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Arban's Method for
Alto Trombone

Part 4:

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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.

Per Brevig, DMA

Principal Trombonist, Metropolitan Opera Orchestra (Ret.)
The Juilliard School, Manhattan School of Music, Aspen Music Festival, New York University

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!

Wayne Groves
Principal Trombone
Orquesta Sinfónica de Aguascalientes
Aguascalientes, Mexico

68 Duets

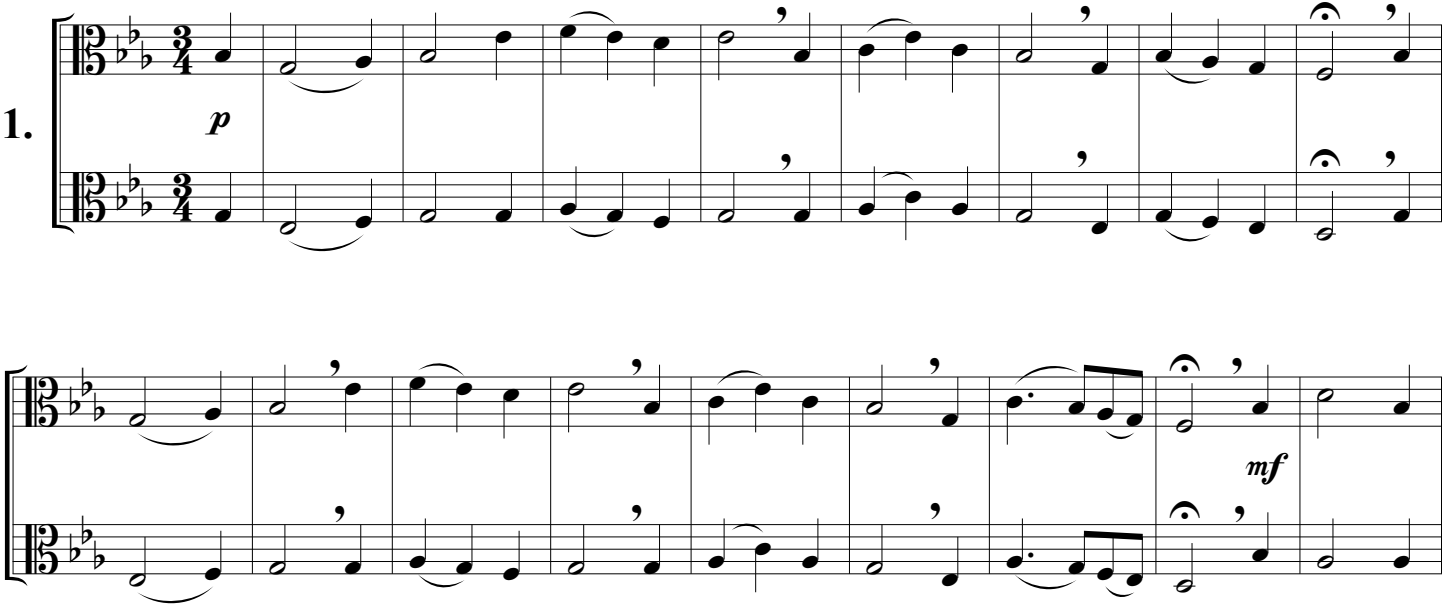
Arranged and Compiled by
J.B. Arban

Sacred Song

Portniansky

Moderato

1.

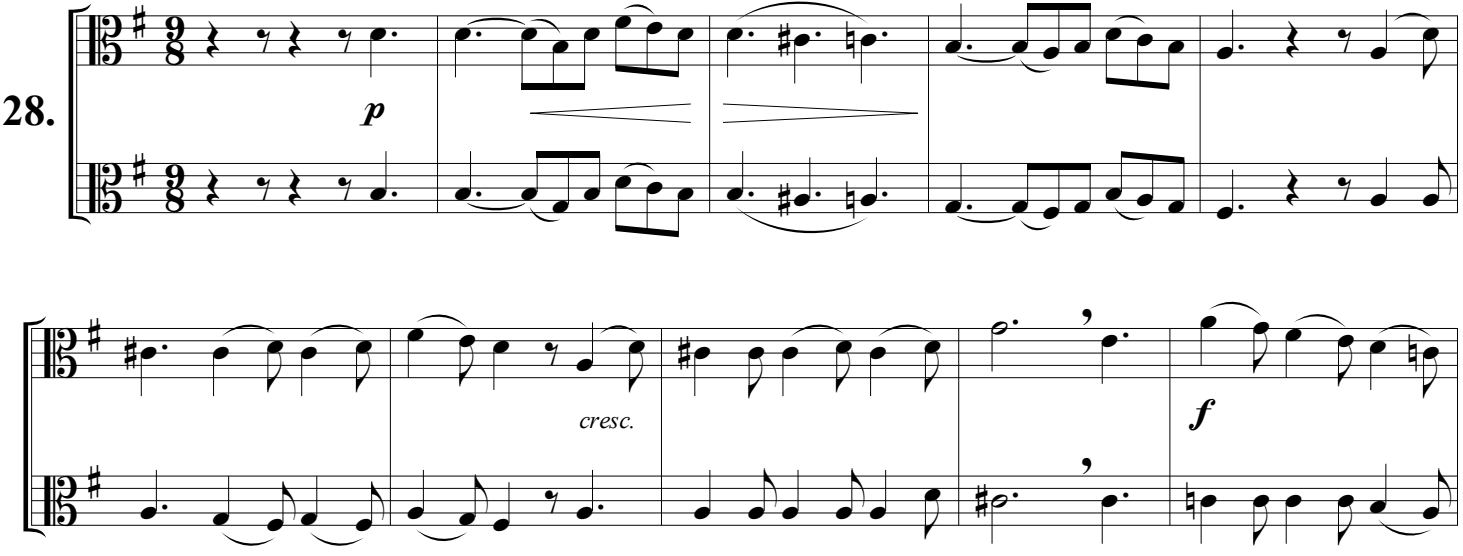


I Would that my Love

Mendelssohn

Moderato

28.

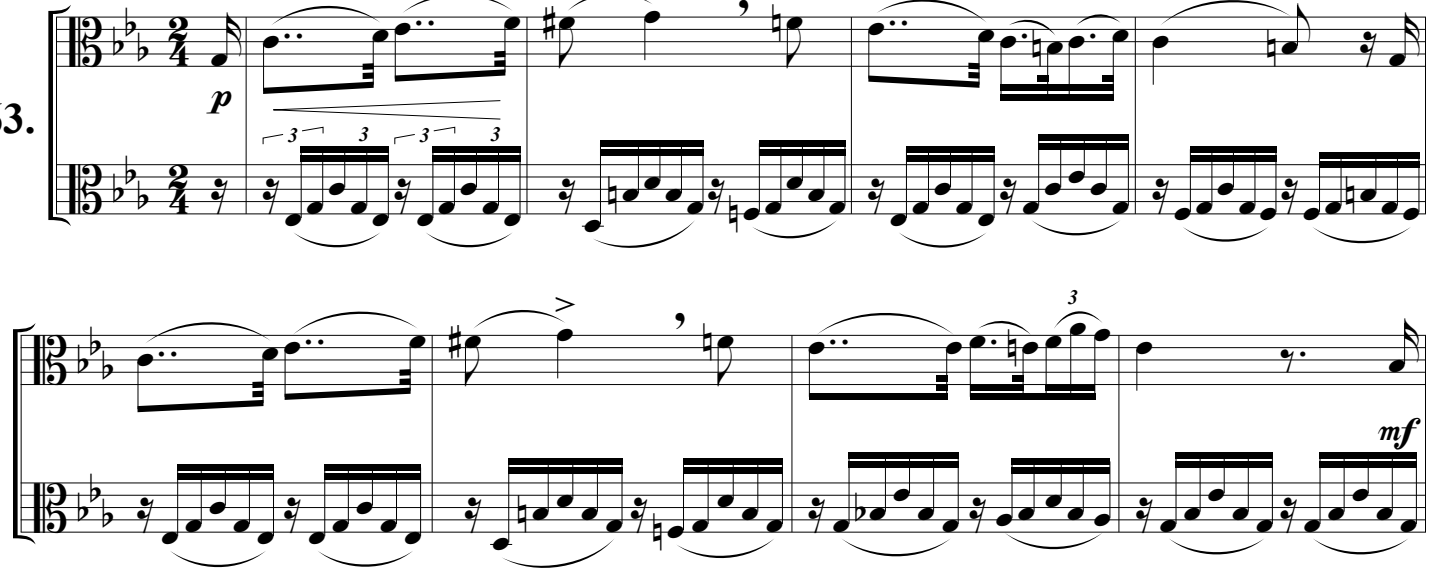


Andantino

Prayer from "Moses"

Rossini

63.



Sixty Duets

from 1879 Edition of Arban's Method

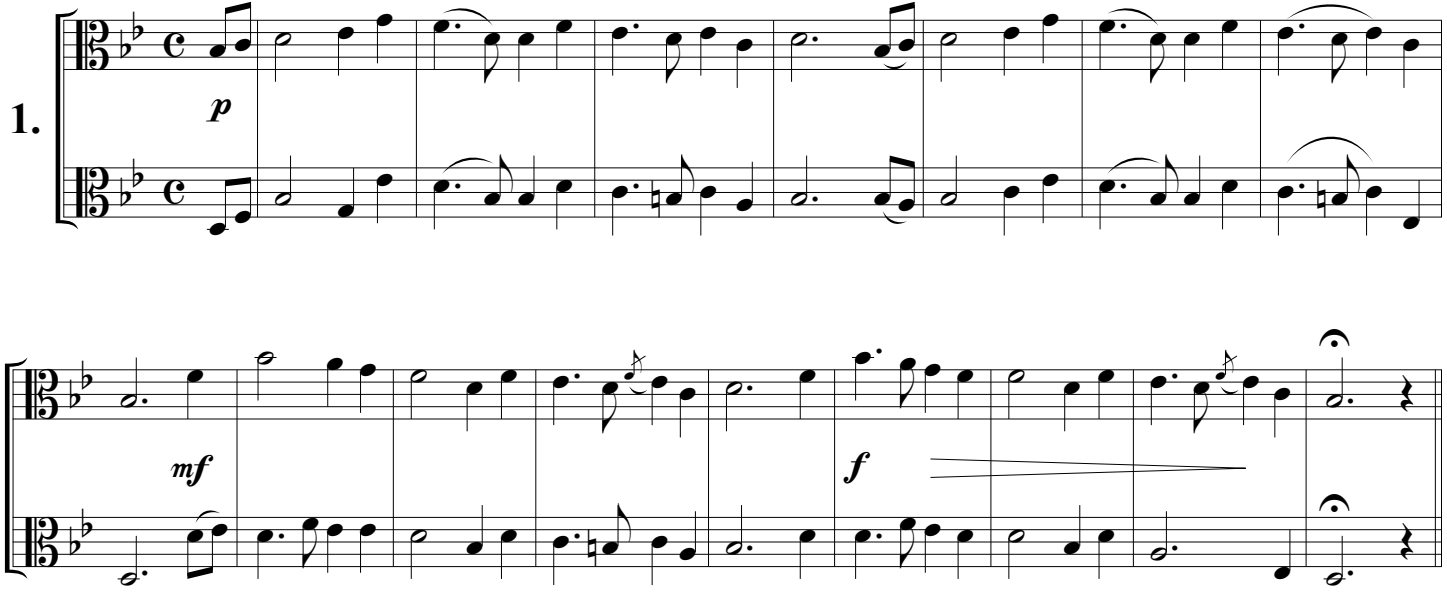
Edited by T.H. Rollinson

Home Sweet Home

Howard

Andante

1.



Petite March

Rollinson

35.

Maestoso

mf

Fine

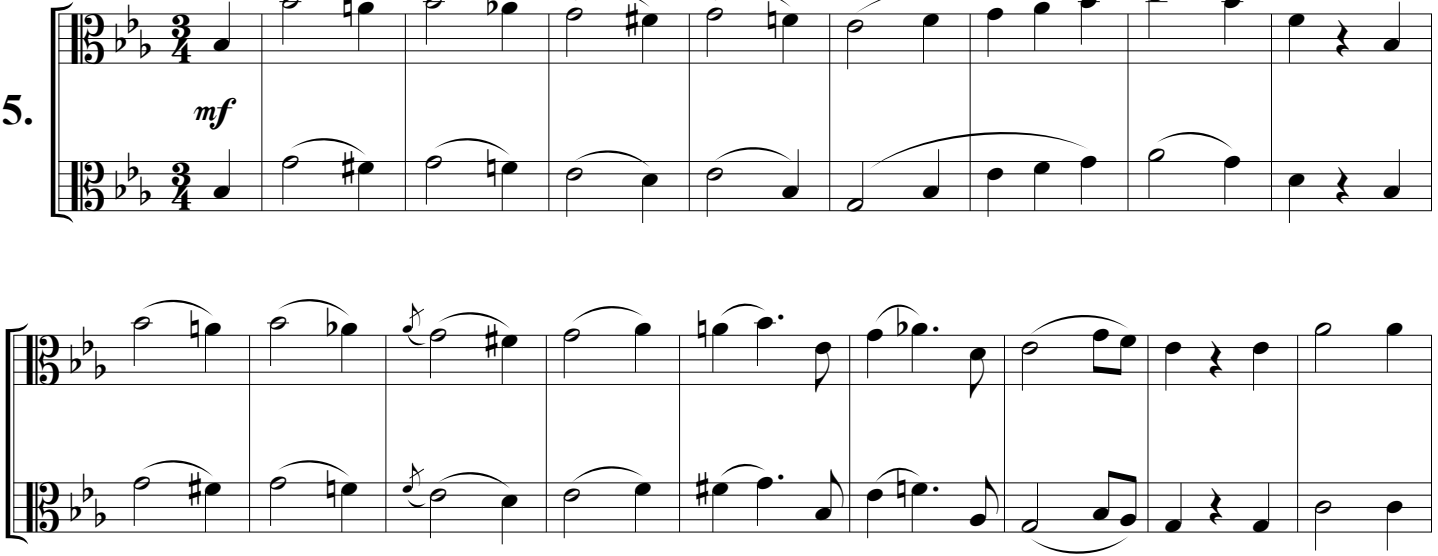
Grazioso

p

Allegro moderato

When Twilight Shadows

Donizetti

55.

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