Inspiring Musicianship:

String-Playing Influences in H. L. Clarke's *Characteristic Studies*

Dr. Brian Reichenbach
Assistant Professor of Trumpet
Lee University

Clarke at age 19 (1886)

Clarke with “The Swiss Bell Ringers” (1886)

Violinist/Violist

1881 Toronto Philharmonic Society Orchestra
1885 English’s Opera House in Indianapolis
1886 Alliance Orchestra in Indianapolis
1887 Academy of Music in Rochester, NY
1887-88 Violin instructor and orchestra leader
at Trinity College School in Ontario
1888-92 Viola instructor
at Toronto College of Music

Mentors

F.H. Torrington
John Bayley
Walters Rogers

An “all-round” musician

“The rehearsals of our family string quartet (Ed, first violin; Ern, second violin; Dad, cello and myself viola) taught us real music….

I wanted to not only make a fair cornet player, but a good ‘all-round’ musician, and so began to study the tonal qualities, compass, and fingering of all the other instruments which go to make up band and orchestra ensembles….

I would try to hear in my mind the sound of what I was arranging, to catch the sounds without actually playing the parts. ….This not only trained my mind, but seemed to help me play the cornet better, and through it I learned to study my music mentally before ever attempting to play it; likewise, I found that it enabled me to read all music more readily, and to execute with greater fluency.”

- H.L. Clarke, *How I Became a Cornetist* (p. 42)

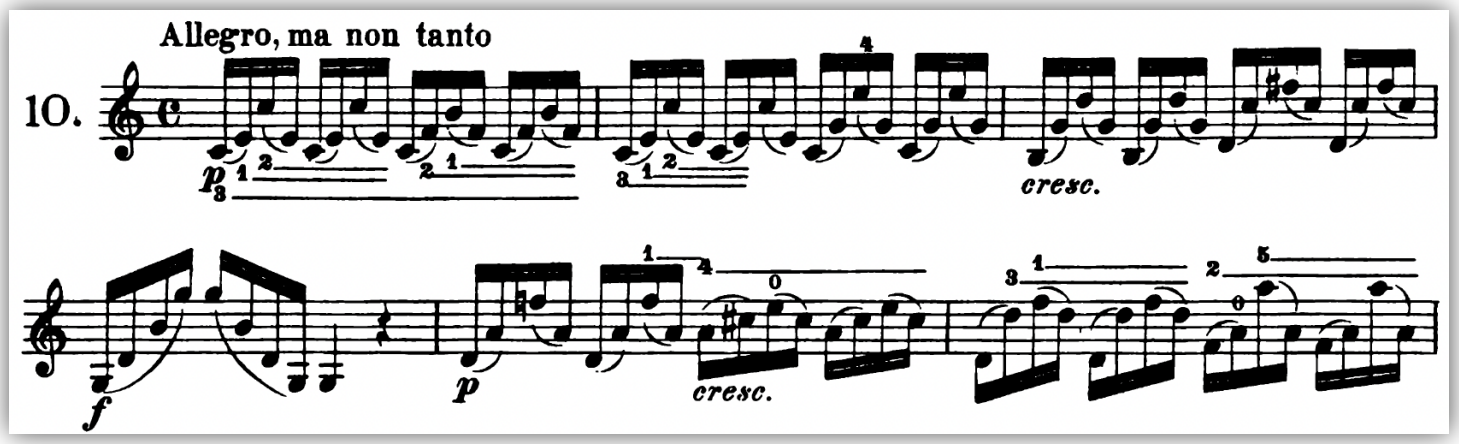
Clarke as a member of the Victor Herbert Band (c. 1896)

A Comparison

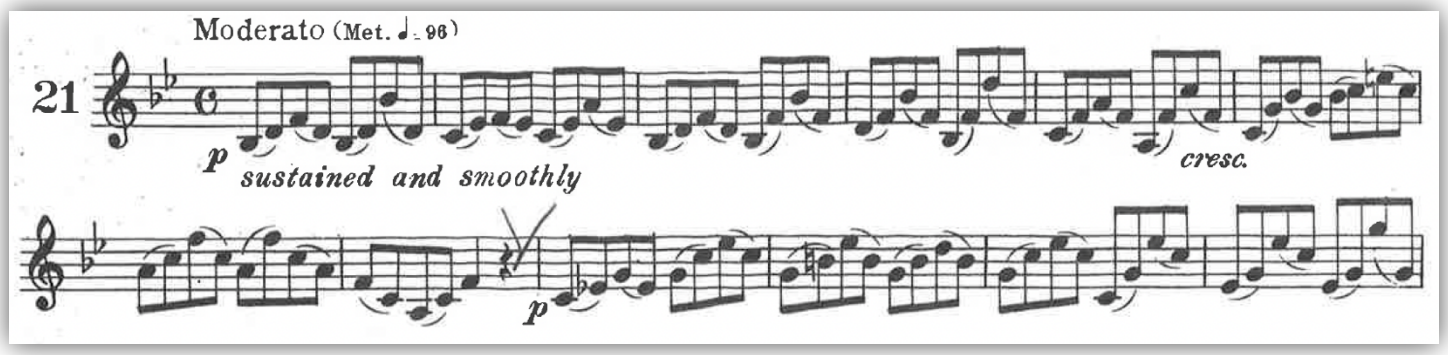
Characteristic Studies (1915) by H.L. Clarke (1867-1945)			*Thirty-six Studies, Op. 20* (1848) by H.E. Kayser (1815-1888)		
Clarke Etude	**Key**	**Marking**	**Kayser Etude**	**Key**	**Marking**
1	C Major	Allegro moderato	4	C Major	Allegro
2	a minor	Allegro	28	a minor	Allegro assai
3	D-flat Major	Allegro risoluto	11	E-flat Major	Allegro energico
4	b-flat minor	Allegro misterioso	25	d minor	Allegro
5	D Major	Moderato energico	8	D Major	Commodo
6	b minor	Moderato marcato	19	b minor	Allegro
7	E-flat Major	Allegro moderato	32	E-flat Major	Allegro moderato
8	c minor	Allegro agitato	6	c minor	Allegro molto
9	E Major	Allegretto guisto	3	F Major	Allegretto
10	c-sharp minor	Allegro moderato	30	d minor	Allegro moderato
11	F Major	Allegretto	13	G Major	Allegretto
12	d minor	Allegro moderato	15	B-flat major	Allegro moderato
13	F-sharp Major	Vivace	22	E Major	Allegro assai
14	e-flat minor	Allegretto con moto	18	G Major	Allegretto
15	G Major	Allegro ma non troppo	12	G Major	Allegro, ma non tanto
16	e minor	Tempo di Bolero	Appears to be original to Clarke		
17	A-flat Major	Moderato	31	A-flat Major	Allegro molto agitato
18	f minor	Moderato	23	f minor	Allegretto
19	A Major	Allegro vivace	27	A Major	Allegro vivace
20	f-sharp minor	Furioso	21	E-flat Major	Allegro
21	B-flat Major	Moderato	10	C Major	Allegro, ma non tanto
22	g minor	Allegretto	35	b minor	Allegro con fuoco
23	B Major	Moderato	29	C Major	Moderato
24	g-sharp minor	Andante cantabile	Appears to be original to Clarke		

“musical and artistic individuality”

Kayser Etude #10

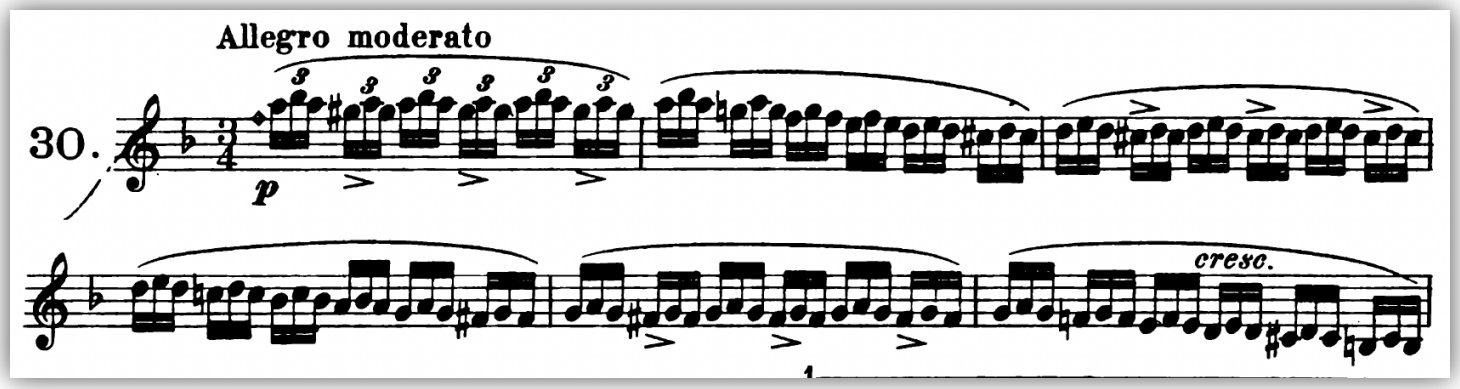


Clarke Etude #21

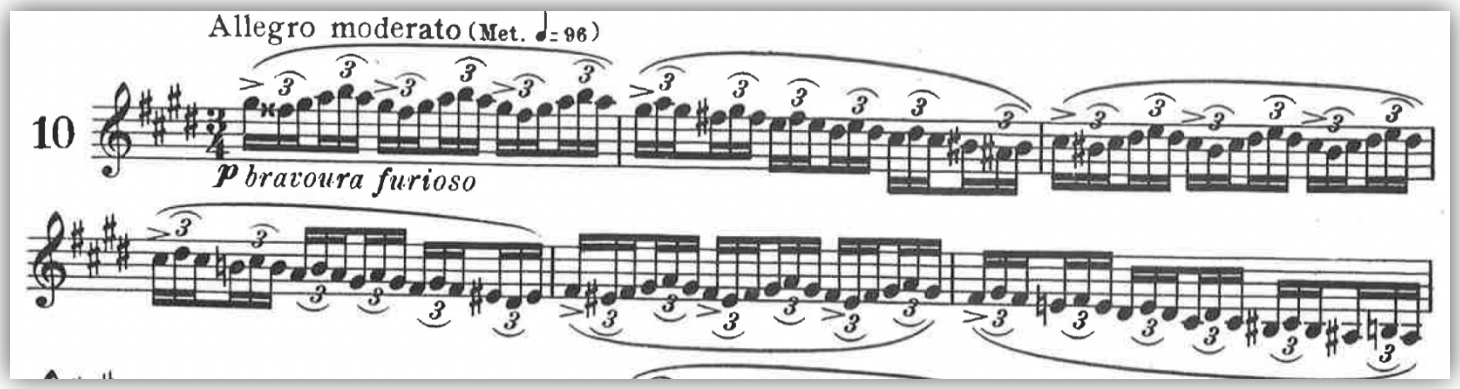


“comfort and ease”

Kayser Etude #30

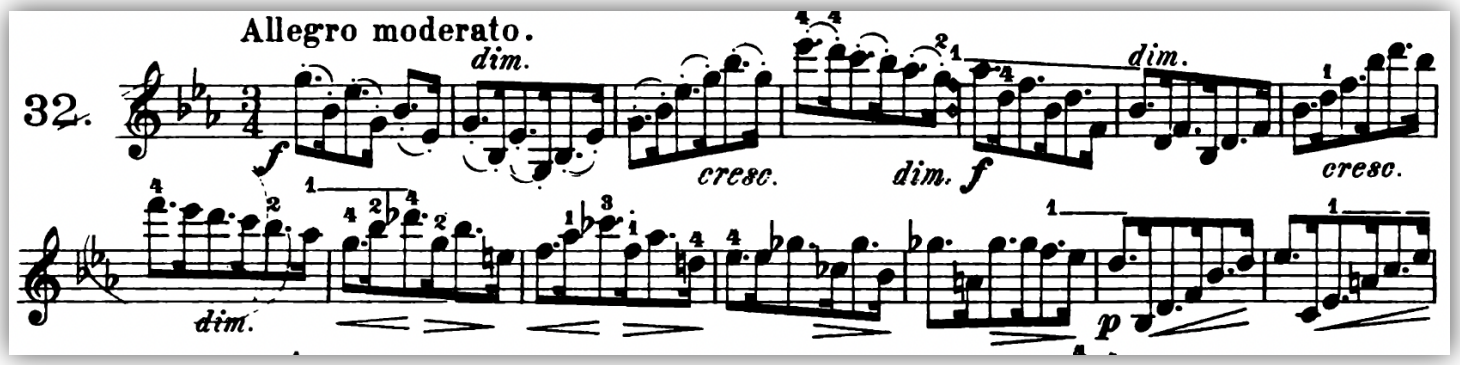


Clarke Etude #10

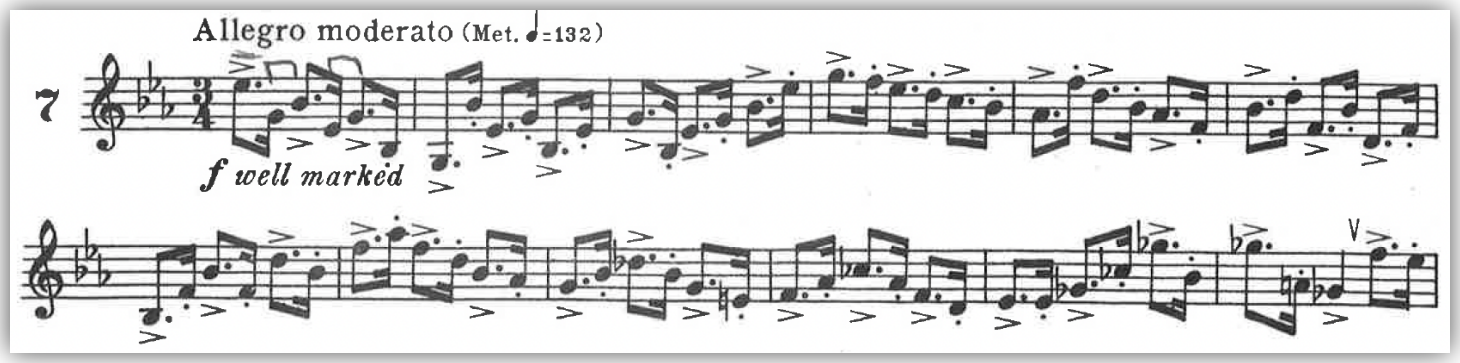


“absolute control of technic”

Kayser Etude #32

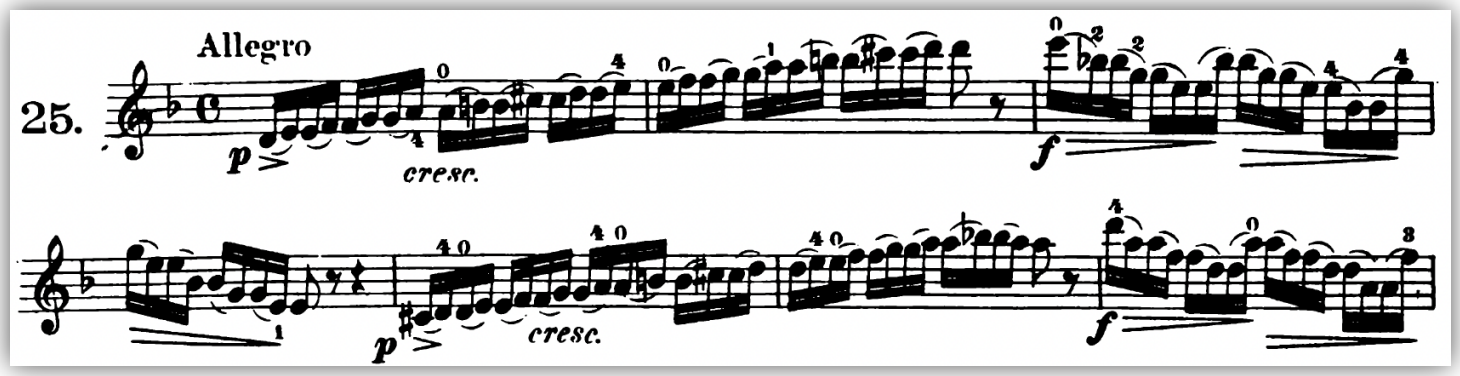


Clarke Etude #7

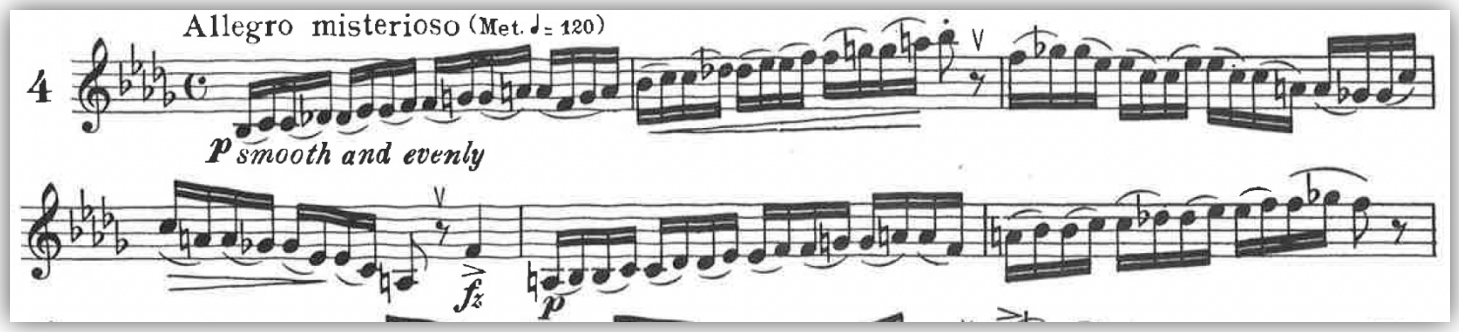


“slurring”

Kayser Etude #25

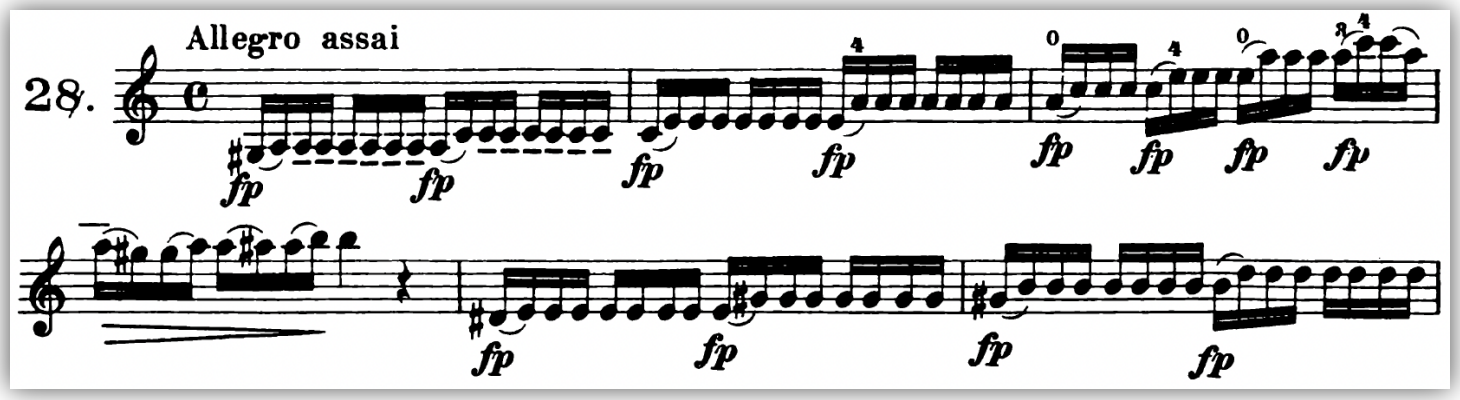


Clarke Etude #4

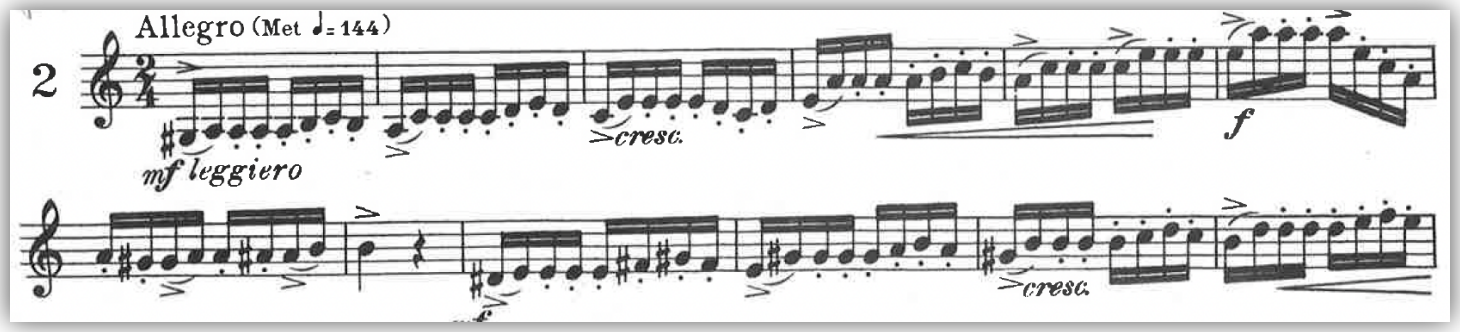


“articulation”

Kayser Etude #28



Clarke Etude #2



Sources and Resources

Bibliography

Clarke, Herbert L. *How I Became a Cornetist*. St. Louis: Joseph Huber, 1934.

Da Silva, Ulisses Carvalho. "Original and Transcribed Etude Books for Viola: A Reference Guide for Teachers and Students." Ph.D. diss., University of Georgia, 2010.

Gillotti, Nicole. "Exploring Parallels between Trumpet and Violin Pedagogy: Relating Trumpet Adaptations of Otakar Ševčík's Op. 8 to the Teachings of Vincent Cichowicz." DMA diss., University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2020.

Madeja, James Thomas. "The Herbert L. Clarke Method of Cornet Playing" *International Trumpet Guild Journal* 14, no. 3 (February 1990): 4–18.

———. "The Life and Work of Herbert L. Clarke (1867-1945)." Ed.D. diss., University of Illinois, 1988.

Etudes (public domain)

Clarke, Herbert L. *Characteristic Studies*. New York: Carl Fischer, 1915.

Kayser, Heinrich Ernst. *Elementary and Progressive Studies for the Violin, Op. 20*. New York: Schirmer, 1915.

Clarke Recordings

Schwartz, Terry. *Characteristic Studies by Herbert L. Clarke*. N.P., 2010, compact disc. Or https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLgoCbfeMKaYNW5tmJ3kXw5-JfrViH_Jpr

Wilt, Jim. *Clarke (or Clark) Characteristic Etudes 1, 6, 7, 9, 11, 12, 21.* https://www.youtube.com/@jimwilt4944

Kayser Recordings

Cruz, Claudio. *Kayser: 36 Violin Studies, Op. 20*. Azul Music, 2020. https://youtube.com/playlist?list=OLAK5uy_nwxy2RcnWLcNmqQqbQGBpwWlr1zrexq54

Kang, Bochan. *Kayser Violin 36 Etudes.* *https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLIcJOrQKnxs2L67LkeccL8K9L_Uv8raUo*

Images from Herbert L Clarke Music and Personal Papers, circa 1880-1945 (series 2: Photographs), Sousa Archives and Center for American Music, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Visit www.BrianReichenbach.com/ClarkeKayser