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Single Tonguing Exercise

The following exercise is designed to improve all of the aspects of single tonguing in a very organized way. It only takes about three minutes, and is to be done EVERY DAY. The first thing to do is identify one's "current tempo" for the exercise. That is the fastest tempo at which you can do 12 sets of four sixteenth notes exactly with the metronome with no errors. This speed will improve slowly over the weeks and months ahead. The term "click" refers to one setting on the traditional metronome, not one beat per minute! See the row of tempi at the bottom, and use it to monitor progress.

With the metronome, do sets of four 16th notes on a repeated note in the following way:

12 sets at your "current tempo" (around 80-108 for most people)

6 sets, twice at one click faster

4 sets, 4 times at one click faster

3 sets 6+ times at one click faster

Sets of 2, as many times as you can, getting faster periodically

Mastery of a consistent, rapid single tongue is essential for many of the orchestral excerpts, including Berlioz' *Hungarian March*, and Rossini's *William Tell* and *La Gazza Ladra*. In addition to studying these excerpts, single tonguing can also be improved in context by working on technical etudes such as Mueller's "Technical Studies – books 2 and 3, Kopprasch, Blazhevich, Arban's, or Blume's "36 studies."

76 80 84 88 92 96 100 104 108 112 116 120