

# A Lesson In Proper Interpretation

One of the most common faults of amateur musicians is the failure to adjust *note values* to fit the character and tempo of the composition being played. If the student is to develop any semblance of style and if his music is to be expressive in any degree, this important phase of musicianship must be given careful consideration.

There is no foundation for the idea that proper interpretation cannot be taught and that definite rules dealing with the subject of note values cannot be established. Exceptions to such rules can be found, but the performer who has been thoroughly drilled on the subject will find his knowledge an asset in intelligent music reading.

The habit of playing with acceptable style can be firmly established if the following suggestions are applied to the simplest of exercises, including the scale and chord studies which are contained in this book.

Adagio

written: 1

played:

The notes must be very broad and sustained. A good example is this passage from "Stradella:"

Adagio

Horn in D

Horn in F

*p*

Do not "cheat" the short notes in value and do not play them softer. All short notes must be played as loud as the others unless marked otherwise.

Allegretto

written: 2

played:

The notes should be gracefully "lifted" A good example is a passage from the 3rd movement of Brahms 2nd symphony.

Allegretto grazioso

written:

played: