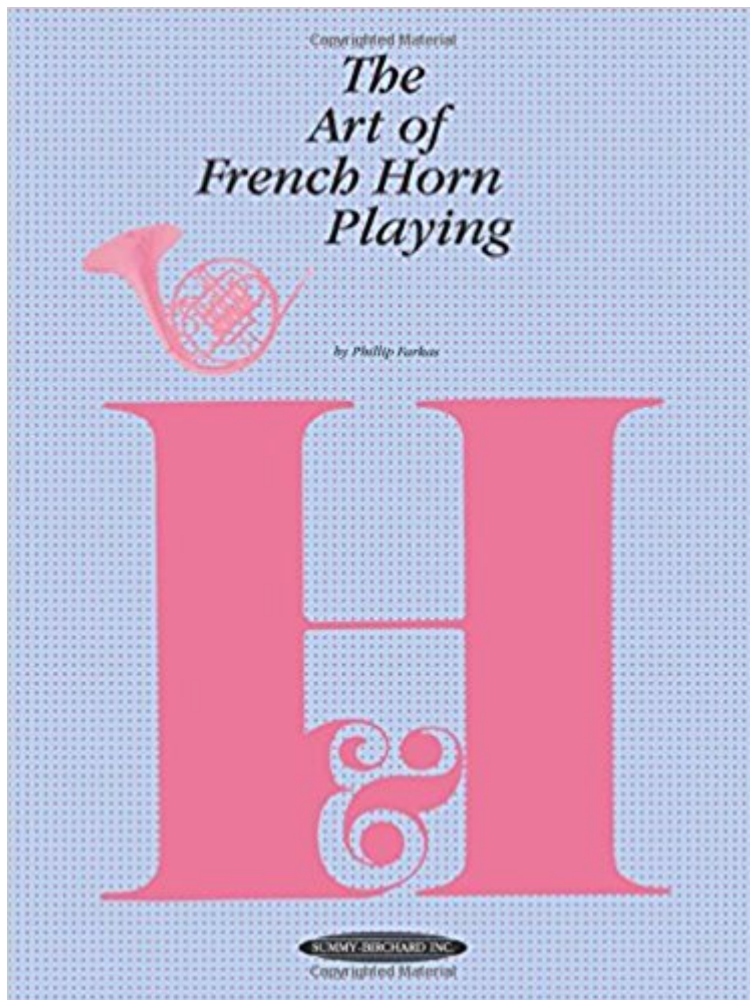


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The Art Of French Horn Playing



Synopsis

First to be published in the series was *The Art of French Horn Playing* by Philip Farkas, now Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Music at Indiana University. In 1956, when Summy-Birchard published Farkas's book, he was a solo horn player for the Chicago Symphony and had held similar positions with other orchestras, including the Boston Symphony, Cleveland Orchestra, and Kansas City Conservatory, DePaul University, Northwestern University, and Roosevelt University in Chicago. *The Art of French Horn Playing* set the pattern, and other books in the series soon followed, offering help to students in learning to master their instruments and achieve their goals.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 51 customer reviews

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Customer Reviews

This has been one of my favorite books of instruction for over forty years. I took a copy to Seoul Korea when I was stationed there in 1971 with the Eighth Army Band, but when I played a few concerts with the Seoul Sinfonietta I gave that copy to the first horn player in that chamber group. My little contribution to international good will. So I was without that book for many years, until my interest in playing the horn resurfaced, and then I was pleased to find it published in a smaller format, suitable for carrying around with other music. Mr. Farkas was a very good man, and a meticulous player and teacher. He could be accused of occasionally "overthinking" (such as where he gets a little obsessive about too much pressure and recommends trying to play the horn without using your hands as it sits on a slippery surface), but the foundations of his instruction are solid. As

my ability increases, I am still now finding little jewels in his book that, with a more mature perspective and increased understanding, help me to develop even further.

Doesn't matter if you're a beginner, intermediate horn player, or an expert everyone can benefit from reading this book. Is it outdated? Sure, maybe a little, but this is still the 'bible' of horn playing and a must read. This book has helpful information regarding pretty much all aspects of horn playing: types of horns, practicing information, types of mouthpieces, mechanics of the horn, practicing techniques, hand positions and placements, tuning, warm-ups, diagrams, embouchure, performance etiquette and tips, breathing, just general pointers and other miscellaneous, virtually everything! This is a great book for any horn player to reference or refer to. I constantly find myself going back and re-reading sections whenever I have a question or a problem arises. This book really teaches you and helps you become a better horn player. The pictures and diagrams in the book are super helpful so you can get a visual of what your supposed to be doing and correct any bad habits or mistakes you may be making. In addition to all the information this book has I love that it also includes a section of warmups to practice. I would definitely recommend practicing these warmups everyday for at least 10 minutes, although I would do them for about 30 minutes, and you'll see almost instantly an improvement in your range, and your tone, your ability in moving your fingers, your overall quality of playing, and even your sight reading! If there's one book you buy for your instrument I suggest and encourage it be this one. Life changing for a French horn player.

This is the best and most comprehensive guide to the French horn for an experienced musician. It requires a fair level of expertise in several advanced subjects, notably transposition. Otherwise most chapters are devoted to the mechanics of playing a French horn with topics like mouthpiece placement and mouthpiece pressure, fingering, a few well known practice etudes, and some discussion of beginner horn.

When the book arrived the first thing I noticed was it was very large. Bigger than I expected. Philip Farkas covers everything in this book. It's perfect for any horn player to advance a little. As a horn player it always feels like no-one is there to help teach you the hardest instrument. But Philip delivers in this easy to read book. It covers everything from tuning to stagefright. Recommend 5/5

This very comprehensive book, in work book form, contains everything anyone would ever want to know about the French Horn, from its colorful lore and history, to its physical characteristics,

evolution, capabilities and limitations. It is interesting to contemplate that some of the most difficult of music written for the French Horn were written in past centuries by composers like Mozart and Bach, at a time when the French hornist had to accomplish all the trills, arpeggios and intervals with manipulations of his lips, the addition of valves being a relatively recent innovation. The student of the French horn is at once enveloped by the text of this excellent book, into the world of the French horn, and is left with the aura of being a part of a very special and select community. I bought this book for my grand daughter who is in her second year of playing the French horn.

The top "go to" book for generations of professional horn players.

Clearly detailed instructions on almost every aspect of horn playing imaginable plus tons of resources for practicing each aspect. Some of the resources are original Farkas exercises and others are references to other fine publications. I gave 4 stars instead of 5 only because many of the exercises start at a difficulty level that is not beginner. So for newbies especially, this book should be a primary source of great information but a supplementary source of material for actual practice.

Maybe a little outdated, but has a wealth of info so I'm glad I was able to find it.

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