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Arban's Method for Alto Trombone

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Foreword

It gives me great pleasure to commend my former student Wayne Groves on the publication of this fine text, as well as on his career as a great player and his contribution to our trombone community through his reviews in the ITA Journal.

In recent years, use of the alto trombone in orchestras has greatly increased, and advanced students often incorporate performances on the instrument into their solo recitals. Looking back on my own experience, I always used the alto when I played Mozart operas at the Met.

In publishing this edition for alto trombone of the iconic Arban's Method, Wayne Groves has performed an invaluable service. While some pedagogical materials and performance editions of literature written for alto trombone have become available in recent years, the addition of Arban's fills an important void.

Now, the classic practice materials available to generations of trumpet, cornet, trombone, euphonium, and other brass players have been customized for alto trombone. The resulting publication is destined for wide use by today's trombone students.

I salute Wayne on the publication of this book. In the future, I know he plans to publish other classic studies from the tenor trombone repertoire for alto trombone. Along with the current book, these publications will constitute a great service to students as well as professional players of alto trombone.

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Introduction to Part 4 Duets

After completing my transcription of Arban's Method for Alto Trombone in nearly its entirety, I discovered a collection of 60 duets in an early abridged edition of Arban edited by T.H. Rollinson that is entirely different from the collection of 68 duets which is found in most modern editions. Having already divided my publication into three separate volumes, I noticed that the third section was much larger than the previous two and decided to make a new volume dedicated entirely to duets from both of these collections.

The rehearsal and performance of duets is a unique and especially beneficial aspect of musical study which combines all the elements of individual study with chamber music. These duets can best be performed by two alto trombonists, but they could also be played with one player on alto and the other on tenor trombone (usually the lower part). There would also be good benefit in studying these by recording one part and then playing the other part with the recording, again, either both parts on alto or one on alto and one on tenor. For less experienced player, the advantage of having the lower part played on tenor is that there would be more stability of pitch and sound to listen and adjust to. In any case, there is much to be gained.

T.H. Rollinson was an American cornetist, conductor, arranger, and composer. He played an important part in the early development of the American wind band. I notice that a few of the duets in the 1879 collection actually have his name on them. Perhaps his contribution to this collection was something more than editor! Whatever the case, I believe that these two collections are similar in character and that they are for the most part simple, easy to sight-read, even for the alto trombone novice, and rewarding to rehearse and perform among friends.

In closing, I would like to dedicate this series of duets in memory of a dear friend, Carlberg Jones. Carlberg was for many years second horn of the San Francisco Opera Orchestra and also performed regularly with the San Francisco Ballet Orchestra and the Oakland Symphony. After retiring, Carlberg moved to Mexico, and when our humble orchestra in Aguascalientes needed a second horn, Carlberg was happy to join us! Carlberg had also studied trombone in his youth and he often invited me over to play duets, including the duets in Arban. Playing duets with a musician with the experience and caliber of Carlberg was an experience that I will never forget. I hope that you will enjoy these as much as I have!

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Principal Trombone
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68 Duets

Arranged and Compiled by
J.B. Arban

Sacred Song

Portniansky

Moderato

1.

p

The first system of musical notation consists of two staves joined by a brace on the left. Both staves are in 3/4 time and B-flat major. The top staff begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The melody in the top staff features a series of eighth and quarter notes, with some notes beamed together. The bottom staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with a similar rhythmic pattern. The system concludes with a repeat sign.

mf

The second system of musical notation continues the piece. It also consists of two staves. The melody in the top staff continues from the first system, ending with a half note. The bottom staff continues its accompaniment. The system concludes with a repeat sign. A mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic marking is present in the middle of the system.

I Would that my Love

Mendelssohn

Moderato

28.

p

cresc.

f

The musical score consists of two systems of two staves each, representing two alto trombones. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/8. The first system (measures 28-32) begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic. Measures 28 and 30 feature a half rest in the first staff and a dotted quarter note in the second staff. Measures 29 and 31 feature a half note in the first staff and a dotted quarter note in the second staff. Measure 32 features a half note in the first staff and a dotted quarter note in the second staff. The second system (measures 33-37) begins with a half note in the first staff and a dotted quarter note in the second staff. Measures 34 and 36 feature a half note in the first staff and a dotted quarter note in the second staff. Measures 35 and 37 feature a half note in the first staff and a dotted quarter note in the second staff. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, beams, and slurs, as well as dynamic markings and a crescendo hairpin.

Prayer from "Moses"

Andantino

Rossini

63.

63. *p*

64. *mf*

The musical score is written for two alto trombones in 2/4 time, key of B-flat major. The tempo is Andantino. The score consists of five measures. The first measure (63) begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The first staff features a melody with a half note, a dotted half note, and a half note, with a slur over the last two notes. The second staff has a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes, with triplets indicated by a '3' and a slur. The second measure (64) continues the melody and accompaniment. The third measure (65) features a melody with a half note, a dotted half note, and a half note, with a slur over the last two notes. The fourth measure (66) continues the melody and accompaniment. The fifth measure (67) ends with a melody of a half note and a dotted half note, and an accompaniment of eighth notes. The dynamic changes to mezzo-forte (*mf*) in the fifth measure.

Sixty Duets

from 1879 Edition of Arban's Method

Edited by T.H. Rollinson

Home Sweet Home

Howard

Andante

1.

p

This system contains the first eight measures of the piece. It is written for two staves in 3/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The tempo is marked 'Andante' and the dynamics are marked 'p' (piano). The melody in the upper staff features dotted rhythms and eighth-note patterns, while the lower staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with similar rhythmic motifs.

mf *f*

This system contains the final four measures of the piece. The dynamics are marked 'mf' (mezzo-forte) for the first two measures and 'f' (forte) for the last two. The piece concludes with a final sustained note in both staves. The notation continues with the same rhythmic and melodic patterns as the first system.

Petite March

Rollinson

Maestoso

35.

mf

Fine *Grazioso*

p

Allegro moderato

When Twilight Shadows

Donizetti

55.

mf

The musical score consists of two systems of two staves each, representing two alto trombones. The key signature is two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 3/4. The first system (measures 55-64) begins with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The melody in the upper staff features a series of eighth and quarter notes, often beamed together, with a final half note. The lower staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with similar rhythmic patterns. The second system (measures 65-74) continues the melodic and harmonic development, ending with a final half note in both staves.