

5 Duos in 3 Clefs for Trombones

Gioachino Rossini was an Italian composer, born in 1792 and died in 1868. He was known primarily for his thirty-nine operas, although he did compose some chamber pieces and a few orchestral works. His *5 Duos for 2 Horns in Eb* were probably written in 1806 when Rossini was fourteen and living in Bologna, although they weren't published until 1861. While it may seem unusual for a fourteen-year-old to be composing, by then Rossini had already written his *String Sonatas* at the age of twelve, and those works are still performed today. An explanation for why Rossini would write a set of duets for horn may be that his father was a professional trumpet player, and taught his son Gioachino to play the horn at a very young age.

These five pieces were written for the natural (valveless) horns of the time, and like the horn writing of Mozart some very technical passages can be found in the lower part, especially in duets four and five. We can also hear the future opera composer's arias in number three. The duos will work quite well on recitals and also for casual duet playing. Because trombonists can never have enough practice in clefs, I have transcribed the duets into three versions each using bass, tenor and alto clefs.

David Mathie

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Five Duos in 3 Clefs

for Two Trombones

No. 1

Gioachino Rossini

arr. David Mathie

Marcia ♩ = 100

(Bass)

The musical score is written for two trombones in bass clef, 2/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The tempo is marked 'Marcia' with a quarter note equal to 100 beats per minute. The score consists of three systems, each with two staves. The first system begins with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The second system features a piano (*pp*) dynamic in the first measure, followed by a fortissimo (*ff*) dynamic in the fifth measure. The third system is marked with a box containing the letter 'A' in the first measure, followed by a fortissimo (*ff*) dynamic in the first measure and a piano (*p*) dynamic in the fifth measure. The score includes various musical notations such as eighth and sixteenth notes, rests, and slurs.

No. 1

Gioachino Rossini

arr. David Mathie

Marcia $\text{♩} = 100$

(Tenor)

f

pp

ff

pp

ff

ff

p

p

A

No. 1
(Alto)**Gioachino Rossini**
arr. David Mathie

Marcia ♩ = 100

f

pp *ff*

pp *ff*

A

ff *p*

ff *p*

No. 2
(Bass)**Gioachino Rossini**
arr. David Mathie

Menuett ♪ = 120

f

f

2x p

2x p

No. 3
(Tenor)**Gioachino Rossini**
arr. David Mathie**Adagio non troppo** ♩ = 60

The musical score is written for a piano and a tenor voice. The piano part is in the left hand, and the vocal part is in the right hand. The key signature has two flats (B-flat major), and the time signature is 3/4. The tempo is marked 'Adagio non troppo' with a quarter note equal to 60 beats per minute. The piano part begins with a mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic. The vocal line starts with a mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic. The score includes several triplet figures in both parts. The vocal line has a sharp sign in the final measure.

No. 4
(Alto)**Gioachino Rossini**
arr. David Mathie**Minuetto (in 1)** $\text{♩.} = 52$

poco f

poco f

2x p

2x p

No. 5

(Bass)

Gioachino Rossini

arr. David Mathie

Allegro molto ♩ = 96

ff

ff

A

1. *2x p* *f*

2. *2x p* *f*