



Audition Excerpt Preparation

with John Shawger

- Opening French Horn solo of Richard Strauss's *Till Eulenspiegel's Merry Pranks*
 - Comes up in HS auditions, college auditions, professional auditions
- For every piece we play, we need to focus on great rhythm, sound, and character
- Preparing the excerpt:
 - The phrasing doesn't correspond with the beats—play with a metronome under tempo and add accents on the big beats to ensure everything lines up
 - Add in Strauss' tempo markings and pay attention to the transitions
 - Play with a beautiful and resonant sound across this wide range—try practicing it on your mouthpiece to get a full sound throughout
 - This piece is a tone poem—you want a humorous, sneaking feel for the main 'jokester' character

The image shows a musical score for a French Horn solo. It consists of three staves of music. The first staff is in 4/8 time, marked 'Gemächlich.' (Moderato) and '♩. = ♩ des 4/8'. It starts with a rest for 5 measures, then begins with a piano (p) dynamic. The tempo changes to 'allmählich lebhafter' (Ritardando) towards the end of the staff. The second staff is marked 'Volles Zeitmass. (sehr lebhaft)' (Allegretto) and starts with a crescendo (cresc.) and mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic. The third staff continues the piece, marked with a fortissimo (ff) dynamic and a sforzando (sfz) dynamic. There are various musical notations including notes, rests, and articulation marks throughout the score.

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