

***Sample pages from:
Brad Edwards***

***The
Melodious Bass Trombone***

"Besides Bordogni"



60 original pieces with duet parts

***With a foreword by
Brian Hecht***

***Dallas Symphony Orchestra
Slide School***



Foreword

In the world of brass playing, mastery of the bass trombone requires a delicate balance of technical precision and musical artistry. Brad Edwards, a distinguished figure in trombone pedagogy, has crafted an étude book that not only serves as a comprehensive practice ground for the instrument's fundamentals but also seamlessly integrates a variety of musical styles and expressions.

As one delves into the pages of this book, and many of the other books in Dr. Edwards' vast library of works, it becomes evident that he has approached the development of the trombonist with a keen appreciation for the musical journey. From the fundamental exercises that build strength and agility to the nuanced studies that cultivate interpretative skill, every aspect of these books is a testament to his commitment to fostering well-rounded musicianship.

The Melodious Bass Trombone is a valuable resource, not just for the aspiring bass trombonist but for any musician dedicated to the pursuit of musical excellence. The duets that accompany these songs are playful, well written, and easy to put together with a friend on a moment's notice.

May this book serve as a trusted companion on your musical journey, propelling you forward with each resonant note and nuanced phrase.

Brian Hecht
Dallas Symphony Orchestra
Slide School

Introduction

Most trombonists know and love the Bordogni vocalises, also known by some as the Rochut études. The purpose of this book is to provide some variety and possibly “fill in the gaps” in the Bordogni collection as well as provide a valid bass trombone alternative.

- Some later études give octave ossia options.
- 20 additional pages present selected études in higher and lower keys.
- Harmonic variety increases throughout the book even touching briefly on whole tone and diminished scales.
- Rhythmic complexity increases as the book progresses; odd meters and meter changes begin to appear sparingly.
- Each étude has a duet part.

These études are conceived in groups of two. Most often, this pairing takes the form of a major key and its relative minor. In each pair, meters are usually the same. Similar rhythmic and melodic elements appear in both.

Some other details to note:

- Tenor clef appears in the highest études in the back of the book.
- Grace notes are introduced starting with #45.
- Starting with #20, études may have tempo changes.
- Starting with #31, études may have key signature changes (although mode changes and implied keys begin earlier).
- At times I use a tenuto mark to indicate a bit more musical weight.
- Some of the non-english musical terms are defined at the bottom of the page.
- Tempo markings need not be rigidly followed. On trickier passages, be sure to start practicing at slower tempos.

We all should be striving for greater beauty and nuance in our playing. My hope is that you will find these études to be satisfying additions to your musical journey.

Brad Edwards

Contents:

Part One

1. Moderato
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20. Drängend (etwas langsamer)
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22. Larghetto
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24. Moderato appassionato
25. Lebhaft
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29. Allegro scherzando
30. Allegro con fuoco

In Higher Keys: (p.61)

(H2 - even higher)

- 5 H1. Sempre dolce
- 5 H2. Sempre dolce
- 12 H1. Larghetto
- 12 H2. Larghetto
- 15 H1. Gemächlich
- 15 H2. Gemächlich
- 16 H1. Klagend
- 16 H2. Klagend
- 18 H1. Largement
- 18 H2. Largement

Part Two

31. Adagietto con amore (piu mosso)
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39. Con gioia
40. Moderato ritmico
41. Allegro scherzando
42. Vivace tarantella
43. Waltz Allegretto
44. Waltz misterioso
45. Ruhig
46. Maßig / Rasch
47. Rapide
48. Emporté (plus lentement)
49. Allegro vivace / Adagio
50. Allegro agitato/Andante cantabile
51. Lilting
52. Driving / Dancing
53. Allegretto scherzando
54. Allegro con anima
55. Gemächlich / Schnell
56. Langsam / Bewegt
57. Andante piacevole / Con spirito
58. Largo con affetto (piu mosso)
59. Andante cantabile
60. Misterioso / Allegro ritmico

In Lower Keys: (p.71)

(L2 - even lower)

- 2 L1. Andante cantabile
- 2 L2. Andante cantabile
- 5 L1. Sempre dolce
- 5 L2. Sempre dolce
- 8 L1. Larghetto
- 8 L2. Larghetto
- 11 L1. Adagio
- 11 L2. Adagio
- 23 L1. Adagietto (piu mosso)
- 23 L2. Adagietto (piu mosso)

Sample pages from...

The Melodious Bass Trombone

Moderato (♩ = c. 104)

1. *mp*

5 *mf*

8 *f*

12 *mp* *cresc.* *mf*

16 *p*

20

Detailed description: The score is for Bass Trombone in 4/4 time, marked Moderato with a tempo of approximately 104 beats per minute. It consists of six staves of music. The first staff (measures 1-4) begins with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic and features a melodic line with a long slur. The second staff (measures 5-7) continues the melody with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The third staff (measures 8-11) features a fortissimo (*f*) dynamic with accents on the notes. The fourth staff (measures 12-15) shows a dynamic range from mezzo-piano (*mp*) to mezzo-forte (*mf*) with a crescendo (*cresc.*) marking. The fifth staff (measures 16-19) starts with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The sixth staff (measures 20-23) continues the melodic development.

Sample pages from... The Melodious Bass Trombone

The Melodious Bass Trombone

Andante (♩ = c. 92)

7. *mp*

5 *mf*

9 *p*

13 *cresc.*

17 *f* *dim.*

21

Detailed description: This is a musical score for Bass Trombone, consisting of six staves of music. The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The tempo is marked 'Andante' with a quarter note equal to approximately 92 beats per minute. The score begins at measure 7. The first staff (measures 7-8) starts with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. The second staff (measures 9-10) features a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The third staff (measures 11-12) is marked piano (*p*). The fourth staff (measures 13-14) includes a crescendo (*cresc.*) marking. The fifth staff (measures 15-16) starts with a forte (*f*) dynamic and ends with a decrescendo (*dim.*). The sixth staff (measures 17-18) is rendered in a lighter, faded font and contains no dynamic markings.

Sample pages from...

The Melodious Bass Trombone

The Melodious Bass Trombone

Con moto (♩ = c. 144)

14. *mp*

6 *cresc.*

12 *mf*

17 *mp* *ff*

23 *mp*

The musical score is written in bass clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. It consists of five staves of music. The first staff (measures 14-15) begins with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic and features a melodic line with a slur and a fermata. The second staff (measures 16-17) continues the melodic line with a crescendo (*cresc.*) marking. The third staff (measures 18-19) shows a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The fourth staff (measures 20-21) features a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic followed by a fortissimo (*ff*) dynamic. The fifth staff (measures 22-23) returns to a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, fermatas, and dynamic markings.

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The Melodious Bass Trombone

Moderato appassionato (♩ = c. 100)

24. *mf* *f*

7 *mp* *pp* *mf*

14 *mp*

20 *f* *mp*

26

Detailed description: This musical score is for a Bass Trombone part, measures 24 through 32. The music is in 3/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The tempo is 'Moderato appassionato' with a quarter note equal to approximately 100 beats per minute. The score consists of five staves of music. The first staff (measures 24-26) starts with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic and a forte (*f*) dynamic. The second staff (measures 27-29) features dynamics of mezzo-piano (*mp*), pianissimo (*pp*), and mezzo-forte (*mf*). The third staff (measures 30-32) includes a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. The fourth staff (measures 33-35) starts with a forte (*f*) dynamic and a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. The fifth staff (measures 36-38) continues the melodic line. The music is characterized by flowing eighth and sixteenth notes, often grouped with slurs and breath marks.

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The Melodious Bass Trombone

Adagietto con amore (♩ = c. 63)

31. *mf*

5 *p* *cresc.*

8 *mf* *mp*

13 *mp* *mf*

17

21 *p*

24 *rit.*

Detailed description: This is a musical score for Bass Trombone, consisting of six staves of music. The first staff (measures 31-35) is in G major, common time, and begins with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. It features a melodic line with a triplet of eighth notes in measure 31 and a triplet of quarter notes in measure 33. The second staff (measures 36-40) continues the melody, marked piano (*p*) and includes a crescendo (*cresc.*). The third staff (measures 41-45) is marked mezzo-forte (*mf*) and mezzo-piano (*mp*). The fourth staff (measures 46-50) is marked mezzo-piano (*mp*) and mezzo-forte (*mf*). The fifth staff (measures 51-55) is marked piano (*p*) and features a triplet of eighth notes in measure 51. The sixth staff (measures 56-60) is marked piano (*p*) and includes a ritardando (*rit.*) marking. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, ties, and dynamic markings.

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The Melodious Bass Trombone

Allegro scherzando (♩. = c. 104)

41. 
mf


6 
mp

11 
p

16 
p *cresc.*

21 
f

26 
f

31 
f

Sample pages from... The Melodious Bass Trombone

The Melodious Bass Trombone

Emporté (♩ = c. 92)

48. *mp* *>*

7

13 *f* *Fine* *p*

19 *p*

24 *cresc.* *f*

30 *plus lentement* (♩ = c. 84)

The musical score is written in bass clef with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a common time signature (C). It consists of five staves of music. The first staff begins at measure 48 with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic and an accent (>) over the first note. The second staff starts at measure 7. The third staff starts at measure 13, featuring a forte (*f*) dynamic and an accent (>) over the first note, followed by a double bar line and the word "Fine" above the staff, and then a piano (*p*) dynamic. The fourth staff starts at measure 19 with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The fifth staff starts at measure 24 with a crescendo (*cresc.*) marking and a forte (*f*) dynamic. The piece concludes at measure 30 with the instruction "plus lentement" (slower) and a new tempo marking of approximately 84 beats per minute (♩ = c. 84). The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, accents, and dynamic markings.

Sample pages from... The Melodious Bass Trombone

The Melodious Bass Trombone

Allegretto scherzando (♩. = c. 60)

53. *mf* *f*

5 *mf* *Fine*

10 *p* *cresc.* *mf*

15 *f*

20 *mp*

24

Detailed description: This is a musical score for Bass Trombone, consisting of six staves of music. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 6/8. The tempo is marked 'Allegretto scherzando' with a quarter note equal to approximately 60 beats per minute. The score begins at measure 53. The first staff (measures 53-58) starts with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic and features a melodic line with eighth-note patterns and slurs, ending with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The second staff (measures 59-64) continues the melodic line, starting with *mf* and ending with a 'Fine' marking. The third staff (measures 65-70) begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic, followed by a crescendo (*cresc.*) leading to a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The fourth staff (measures 71-76) continues with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The fifth staff (measures 77-82) is marked mezzo-piano (*mp*). The sixth staff (measures 83-88) continues the melodic development. The music is characterized by flowing eighth-note patterns and various dynamic markings.

Books by Brad Edwards

The Melodious Trombone: Besides Bordogni (142 pages)
Provide some lyrical variety to your diet. Duet parts included.

First Habits (232 pages)
More than a warm-up.

60 Vignettes (98 pages)
Little character pieces in varied keys. Available for different instruments.

100 Sight-Reading Melodies in Tenor Clef / Alto Clef
Separate titles. Available as a pdf download only.

The Intermediate Trombonist (132 pages)
Building blocks for Tone and Technique

Simply Singing for Winds (114 pages)
A wellspring of simple melodies to sing, buzz, play.

Trombone Craft (169 pages) / *Bass Trombone Craft* (185 pages)
A musical approach to building tone and technique.

Lip Slurs (84 pages)
In three sections: slow slurs, fast slurs and lip slur melodies.

Lip Slur Melodies (132 pages)
Lyrical melodies and duets, using just natural slurs.

Patterns and Snippets (180 pages)
A musical approach to scales and arpeggios.

Tuning Drone Melodies (134 pages)
Music to be played over tuning drones; for one or more instruments.

Introductory Studies in Tenor and Alto Clef (56 pages)
A good first clef book to precede the Blazhevich Clef Studies.

All books are available through HornbonePress.com



24 Concert Pieces by Brad Edwards

- A collection of solos starting at the intermediate level and progressing in difficulty.
- Currently available for tenor trombone, bass trombone, tuba and horn (and maybe even trumpet someday)
- Each piece has a reasonable piano part.
- Audio of piano part is available for free from website
- Useful for solo and ensemble festivals.
- Free samples/recordings available on HornbonePress.com

Volume One

[approximate timings shown in brackets]

- #1 Andante con moto [3:30]
- #2 Allegretto - Andante - Allegro giocoso [3:40]
- #3 Noble - Lyrical [4:00]
- #4 March [3:20]
- #5 Alla Tango [3:40]
- #6 Singing - Driving – Dancing [4:10]
- #7 Scherzando – Tranquillo [3:30]
- #8 Mysterioso – Giocoso [3:40]
- #9 Piacevole – Vigoroso [3:40]
- #10 With Confidence – With Yearning [4:20]
- #11 Expansive – Carefree [3:40]
- #12 Wistful – Playful – Joyful [3:30]

Volume Two

- #13 Scherzando - Cantabile [3:30]
- #14 Espressivo - Dramatico [4:10]
- #15 Floating – Dancing [4:15]
- #16 Relentless - Wistful – Impish [4:30]
- #17 Impetuoso – Serioso [3:50]
- #18 Grooving – Haunting [4:00]
- #19 Pesante - Scherzando – Waltz [4:00]
- #20 Dream Scene - Chase Scene [4:15]
- #21 Spirited gallop - Woeful lament (Ironic Waltz) [5:10]
- #22 Insistently – Tenderly [4:45]
- #23 Funebre – Imponente [4:45]
- #24 Driving – Dreaming [5:15]

Video recordings available on Youtube.

