

17 STACCATO STUDIES

"Tip of the tongue, tip of the reed" is the golden rule for delicate staccato. Staccato is the musical effect created by detaching a note from its neighbors. Adjoining notes must be completely separated by intervals of silence.

I like to believe, and I contrive to create the same impression in the minds of my students, that the art of staccato playing is one of the easiest things we can hope to accomplish, for there is so little movement involved. Actually it is not so easy, as there is only a small margin of safety. The distance the tongue should travel is probably no more than a quarter of the distance involved in the blinking of an eye. Therefore futile movement of the mouth and jaws should be avoided: interference of this nature can only add to the problem.

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(1906-1981)

I. Allegretto *sempre staccato*

f *p subito* *cresc.* *f* *dim.* *p* *cresc.* *f* *ff* *f* *p* *p* *p* *p* *p* *cresc.* *f*