

Nenad Marković  
**DRONE STUDY**

for any number of players

Hold any note in pp to mp for the full length of one breath, take a calm deep breath and repeat. Repeat the same note *at least* 4 times before changing to another pitch. Never pause for more than a few seconds.

Play the pitch/dynamics combination that you are most comfortable with, if you are getting tired or feeling pain in the lips switch to the low register in pp until you're feeling relaxed again, then return to the middle register. Likewise, when feeling fresh, challenge yourself by choosing a higher pitch (remember that you have to stay on that pitch for at least 4 full breaths)

When playing in a larger group, complex chords will emerge spontaneously, always be aware of your intonation within that chord, however dissonant the chord may be.

Concentrate on sound quality. Following is a quote of Wynton Marsalis' core concepts for practising long tones, all of them apply here:

- Seek the *biggest* tone at the *softest* volume
- Your sound on your instrument is your identity
- Fill every corner of your instrument with air and feel the horn vibrate in your hands
- Deep breath, relax, focus and concentrate

Minimum duration of the study is 20 minutes, but it should gradually increase to either 45 minutes without pause, or two sets of 30 minutes with a 15 minute pause in between (when the same group plays the study on a daily basis the endurance will steadily increase over time). The study can be done at any point during the course of a practise.

Inspired by the musical compositions of Phill Niblock