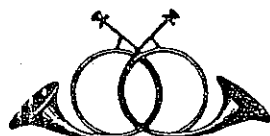


THE COMPLETE HORNIST

Thomas Bacon, General Editor



DUFRASNE ROUTINE

for Horn in F

by

Louis Dufrasne

edited by

Thomas Bacon

B569

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Louis Dufrasne
1878-1941

B569

Louis Victor Dufrasne (b. Quiévrain, Belgium, Dec. 1, 1878; d. Evanston, Illinois, July 1, 1941). Graduated with high honors from the Ghent Royal Conservatory of Music around 1900. Emigrated to the United States in 1907, became naturalized U.S. citizen on March 31, 1927. Held performing positions as: Solo Horn, Brussels Opera, ca. 1900-1902; Solo Horn, Palais d'Hiver, Pau, France, ca. 1902-1907; Third Horn, Scottish Orchestra, part of season 1905-1906; Solo Horn, Casino Kursaal of Ostend, Belgium, summer seasons, ca. 1902-1913; First Horn, Pittsburgh Orchestra, 1907-1908; Manhattan Opera Company, 1908-1910; Third, then First Horn, Chicago Opera, 1910-1922 and 1925-1941; First Horn, Cleveland Orchestra, 1922-1925; First Horn, NBC Chicago Orchestra, 1931-1941. Taught at Northwestern University, and privately.

In the first part of the Twentieth century, Louis Dufrasne (pronounced: doo-'fraan) was a highly praised performer, who held major first horn positions in opera and symphony orchestras in Europe and the United States. He was known for his beauty of tone, artistry and impeccable technique.

"Mr. Dufrasne, the first horn, has a magnificent tone, and played the horn call with a perfection that one seldom hears..." wrote Deems Taylor, music critic for the *New York World*, when he heard the Cleveland Orchestra perform Brahms 1st Symphony at Carnegie Hall in New York in December, 1924.

Earlier that year, when the orchestra performed a promenade concert at Cleveland's Masonic Hall, the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* reported that "Louis Dufrasne, the talented leader of the horn section, played the *Berceuse* from Godard's *Jocelyn* with so much beauty and warmth of tone and such expressiveness that the audience, after making him rise to his feet several times, finally succeeded in getting him to play the melody over again."

He stayed in Cleveland only three seasons, and was well loved wherever the orchestra performed. He received frequent mention in the press, and was featured as soloist several times during his short tenure there, in an era when a horn soloist was quite a rarity. But in spite of an offer to write his own contract to stay in Cleveland, he moved back to Chicago to perform opera. His widow said years later, "he was really an opera man at heart and he wanted to return to that life."

The biggest legacy he left us is the handful of students he tutored in the 1930s, notably Philip Farkas, Helen Kotas, Frank Brouk, and Clyde Miller, to name but four who went on to have great careers of their own. They in turn went on to teach their own students, who also have gone on to teach, by now, legions of others. Today, arguably, there is a little bit of Dufrasne in most horn players in the United States, and a multitude of others around the world.

He was a reluctant teacher though, Mrs. Dufrasne said, "as a rule, he really didn't care for teaching."

Clyde Miller, former principal horn of the Dallas Symphony and horn teacher at North Texas State University from 1954 to 1983, described Dufrasne as "a taskmaster who made you work," and that "he was slow to take you on as a student; you really had to prove yourself." Miller also attributed the greatest influence on his playing and teaching to Dufrasne, with whom he studied for six years.

Philip Farkas, former principal horn of the Chicago Symphony and Distinguished Professor at Indiana University, cited Dufrasne's teachings as the biggest single influence in his life.

Frank Brouk, one of Mr. Dufrasne's last students, who only took a few lessons with him around 1940-41, said that Dufrasne once told him "you have to be a slave to the horn."

Brouk, a brilliant hornist who played principal in the Chicago Symphony and Cleveland Orchestra, said Dufrasne "was a terrific horn player, with endurance like nobody else ... he went through all his exercises before every concert ... nice man, gentle, nice to his students."

So here, published for the first time, are the exercises that Dufrasne went through before every concert. After you play them, you will understand at least part of what gave Dufrasne "endurance like nobody else."

August, 2004
Houston, Texas

Thomas Bacon
Editor

Sources:

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3. Dufrasne, Mrs. Blanche (1980, November 20). Telephone conversation with Norman Schweikert.
4. Fako, Nancy Jordan (1998). *Philip Farkas and His Horn: A Happy, Worthwhile Life*. Elmhurst, IL: Crescent Park Music Publications.
5. Louis Dufrasne [obituary] (1941, August). *The Intermezzo*, Vol. 19, # 220, p. 14. Official publication of the Chicago Federation of Musicians, Local 10-208.
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9. Taylor, Deems (1924, December 10) The Cleveland Orchestra [concert review]. *New York World*, page unknown.

Acknowledgement and great thanks go to Ethel Merker who first introduced the Editor to The Dufrasne Routine via an old photocopy of a handwritten copy done by Bill Mercier, another student of Dufrasne.
Special thanks to Norman Schweikert for the use of his incredible Archive of U.S. Symphony and Opera Orchestra Musicians, Washington Island, Wisconsin.



Louis Dufrasne, circa 1940-41.

Photo by William Klang, former principal horn of the National Symphony Orchestra and Dufrasne student.

Editor's Notes to the Dufrasne Routine

The following pages contain a complete practice routine, the one that Louis Dufrasne used daily when he was at the peak of his performing career. Greatest benefit will come from playing it through entirely, from first note to last, as a daily workout over a period of time. It can be played through in less than one hour – including appropriate short rests between exercises – but caution is advised when first attempting it. The goal is not just to play it through in less than one hour, but rather to play each exercise beautifully and easily, with rich, full tone (even in soft dynamics), free flowing air, and little physical effort. Though it may take even some advanced players many months to achieve the goal, along with it will come an evenness of tone production throughout the range of the instrument, amazing flexibility, and great endurance.

The phrases in quotes are Mr. Dufrasne's instructions. The other comments are suggestions from the Editor.

1. "Slow and even, without rhythmic impulses. Not soft."
A tempo of ♩ = 60 - 66, with a dynamic of *mf-f* is recommended. The sound should be a continuous ribbon of beautiful, rich, mellow resonant tone, free of fluctuations in quality or dynamic. No wah-wah slurs here. Relaxation with free flowing air is the only way to play this exercise well. This applies to every exercise in the book.
2. "Even sound, smooth slurs throughout. Play on natural harmonics, as indicated."
Tempo of ♩ = 66-76, dynamic of *mf*. There is a special fingering you can use in all of the exercises in this book that use natural harmonics. When you play the sequence fingered 1-3, try the low B $\flat$ on the B-flat horn with 1-2-3. This will be especially useful in the fast sequences like nos. 8B & 9B.
3. "Even tone color. Very full."
Tempo of ♩ = 72-100, dynamic of *mf-f*. Use one breath per line.
4. "Very smooth, rather soft."
Tempo of ♩ = 116-152, dynamic of *p*. Use one breath per line. Try the special fingering (see no. 2 above) on the low B $\flat$ in line 2.
5. Tempo of ♩ = 60-76, dynamic of *mf*.
6. Tempo of ♩ = 76-112, dynamic of *p*.
7. Tempo of ♩ = 60-100, dynamic of *p*.
8. & 9. "Start each line slowly, and gradually accelerate."
Accelerando should be gradual enough that the first two sextuplets can be played smoothly and accurately, then rapidly accelerate, achieving an effect like a lip trill where the notes pop out and the technique takes on a life of its own. Use comfortable dynamics. The special fingering (see no. 2, above) really helps on the low B $\flat$ in nos. 8B and 9B.
10. & 11. Try different dynamics and tempos, doing it differently each time you play the exercise. For example, one day play *ff* bell tones in no. 10, soft and lyrical in no. 11, the next day vice versa. Experiment with *crescendos* and *diminuendos*. Play it at different tempos on different days. Get the most out of this exercise by making it as stylistic and musical as any *arpeggios* can be. Then do it differently the next time.

DUFRASNE ROUTINE

5

B569

for Horn in F

Louis Dufrasne (1878-1941)
edited by Thomas Bacon

Slow and even, without rhythmic impulses. Not soft.

1

7

14

22

29

37

44

51

58

65

72

Even sound, smooth slurs throughout. Play on natural harmonics, as indicated.

Musical score for a guitar piece, measures 1-37. The score is written in treble and bass staves. The key signature is one flat (B-flat). The tempo/mood is indicated as 'Even sound, smooth slurs throughout. Play on natural harmonics, as indicated.' The score includes various fingerings (e.g., 0, 1, 2, 3) and slurs. The measures are numbered 1, 7, 13, 19, 25, 31, and 37.

Even tone color. Very full.

Musical score for a guitar piece, measures 3-9. The score is written in treble and bass staves. The key signature is one flat (B-flat). The tempo/mood is indicated as 'Even tone color. Very full.' The score includes various fingerings (e.g., 1, 2, 3) and slurs. The measures are numbered 3, 5, and 9.

A musical score for a single melodic line, spanning measures 13 to 49. The notation is written on a single staff in treble clef. The key signature is one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is characterized by a series of eighth and sixteenth notes, often grouped in pairs or fours, and is frequently tied across measure boundaries. The notes are mostly in the middle range of the staff, with some higher notes in the final measures. The score is divided into measures by vertical bar lines, and the measure numbers (13, 17, 21, 25, 29, 33, 37, 41, 45, 49) are printed at the beginning of each line. The notation includes various accidentals (sharps, flats, naturals) and ties.

Very smooth, rather soft.

Handwritten musical score for a piece titled "Pressure". The score consists of seven staves, each containing a treble and bass clef staff joined by a brace. The music is written in a key with one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The tempo/style marking is "Very smooth, rather soft." The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, ties, and fingerings. The staves are numbered 1 through 7 on the left. The first staff has a "1 2 3" fingering under the first measure. The second staff has a "1 3" fingering under the first measure. The third staff has a "2 3" fingering under the first measure. The fourth staff has a "1 2" fingering under the first measure. The fifth staff has a "1" fingering under the first measure. The sixth staff has a "2" fingering under the first measure. The seventh staff has a "0" fingering under the first measure. The score ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

This page contains ten systems of musical notation for guitar, each consisting of a treble and a bass staff. The notation includes various musical symbols such as notes, rests, and accidentals, along with fret numbers (0, 1, 2, 3) indicating fingerings. The systems are numbered 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, and 45. The music is written in a key with one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. The notation is arranged in a continuous flow across the page, with each system building upon the previous one. The final system ends with a double bar line.

The image displays a page of musical notation for guitar, consisting of six systems of staves. Each system contains a treble staff and a bass staff, with a 12/8 time signature. The notation includes various musical symbols such as notes, rests, and fingerings, connected by curved lines indicating phrasing or slurs. The systems are numbered 6, 4, 7, 10, 13, and 16, likely representing measures or systems in a larger piece. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 12/8.

System 6: Treble staff starts with a treble clef, followed by a key signature change to one sharp (F#) and a 12/8 time signature. The bass staff starts with a bass clef. The notation includes various notes and rests, with fingerings indicated by numbers 1, 2, and 3.

System 4: Treble staff starts with a treble clef, followed by a key signature change to one sharp (F#) and a 12/8 time signature. The bass staff starts with a bass clef. The notation includes various notes and rests, with fingerings indicated by numbers 1, 2, and 3.

System 7: Treble staff starts with a treble clef, followed by a key signature change to one sharp (F#) and a 12/8 time signature. The bass staff starts with a bass clef. The notation includes various notes and rests, with fingerings indicated by numbers 1, 2, and 3.

System 10: Treble staff starts with a treble clef, followed by a key signature change to one sharp (F#) and a 12/8 time signature. The bass staff starts with a bass clef. The notation includes various notes and rests, with fingerings indicated by numbers 1, 2, and 3.

System 13: Treble staff starts with a treble clef, followed by a key signature change to one sharp (F#) and a 12/8 time signature. The bass staff starts with a bass clef. The notation includes various notes and rests, with fingerings indicated by numbers 1, 2, and 3.

System 16: Treble staff starts with a treble clef, followed by a key signature change to one sharp (F#) and a 12/8 time signature. The bass staff starts with a bass clef. The notation includes various notes and rests, with fingerings indicated by numbers 1, 2, and 3.

System 19: Treble staff starts with a treble clef, followed by a key signature change to one sharp (F#) and a 12/8 time signature. The bass staff starts with a bass clef. The notation includes various notes and rests, with fingerings indicated by numbers 1, 2, and 3.

7 1 2 3

5 1 3

9 2 3

13 1 2

17 1

21 2

25 0

Start each line slowly, and gradually accelerate.

8B 6 6

1 3

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

2 2 2 2 2 2

B569

1
2
3

8C 6 6

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

B569 0 0 0 0 0 0

[illegible]

B569

8E

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

B569

1/3

1/3

1/3

1/3

1/3

1/3

8F 2

6 6

2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

B569 2/3 2/3 2/3 2/3 2/3 2/3

8G

6

6

0

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

3

3

3

3

3

3

B569

9A

The musical score for 9A consists of 11 staves. Staves 1 through 8 are in treble clef, and staves 9 through 11 are in bass clef. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The time signature is 4/4. The music is written in a continuous, flowing style with many eighth and sixteenth notes. There are several slurs and ties across the staves. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1, 2, 3, and 6. A large slur encompasses the first three staves, and another large slur encompasses the last three staves. The notation includes many accidentals (sharps and naturals) and rests.

9B

1 3

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

2

2

2

2

2

2

2

2

9D

6 6

1 2

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

1 2 3 1 2 3 1 2 3 1 2 3

11

1 2 3 1 2 3 1 2 3 1 2 3 1 2 3

B569

9E 6 6 1

2

3

4 b

5

6

7

8 b

9

10 1 3 1 3 1 3 1 3

11 1 3 1 3 1 3 1 3

B569

Detailed description: This is a musical score for guitar, consisting of 11 staves. The music is written in 4/4 time and the key of B-flat major (two flats). The notation includes various musical symbols such as treble and bass clefs, a key signature of two flats, and a common time signature. The score is divided into measures by vertical bar lines. Some measures contain fingerings (e.g., 1, 2, 3, 4, 5) or other performance instructions (e.g., 6, 6, 1). The music is written in a continuous line across the staves, with some measures containing multiple notes or rests. The score is numbered 9E at the beginning and B569 at the bottom left. The page number 23 is in the top right corner.

Handwritten musical score for guitar, featuring 10 staves of music. The notation includes treble and bass clefs, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The music consists of continuous eighth-note runs, often grouped in measures of six (labeled '6') or three (labeled '2/3'). The score is divided into two systems of five staves each, with a large bracket spanning the first five staves and another bracket spanning the last five staves. The bottom staff includes a page number '3569' in the lower-left corner.

9G

6 6

0

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

3 3 3 3

11

3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

B569

3 3

Detailed description: This is a guitar score for a piece titled 'B569'. It consists of 11 staves. The first staff is in treble clef and has a '9G' label to its left. Above the first two measures of the first staff are the numbers '6' and '6'. Below the first measure of the first staff is a '0'. The second staff has a '2' above it. The third staff has a '3' above it. The fourth staff has a '4' above it. The fifth staff has a '5' above it. The sixth staff has a '6' above it. The seventh staff has a '7' above it. The eighth staff has an '8' above it. The ninth staff has a '9' above it. The tenth staff has a '10' above it and a '3' below it. The eleventh staff has a '11' above it and a '3' below it. The score is written in treble and bass clefs, with various musical notations including notes, rests, and slurs. The piece is identified as 'B569' at the bottom left.

Major Triads

10

This musical score is for a piano exercise titled "Major Triads". It consists of 10 staves, each containing a sequence of major triads. The triads are arranged in a chromatic sequence, starting from C major and moving through all 12 major triads. Each triad is represented by three notes (root, third, and fifth) beamed together. The exercise is written in a single melodic line, likely for the right hand of a piano. The notation includes sharp and flat accidentals to indicate the correct pitch for each triad. The score ends with a double bar line on the 10th staff.

Minor Triads

11

This musical exercise, titled "Minor Triads" and numbered 11, is presented on 11 staves in treble clef. The notation consists of a sequence of notes, primarily beamed eighth notes, with various accidentals (sharps, flats, and naturals) indicating the specific notes of the minor triads. The exercise covers a range of notes across the staves, starting from a low G on the first staff and ascending through various intervals, including some chromatic movement, before concluding on the eleventh staff with a final G note.