

Solo

Title of Musical Selection

Czardas

Composer

Vittorio Monti

Performer(s)

Patrick Sheridan

Observation #1

This piece is originally a violin concerto!

Observation #2

The piece begins with a powerful set of chords from the piano and then a cadenza from the tuba that spans a wide range but his tone quality doesn't suffer.

Observation #3

Despite the piece having long melodic lines there are many runs that he manages to make clear regardless of where they are in the range of the tuba.

Observation #4

The B section has a double time feel and begins with insanely fast flourishes especially given the instrument. Even with the ridiculous speed involved there's still a melodic contour he's shaping that isn't being broken up by his breaths.

Observation #5

The last two notes are super open, long, and resonate despite the prior passage being very fast and short characteristically.

What did you learn that will help you be a better musician/performer?

Even if the music is fast it's possible to articulate cleanly and musically on tuba

List an area of focus for your own practice that builds upon your observations from above?

Musicality and clearer articulations in faster phrases/sections

Title of Musical Selection

Quiet City

Composer

Aaron Copland

Performer(s)

Maurice Murphy

Observation #1

The performer has a very round, warm, and clear tone throughout the entire duration of the piece.

Observation #2

I wouldn't think that the English Horn and Trumpet would sound great together in a duet, but their timbres compliment each other a lot more well than I figured they would.

Observation #3

The high notes played sound consistently full with a great tone, I can tell that there is a lot of air support from the performer.

Observation #4

This trumpet player uses a lot of vibrato in his playing, so much that in the higher register it sometimes even sounds closer to a different instrument playing, like a violin or a flute.

Observation #5

This is a ten minute piece and it's pretty slow, so I know this performer has to have a lot of endurance to be able to play this so well throughout the entire performance.

What did you learn that will help you be a better musician/performer?

The slurs and runs of the trumpet player sound incredibly clean. I didn't realize that the trumpet could play large intervals but still have such a rich tone switching from low to high so effortlessly.

List an area of focus for your own practice that builds upon your observations from above?

In order to be able to play cleanly between large intervals, I need to implement more slurring in my practicing. I could probably even practice slurring large intervals with just my mouthpiece. I would also like to have strong endurance like this performer did, so I might need to do some research on some endurance exercises that I can put into my practicing routine.