 176 180 184 188 192 196 200 204 208 212 216 220 224 228 232 236 240 244 248 252 256 260 264 268 272 276 280 284 288 292 296 300 304 308 312 316 320 324 328 332 336 340 344 348 352 356 360 364 368 372 376 380 384 388 392 396 400



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**Contact email:** Thassanai.ph@ssru.ac.th