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Why Pronunciation?

If you spent time with Mr. Adam, you know he more often spoke of articulation as “Pronunciation.”

“You need to work on that pronunciation young fella.”

“Now pronounce the hell out of it!”

Etc...

Please realize that “pronunciation” is far more than articulation or tonguing. In fact, we “pronounce” when we tongue AND slur. Pronunciation has an element of command to it. It can be legato, marcato, long, short, intense, gentle, loud, soft, whatever the music calls for, but it’s always assertive and purposeful. It is never passive.

Don’t forget, not only single tonguing, but multiple tonguing is a vital component of this. It is no coincidence that the greatest players also have fantastic single, double and triple tonguing skills.

This mindset much more powerfully tells the body what to do. This is important!

But what are the benefits of dialing in your pronunciation?

The obvious benefit is your tonguing is cleaner, faster, better, more reliable. But check this out. Additionally, you will find that when you refine and develop your “pronunciation,” your tone, range, and endurance are also improved. Why is this?

When the pronunciation is right, your sound must come forward in your mouth. But here’s another important facet of this:

It is far more efficient to get that pronunciation/sound right than it is to try to play “to the front” without the clarity that great pronunciation brings to the process. Put another way, when the pronunciation and clarity of timbre are what they need to be, your sound is therefore to the front. Bang done you’ve got it.

This concept is vital for all sound production elements of trumpet playing. When the sound is “to the front” as Mr. Adam would say, and has that opulent timbre, this becomes the hub of the wheel, and all the spokes of the wheel are optimized.

This notion includes EVERYTHING to do with sound production, including:

Tone

Range

Endurance

Flexibility

Response

The ability to negotiate large intervals easily

Dynamic Extremes

And more...

Now this begs the question, what are great resources for working on pronunciation?

Actually this is an easy one.

Getchell

Arban

St. Jacome

Goldman

Glantz

And the like, or as Mr. Adam said, “and such as the like of that there young fella!”

Pursue this. There is no downside.

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