Instrument: Bassoon

Magazine or Journal Title: The Double Reed

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Article Title: Contrabassoon as a Pedagogical Tool

Author: Michael Burns

Summary (Outline form):

* Pitch/tuning
  + - * Many different fingerings for the same notes to fix intonation
      * Must mentally sing notes to hear pitches ahead of time
    - Voicing
      * Play notes on open voicing to avoid jumping partials
    - Flicking/venting
      * Different key structures allow the vents to be real octave keys, so they must be held down instead of flicked
    - Counting
      * Less active parts so more rests must be counted
    - Alternate fingerings
      * Many alternate fingerings to facilitate tuning notes
      * Need to be flexible with fingerings
    - Bassoon has a big bore
      * Requires a lot of air to play
    - All elements are slightly more challenging to play well than the regular bassoon, so playing improves bassoon technique in general
    - Contra has no whisper key, open holes or forked fingerings
    - Can’t half hole so leave off 1st finger
    - Lower jaw and use plenty of air