

I Recommend: Extra-Enjoyable Supplemental Music for Trombone and Brass

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Here is my “best of the best” list of enjoyable supplemental materials. I have chosen them for their selection of music, appropriateness for a given level, and the quality of their playalong CDs. Most have proven themselves to be enjoyable time and time again. Much of the “good stuff” out there is at the Intermediate level, so if you are still in books 1 and 2, you should work to complete them as soon as possible. However, there is a substantial amount listed here suitable for Beginning players. I placed the easier items generally towards the beginning of each category. Sometimes, if you are motivated, and know a tune well, you can play a level or half level higher. But if a tune has too many high notes for you, it is best to wait until your ready, so you don’t develop bad “squeezing” habits. Also, for fun music, it is not a problem if the music is “too easy” for you.

To purchase the items, you can simply google the titles, or use the list of recommended stores on my website: brassstages.com/advanced/stores.html I have most of these books on file, so you if you are one of my students, you are welcome to take a look at your lesson.

I refer to the following levels in this guide:

Beginner One – working in any Book 1 beginner book

Beginner Two – working in a volume II beginner book

Early Intermediate – completed a volume II beginner book.

Advanced Intermediate – completed my “Intermediate Method Vol 1” or equivalent

Fun Tunes for Beginner through Intermediate Players

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

Just Add Trombone Book and CD, Michael Davis (clubhip-bone.com)

Twenty very fun tunes with a nicely done pop accompaniment track are a good challenge for a player in the second half of book one, but would be enjoyable for a second year or early intermediate player as well. \$15

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

Twenty excellent duets with nicely done pop accompaniments are ideal for beginner two and intermediate players, but enjoyable by more advanced players too. For maximum flexibility, 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 background so you can play with a friend along with the accompaniment. Highly recommended. Very reasonably priced at \$15

Easy Disney Favorites with CD, (Hal Leonard)

I haven’t seen this yet, but I’ll be ordering it shortly. Looks very promising for second and possibly first year beginners. Includes Mickey Mouse March, Winnie the Pooh, Zip-A-Dee-Do-Dah, Bibbidi-Bobbidi, It’s a Small World, etc. \$13

The Best of the Beatles, Trombone (Hal Leonard)

If you enjoy the Beatles, you will like this book of 89 songs. Most are Intermediate level. Some are playable by second year beginners.

Lennon and McCartney Solos with CD (Hal Leonard)

I haven't seen this yet, but it looks promising. Only 11 songs, but the playalong CD is a big plus.

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. 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 Movie Hits with CD (Hal Leonard)

Nice Beginner Book 2 and Intermediate level selections. The orchestral playalong CD is outstanding. Selections from Beauty and the Beast, The Lion King, Dalmations, Hercules, Hunchback, Monsters, Mermaid, Aladdin, Toy Story 2. \$13

Disney Solos with CD (Hal Leonard)

I haven't seen this set yet, but it looks promising. \$13

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. We Will Rock You, Wild Thing, Twist and Shout, Born to be Wild, Final Countdown, Gonna Make You Sweat, YMCA, Get Ready For This.

Broadway & Hollywood Classics, Trombone (w/ CD) (Cherry Lane Music Co.)

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)

Nice Intermediate level tunes from Cats, Phantom, Evita, Joseph, Jesus Christ Superstar, Requiem, etc. \$6.95

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.

The Star Wars Trilogy (WB Music)

Great John Williams music, but unfortunately no CD. Intermediate level. \$12.95

Church Music

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

Nice, simple settings of classic hymns. Early Intermediate level. Some of the hymns are playable by a second year beginner. 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.

Praise and Worship Hymn Solos with CD (Hal Leonard)

I haven't seen this yet, but it looks promising because of the playalong CD. Has traditional hymns like Holy, Holy, Come Thou Fount, etc. Piano Accompaniment book is available. \$13

Christmas Collections

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. \$6

Christmas Favorites with CD (Hal Leonard)

An excellent collection of secular Christmas tunes with a very good playalong CD. Beginner 2 and Intermediate level tunes include Blue Christmas, Chestnuts, Christmas Time is Here (Charlie Brown), Feliz, Here Comes Santa Claus, Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree, Rudolph, etc. \$11

Christmas Classics with CD (Hal Leonard)

Excellent selection of enjoyable secular Christmas tunes at the Beginner 2 and Intermediate levels. Unfortunately, the playalong CD is a little "cheesy" to my tastes. It includes the melody played with a vibraphone sound, which makes it easier for beginners to follow. Includes White Christmas, Silver Bells, Let it Snow, Feliz Navidad, My Favorite Things, Jingle Bell Rock, etc \$11

Christmas Hits for Two (Hal Leonard)

Good Beginner 2/Intermediate level duet arrangements of Secular Christmas favorites – Chestnuts, Feliz, Frosty, Holly Jolly, Jingle-Bell Rock, Let it Snow, Rockin' Around, Rudolph, etc. Unfortunately no CD. \$6

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 classic festive and sacred 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

10 Christmas Duets for Two Tinsel Trombones, arr. Pederson

Simple Intermediate and Advanced Intermediate 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.

Jazz Standards and Improvisation

Ten Jazz Duets by Matt Finders w/ CD

Superb collection of very playable (Early and Advanced Intermediate) jazz duets. The demo and playalong tracks are superb, and really groove. My highest recommendation.

Twelve Jazz Duets by Jack Gale w/CD (Tezak)

Perfect Advanced level follow up to the Finders duets with advanced level range and tempos. The demo and play along CD is very good.

Approaching the Standards Vol 1, 2, 3 by Willie Hill with CD (WB Music)

Everything a play along book for learning improvisers should be! Each volume contains 8 standard tunes suitable for Intermediate level players who are beginning or intermediate improvisers. Each tune has the head (melody), chord changes, written out sample solo (also played on the disc), additional recorded solo for transcription, "licks and tricks", composer insight, scales and chords, and a discography. The recorded solos are simple ones, which you can hope to emulate. Volumes 2 and 3 are only slightly more advanced than Volume 1, but Volume 1 is definitely the best place to start. All contain a nice variety of tunes.

Vol 1: Billie's Bounce, Cantaloupe Island, The Preacher, Summertime, Satin Doll, C Jam Blues, and I Got Rhythm.

Vol 2: Now's the Time, Sugar, Honeysuckle Rose, Maiden Voyage, Just Squeeze Me, Caravan, In a Mellow Tone, and Perdido.

Vol 3: Tenor Madness, Killer Joe, Bye Bye Blackbird, Take the "A" Train, Softly as a Morning Sunrise, My Secret Love, Speak Low, and Cottontail.

Aebersold Jazz Playalongs Vol 54, Maiden Voyage, Book w/ CD (J. Aebersold)

An ideal selection of tunes for the beginning improviser. Nicer playalong tracks, but lacks the demos and sample solos in the Approaching the Standards Series.

Alfred MasterTracks Blues with CD

A diverse sampling of a variety of blues forms and styles. The playalong CD features top studio players and really rocks! Intermediate and Advanced Intermediate levels

Aebersold Jazz Playalongs Vol 2, Nothin' But Blues, Book with CD (J. Aebersold)

Very approachable tunes and chord changes suitable for Intermediate level players, with some tunes playable by second year beginners.

Intermediate Jazz Improvisation by George Bouchard w/ CDs (J. Aebersold)

This thick and very comprehensive text is *the* book you need if you want to undertake the monumental task of becoming a skilled jazz improviser. Contains numerous exercises plus chord changes and explanations of 20 standard jazz tunes, including Freddie Freeloader, When the Saints, Summertime, Four, Green Dolphin St, Autumn Leaves, Satin Doll, Girl From Ipanema, etc. You must obtain the melodies for the tunes from a fake book, or the corresponding Jamey Aebersold playalong volume as listed in the book.

Jazz Rock in the USA, James Hosay. with CD (Curnow Music)

Advanced Intermediate Level. Fun and challenging tunes in a variety of styles have improv section in the middle with simple changes. Features play along and demonstration recordings. Jilt Jansma's performance on the demonstration tracks are first rate, with wonderful lyricism. Great "fun" pack for a strong player who wants a challenge.

Effective Etudes for Jazz, Carubia and Jarvis with CD (Kendor)

Advanced Intermediate level. Written out solos to jazz standards (Blues, I Got Rhythm, Sweat Georgia Brown, Perdido, etc). A nice feature is the analysis under the staff which helps you understand how the notes were chosen. Good for building your jazz feel and vocabulary.

Exercises and Etudes for the Jazz Instrumentalist, Bass Clef Edition by J.J. Johnson. (Hal Leonard)

Starts fairly easy (early intermediate level) and gradually becomes more challenging. Makes some truly advanced technical work accessible to the upper intermediate player because the range is very reasonable. A fruitful and enjoyable book to work straight through. Does not include chord symbols in keeping with the author's wish to emphasize pure melody. The great tunes for technique in this book will help you build a jazz melodic and harmonic vocabulary

Dixieland Play Alongs

Backup Trax: Traditional Jazz & Dixie by Dix Bruce w/ CD (Mel Bay)

Beginner 2 level and up. Simple, basic presentation of the tunes (melody and chord changes only) with good suggestions for study. You can play just the melody, or continue on to improvise solos if you like. The live trumpet player on the recording gives you a good sense of style for the melody. Includes Saints, Down by the Riverside, St. James, Closer Walk, St. Louis Blues, Frankie & Johnny, Bill Bailey, etc.

Dixieland Jam with CD (Hal Leonard)

A great selection of 15 classic early Intermediate level tunes. Includes the melody, and usually a section where you can improvise a solo over chord changes. The CD is fair to good. For better or worse, the melody is played on the CD with a vibraphone sound. Includes Basin St Blues, After You've Gone, Tine Roof Blues, King Porter Stomp, Copenhagen, Royal Garden, Maple Leaf, Way Down Yonder, etc.

From Dixie to Swing with CD (MMO 3926) (Music Minus One)

Excellent format. Prepares you for true role of trombone in Dixieland which is to play written and improvised backgrounds more so than just melody and solos - but you do get to play some melody in this collection too. Intermediate level music, but the improv is challenging. Includes Way Down Yonder, Red Sails in the Sunset, Second Hand Rose, Royal Garden Blues, Rose of Washington Square, The Sunny Side of the Street, etc.

Other Good Jazz Books

Early Intermediate and Up

Snidero: Easy Jazz Conception (with CD featuring Slide Hampton) (Advance Music)

LaPorta: Easy Jazz Duets (with CD) (WB Music)

Advanced Intermediate and Up

Jazz and Blues Playalong Solos (with CD) (Hal Leonard)

Mintzer: 15 Easy Jazz, Blues, and Funk Etudes (with CD) (WB Music)

50 Essential Bebop Heads, Trombone (Hal Leonard)

Niehaus: Six Jazz Duets, Vol 1 (Kendor)

Early Advanced and Up

Lipsius: Key Jazz Rhythms (w/ CD featuring Jim Pugh) (Advance Music)

LaPorta: 14 Jazz-Rock Duets (Kendor)

Gale: 12 Jazz Duets (with CD) (Tezak)

Snidero: Jazz Conception, Trombone, includes CD (Advance Music)

Advanced Advanced!

Gale: 24 Jazz Etudes (with CD) (Musician's Publications)

Johnson: JJ Johnson Trombone Solos

Mintzer: 14 Blues & Funk Etudes, Bass Clef, includes CD (Warner)

Mintzer: 14 Jazz & Funk Etudes, Bass Clef, includes CD (Warner)

Parker: Charlie Parker Omnibook, Bass Clef Edition (Atlantic)

Classical

Play Puccini – Trombone with CD (Ricordi/Hal Leonard)

A superb collection of ten of the most famous arias for Intermediate and up trombonists who wish to play some of the most beautiful tunes ever written. Ideal for working on your legato playing,

phrasing, interpretation, and emotive playing. The CD includes both piano accompaniments and very good performances of the pieces on trombone. My highest recommendation. \$17

Solos for Trombone: 44 Recital Pieces with Piano Accompaniment. Compiled and Edited or Arranged by Alan Raph (Carl Fischer)

Densely packed with great classics at a variety of levels, mostly intermediate, upper intermediate, and early advanced. The trombonist who enjoys familiar classics will enjoy mining the depths of this collection. The pieces are generally short, with the trombone playing constantly.

Johannes Brahms, Sixteen Lieder, trans Eric Carlson with CD (CEC Music)

Very well presented collection of great Brahms melodies with a piano accompaniment CD. Great for working on your legato playing, interpretation, and musical sophistication. You will probably need to purchase recordings (most of these are on the Jessye Norman 2 CD Brahms Leider collection with Barenboim) in order to get a feel for how to play and interpret them.

General

15 Minute Warm-Up, Michael Davis (hip-bonemusic.com) w/ CD

This can help you take your physical trombone ability to the next level. Classic and original warm-ups crafted into a nice, thorough routine. Actually takes about 21 minutes with appropriate breaks between exercises. Ideal for upper Intermediate level students through advanced, but early Intermediate could use it very profitably with slight modification. The CD demo tracks present excellent playing, and the playalong tracks keep you moving, make the warm-up more interesting, and provide intonation training. Highly recommended.

Daily Routines for Trombone by David Vining (Kagarice Brass Editions)

An absolutely brilliant book. Primarily for advanced or very advanced trombonists (and those that want to be soon), though it includes an Intermediate level routine. The routines take about 35-40 minutes, and are extremely well thought out and paced. \$35

Tuneup: Basic Training Book with CD (tuneupsystems.com)

By far, the best intonation training I have ever encountered. You can effectively train yourself to have a high level of good intonation by working with this CD as outlined in the instructional book. Its pricey (\$60) but if you are serious about improving your intonation, this (and a \$20-30 tuner) is the tool you need.