

### 3. To get the most of this book

To get the most out of this Method, read it with an eye towards happiness. Work through the ideas in a way that brings you happiness. Listen to the music that you love. And fill your home with loving friends and family, the sounds of great music, the smells of great food, and art. Love your life.

And immerse yourself in the study of New Orleans trad trumpet--its history, its structure, its legends, its truths, and its lies.

Hundreds of books, articles, and doctoral dissertations have been written about every aspect of the trumpet, no matter how minor, trivial, or obscure. For instance, even the use of a toilet plunger as a mute warranted a book called *Plunger Mute Techniques* by Al Grey. And it's awesome!

There are hundreds of websites and blogs devoted to jazz and music theory and teaching trumpet. YouTube has how-to videos on every trumpet subject matter conceivable, not to mention recordings and live performances of even the most obscure traditional jazz songs by even the most obscure of musicians. Some of the best players and teachers in the world are available for private lessons over Skype—wherever you may be. The point of all of this is simple: you don't have any excuse.

If you don't know who someone is that I mention, search Google for them. If you have never heard a song I list, search YouTube for it. **If you want to play or simply understand early jazz, you can. The material is there for you to absorb, internalize, and use to improve your playing.** This book seeks to assist you and to give you a head start on your journey to making some great New Orleans style traditional jazz.

### 4. The “not-teachable” part

One aspect of being a New Orleans style jazz trumpeter involves something that I don't believe can be taught. You have to be able to channel your life experience and bare your soul musically, revealing the full measure of the pain and the joy you have experienced. That's something no book nor any instructor can teach.

While classical music is played to reveal the composer's life experiences, trad reveals the life of the friends who are playing it. Classical music cares not whether you had a great time at the crawfish boil yesterday, but trad does. If you are an intensely private person, I would recommend that you do something else. Traditional jazz requires a willingness and ability to share your personality.

To become a true New Orleans style trumpet player, you need to experience life and, on balance, enjoy it. The pleasure you take in living your life will be the greatest single asset you have as a gigging musician. You see, audiences want to see joyous people doing something they love to do. Spreading happiness--that's the job. As the trumpet player, you are generally responsible for creating the atmosphere. If what Jelly Roll Morton said is true--that New Orleans is the “original good time city”--trumpet players are the original good time bosses. If we have fun, the audience will too.