

June 12, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

I have prepared the following review of *Amusement Park Etudes* by Glen Tuomaala, to be printed in *The Horn Call*, which is the official journal of the International Horn Society. *The Horn Call* is read by teachers, students, and horn enthusiasts worldwide, and has a circulation of approximately 2,100. I heartily endorse this volume to you for publication. Once a publication agreement has been reached, the headline of the review will include the publisher's name, price, and where to purchase the book.

***Amusement Park Etudes for French Horn* by Glen Tuomaala. 2021.**

It's rare to discover a new etude book that's fun to play as well as educationally useful. Written by a horn player for students taking Skype private lessons during the pandemic, *Amusement Park Etudes* is divided into 3 sections of progressive difficulty, but even the most challenging can be played by an experienced high school student (with practice). The author describes the book as a stepping stone to "fill the gap between beginning students and Kopprasch," but *Amusement Park Etudes* is more than that.

While the first part is geared towards younger students, the second and third sections are increasingly difficult. Useful for more experienced players, they would also make a great sight-reading challenge for advanced players, or as an etude for auditions. As the title suggests, each of the 98 etudes is named after an amusement park ride such as *Dizzy Dragons*, *Frog Hopper*, and *Swing Boat!* There's even a "Bonus Etude" at the end of the book to challenge advanced players with a sense of humor.

Don't let their quirky, whimsical names distract from the musical value of the etudes. Most of them are pretty short, averaging about 3 lines. They are refreshingly modern sounding with unexpected intervals, rhythms, and meter changes that will keep players on their toes. To help build fundamental skills, there are scale studies in every major key placed evenly throughout the book and connected to an etude in that new key. There are also etudes to introduce students to stopped horn, bass clef, and simple jazz melodies.

In a nice touch, the author includes a page at the beginning of the book with "*Advice & Observations*" which contains valuable tips on how to practice effectively – reinforcing the fundamentals that private lesson teachers already give their students.

You can tell that *Amusement Park Etudes* was written by a horn player who understands the instrument and the skills needed to play it well. Anyone who teaches middle or high school students should absolutely have them playing and learning from this book.

Sincerely,



Travis A. Bennett, Professor of Horn

Western Carolina University

tbennett@wcu.edu

828-227-3957