

I Recommend:

Extra-Enjoyable Supplemental Music for Trombone and Brass

Updated 12/12/10

Brian Kay
Trombone and Brass Instrument Teacher, Natick, MA
www.brassstages.com

Here is my “best of the best” list of fun pop trombone books to supplement a regular progressive method book. Most of these books include play-along CDs. You should choose books suitable for your level, though with fun music, it is not a problem if the music is “too easy” for you. Alternatively, if you know how a tune goes and are motivated, you can work on a selection that would otherwise be too hard for you. But if a tune has too many high notes for you, it is best to wait until you’re ready, so you don’t develop bad “squeezing” habits. An * marks the very most highly recommended selections. In describing the levels, “Book 1” and “Book 2” refer to volumes one and two of any standard band or beginner method like Accent on Achievement, Standard of Excellence. Intermediate students should have completed Book 2.

For Book ONE Level Beginners

***Very Easy Swing Pop, Van Gorp (de Haske/Hal Leonard)**

A nice, varied collection with an especially good play-along CD for a player that has reached at least the 2nd half of Book 1. Includes rock, swing, latin, and other styles. The rock selections are especially nice with the CD.

Easy Popular Movie Instrumental Solos (Alfred)

For a player who is near the end of Book 1 or in Book 2. Includes Harry Potter, Lord of the Rings, Polar Express, James Bond, Raiders, etc. Nice play-along/demo CD. Rhythms are simplified and range limited for first and second year players.

Favorite Movie Themes, Trombone with optional CD (Hal Leonard)

Classic movie themes with an excellent play-along. First and second year players can do a few of the tracks, and grow into the rest of the Intermediate level tracks. The newest version has both melody and an ensemble part for each theme. Be sure to get the optional CD. Chariots of Fire, Back to the Future, Forrest Gump, Mission Impossible, E.T., Jurassic Park, Raiders of the Lost Ark, Mr. Holland’s Opus, etc.

For Book TWO Level Beginners and Intermediate

***The Very Best of John Williams (Warner Brothers)**

Includes the Olympic Fanfare, Superman, Harry Potter, and several selections from Star Wars, including the Main Theme, Cantina Band, Imperial March, Duel of the Fates (Episode 1). Some overlap with the “Classic Movie Instrumental Solos” collection, but overall, this is a more thorough collection of John Williams music. Book 2 through Intermediate level.

Classic Movie Instrumental Solos (Alfred)

Great selection and play-along/demo CD. Includes Star Wars Main Theme and Cantina Band, Harry Potter – Hedwig’s Theme and Family Portrait, Lord of the Rings, Wizard of Oz, James Bond, Raiders, etc. Book 2 through Intermediate level.

Favorite Movie Themes, Trombone with CD (Hal Leonard)

Classic movie themes with an excellent playalong. First and second year players can do a few of the tracks, and grow into the rest of the Intermediate level tracks. The newest version has both melody and an ensemble part for each theme. Be sure to get the optional CD. Chariots of Fire, Back to the Future, Forrest Gump, Mission Impossible, E.T., Jurassic Park, Raiders of the Lost Ark, Mr. Holland's Opus, etc.

***Disney Solos (Hal Leonard)**

Very nice selections and play-along/demo CD for a Book 2 or Intermediate player. Selections are a bit easier than the "Disney Movie Hits" collection. Toy Story, Lion King, Aladdin, Beauty and the Beast, Tarzan, Hercules, Pocohontas, etc

Disney Movie Hits with CD (Hal Leonard)

Intermediate Level. A notch more challenging than the "Disney Solos" collection. The orchestral playalong CD is outstanding. Selections from Beauty and the Beast, The Lion King, Dalmations, Hercules, Hunchback, Monsters, Mermaid, Aladdin, Toy Story 2.

Disney Movie Favorites

No play-along CD, but there is a Piano Accompaniment Book available. Book 2 and Intermediate level selections from The Little Mermaid, Beauty And The Beast, and Aladdin.

Easy Disney Favorites (Hal Leonard)

Some old time Disney favorites – easier than the music from the newer Disney productions. Good for a player who has reached the start of Book 2, or possibly the end of Book 1. Includes Mickey Mouse March, Winnie the Pooh, Zip-A-Dee-Doo-Dah, Bibbidi-Bobbidi, It's a Small World, etc.

TV Favorites (Hal Leonard)

Nice Collection and play-along CD. Includes The Simpsons, Hawaii Five-O, Addams Family, Jeopardy, NFL on Fox, etc

The Best of the Beatles, Trombone (Hal Leonard)

No play-along CD, but a very thorough collection of 89 songs. Most are Intermediate level. Some are playable by second year beginners.

Lennon and McCartney Solos (Hal Leonard)

11 Beatles songs, with play-along CD. Intermediate Level

Sound of Music, Trombone Book and CD (Hal Leonard).

Great melodies are very playable at the early intermediate level.

Wizard of Oz - Trombone Solos.

Great melodies are very playable at the early intermediate level.

***Band Jam, Trombone with CD (Hal Leonard)**

Very fun set with a great playalong CD. Beginner 2 and Early Intermediate Level. Most rock song melodies are not melodic enough to be enjoyable instrumentally, but these are! We Will Rock You, Wild Thing, Twist and Shout, Born to be Wild, Final Countdown, Gonna Make You Sweat, YMCA, Get Ready For This. Challenging Intermediate music.

Rock Jams

Fun tracks and a great play-along CD, though the selections are not quite as melodic as in the "Band Jams" collection. Challenging Intermediate music.

***Broadway & Hollywood Classics, Trombone (w/ CD) (Cherry Lane/Hal Leonard)**

Fun tunes in good keys and the perfect range for the Intermediate player. Good play along CD. Includes Day-O, My Favorite Things, The Candy Man, Consider Yourself, The Entertainer, The Impossible Dream.

The Best of Andrew Lloyd Webber (Hal Leonard)

Great Intermediate level tunes, but unfortunately, no play-along CD. Selections from Cats, Phantom, Evita, Joseph, Jesus Christ Superstar, Requiem, etc.

Jump Swing Fever, Trombone Book (Hal Leonard)

Unfortunately has no playalong CD, but the tunes are great. Intermediate/Advance Intermediate level. Includes Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy, Go Daddy-O, In the Mood, It Don't Mean A Thing, Jump, Jive An' Wail, Puttin' On the Ritz, Stompin' At the Savoy, Zoot Suit Riot, and more.

Double Dip, Duets with Playalong CD, Michael Davis (clubhip-bone.com)

Twenty excellent duets with nicely done pop accompaniments are ideal for Book 2 level beginners and intermediate players. Each track is on the CD three times: with both parts and accompaniment for demo, with just one of the duet parts so you can play along alone, and with just the accompaniment. Highly recommended.

***Brass Buzz DVD, Book, and CD, Michael Davis (clubhip-bone.com)**

Very nicely done book and video set helps kids (and adults) get excited about the possibilities for jazz, and rock trombone. Lots of good exercises, play-alongs, and tips. Ideal for students in Beginner Book 2, and students who are in the second half of Book 1. Intermediate students will also get a lot out of this. Should be a great boost for any trombone student. Nicely priced at \$20

Church Music

Hymns for the Master, Trombone with CD (Hal Leonard)

Simple, but superb settings of classic hymns. Early Intermediate level. Some of the hymns are playable by a second year beginner. I perform from this collection frequently myself. Piano accompaniment book available.

Great Hymns, arr. Jim Curnow with CD (Curnow Music)

Slightly more arranged settings of classic hymns require a little more instrumental virtuosity (Advanced Intermediate Level). A nice challenge for the player, and interesting settings for the congregation. Piano/Organ accompaniment available.

Christmas Collections for Book ONE level players (and older)

***Yamaha Christmas Ensembles**

A super collection of 19 Christmas standards in flexible trio format – play them as solos, duos, or trios. Have your friends get the corresponding book for their instrument and play them together. Melody and duet parts are beginner two level, while some of the third trio parts are playable by a first year beginner.

***Easy Christmas Instrumental Solos (Alfred)**

A great mix of 14 modern secular, and traditional Christmas favorites with an excellent play-along/demo CD. Good for a player who has completed at least most of Book 1, but also enjoyable for Book 2 and higher level players.

Cool Yule (Hal Leonard)

15 traditional Christmas tunes with a modern rock/pop CD accompaniment. Book 1 or 2 level players.

Tons of Tunes for the Holidays (Curnow/Hal Leonard)

Short, simple, and easy settings of traditional Christmas favorites, with a play along CD. A good choice for a very young player.

Christmas Collections for Book TWO and Intermediate level players (and older)

(See also the books in the Book ONE level player section above which are also enjoyable by older players.)

***Twenty Five Christmas Songs**

An excellent and thorough collection of modern Christmas favorites with play-along/demo CD.

Christmas Favorites (Hal Leonard)

An excellent collection of 15 secular Christmas tunes with a very good play-along/demo CD. Beginner 2 and Intermediate level. There are just three overlaps with the Twenty Five Christmas Songs collection. Tunes unique to this collection include Chestnuts, Christmas Time is Here (Charlie Brown), Feliz, Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree, etc.

Christmas Classics with CD (Hal Leonard)

12 enjoyable secular Christmas tunes at the Beginner 2 and Intermediate levels, however 6 of these overlap with the Twenty Five Christmas Songs Collection. Unique to this collection are White Christmas, The Most Wonderful Time of the Year, Happy Holiday, Hymne, and We Need a Little Christmas.

Christmas Hits for Two (Hal Leonard)

Beginner 2/Intermediate level duet arrangements of Secular Christmas favorites. Melody in the top part, accompaniment in the bottom. Includes Chestnuts, Feliz, Frosty, Holly Jolly, Jingle-Bell Rock, Let it Snow, Rockin' Around, Rudolph, etc. Unfortunately no CD. The writing of the second duet part is unfortunately not too great.

***Santa's Little Helper Christmas Songbook (Duets) w CD (Santorella)**

Actually a duet book, though the cover doesn't mention it. Melody is in the top part so it is also a solo book. Mostly Beginner 2 level, but enjoyable by all. The CD is a simple but nice piano accompaniment. A good collection of 24 traditional Christmas tunes. Includes Deck the Halls, Silent Night, We Wish You a Merry Christmas, I Saw Three Ships, Angels We Have Heard, The First Noel, Hark, etc.

10 Christmas Duets for Two Tinsel Trombones, arr. Pederson

Simple Intermediate level arrangements by a respected jazz trombone arranger. Includes Jingle, Midnight Clear, God Rest, We Three Kings, The First Noel, Joy to the World, Silent Night, Wenceslas, O Come All Ye Faithfull, etc.