

FIRST BLOW

by **ERNIE WAITES**

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The two most common problems facing beginner wind bands are usually an unbalanced instrumentation and a lack of easy music to play.

As a band teacher, it became apparent to me that some kind of simple four-part arrangement covering all possible wind combinations would be the answer and by limiting the range of all the parts, a reasonable standard could be reached fairly quickly.

Fruitless searching for tunes which used only five or six notes convinced me that it would be easier to write my own material. All the pieces in this book have therefore been conceived with young players in mind and the parts written in an easy range for all instruments.

My thanks must go to all the 'guinea pigs', children and teachers alike, without whom this book would not have been possible.

HAVE FUN!

Ernie Waites

FOREWORD

The aim of the book is to encourage group-playing in the early stages of learning. To this end, all the parts are deliberately simple and stick strictly to the four parts in the score. In addition there is a percussion part (for which suitable instruments should be chosen for each piece) and two 'learner parts' (flute and trombone) for players who have learned only a handful of notes.

Dynamics are not given — teachers should allow the players to try the pieces at different levels.

The book is suitable for wind or brass bands (or a mixture of both!) and so far as possible, an equal number of players should be allocated to each part. If there is a lack of, say, bass instruments, this part can be reinforced on piano, playing from the score.

If clarinet players of a higher standard are available, they may prefer to play the 'upper octave' parts as this will brighten the overall sound of the band.

INSTRUMENTATION		
VOICE	PARTS AVAILABLE	SUITABLE FOR
1	in C in B flat in E flat in B flat (upper octave)	Flute, Oboe, Recorder, Glockenspiel Clarinet, Trumpet, Cornet Soprano Cornet, Alto Saxophone, E flat Clarinet Clarinet
2	in B flat in E flat in F in B flat (upper octave)	Clarinet, Trumpet, Cornet Tenor Horn, Alto Saxophone, Alto Clarinet Horn Clarinet, Tenor Saxophone, Baritone
3	in B flat in E flat in F in B flat (upper octave) in C (bass clef)	Clarinet, Trumpet, Cornet Tenor Horn, Alto Saxophone, Alto Clarinet Horn Clarinet, Tenor Saxophone, Baritone, Euphonium Bassoon, Trombone, Euphonium
4	in C (bass clef) in E flat (treble clef) in B flat (treble clef)	Bassoon, Trombone, Euphonium, Tuba E flat Bass, Baritone Saxophone B flat Bass, Euphonium, Bass Clarinet

Also available: Score (piano)
Percussion
Learner Flute
Learner Trombone

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1. MARCH

This needs two distinct styles of playing — the first 16 bars should be played decisively with a strong tongue and not too fast, being sure to broaden the dotted rhythm. The Trio should be more legato.

$\text{♩} = 120$

Learner
Flute

Learner
Trombone

Percussion

SCORE
(Piano)

A

Musical score for section A, featuring three staves. The top staff is a single melodic line in treble clef. The middle staff is a single melodic line in bass clef. The bottom staff is a piano accompaniment in grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The key signature is two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The music consists of four measures. The piano part features a rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes, often beamed together.

FINE

Musical score for the FINE section, featuring three staves. The top staff is a single melodic line in treble clef. The middle staff is a single melodic line in bass clef. The bottom staff is a piano accompaniment in grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The key signature is two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The music consists of four measures. The piano part features a rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes, often beamed together.

B TRIO

Musical score for section B TRIO, featuring three staves. The top staff is a single melodic line in treble clef. The middle staff is a single melodic line in bass clef. The bottom staff is a piano accompaniment in grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The key signature is two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The music consists of four measures. The piano part features a rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes, often beamed together.

2. POLKA

This should be played at a steady 'Polka' tempo and all quavers should be staccato.

Tempo di Polka ♩ = 100

Learner Flute

Learner Trombone

Percussion

SCORE (Piano)

A



The first system of musical notation consists of four staves. The top two staves are for a vocal melody in treble and bass clefs, with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The bottom two staves are for piano accompaniment, also in treble and bass clefs. The piano part features a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the right hand and a more active bass line in the left hand. The system concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

B



The second system of musical notation, labeled 'B' in a box, continues the piece. It features the same four-staff layout. The piano accompaniment includes dynamic markings such as accents (>) and a crescendo hairpin. The system ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

1.

2.

FINE



The third system of musical notation includes two first endings, labeled '1.' and '2.', and concludes with the word 'FINE'. The first ending leads back to the beginning of the section, while the second ending provides a final resolution. The piano accompaniment continues with its characteristic accompaniment pattern.

D.C. al Fine

3. SHIPS

The upper three parts should be played legato, but the crotchets in the bass part should be short. Add maracas, claves etc. for effect.

Allegro ♩ = 120

Learner
Flute

Learner
Trombone

Percussion

SCORE
(Piano)

A %

Section A, measures 1-5. The score is in 3/4 time with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). It features a vocal line with eighth and quarter notes, a piano accompaniment with chords and moving lines, and a percussion line with eighth-note patterns.

B

Section B, measures 6-10. The score continues with the same instrumentation. Measures 6 and 7 feature long melodic lines in the vocal and piano parts. The percussion line remains consistent with eighth-note patterns.

To Coda ⊕

The Coda section, measures 11-15. The score concludes with a final vocal phrase and piano accompaniment. The percussion line continues with its eighth-note pattern. The section ends with a Coda symbol (a circle with a cross inside).

C

Section C, measures 1-5. The score is in 3/4 time with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). It features a vocal melody in the upper staves and a piano accompaniment in the lower staves. The piano part includes a repeating eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a more active bass line in the left hand.

Continuation of Section C, measures 6-10. The musical structure remains consistent with the previous measures, showing the vocal line and piano accompaniment.

D

Section D, measures 1-5. This section begins with a new musical phrase, maintaining the same 3/4 time and two-flat key signature as Section C. The vocal and piano parts continue their respective roles.

4. HYMN

To be played smoothly, concentrating on breathing and phrasing, and not too loud.

Slowly

A

Learner
Flute

Learner
Trombone

Percussion

SCORE
(Piano)

B

6. STUDY N°1

A simple training exercise which can be played slowly and smoothly or faster and staccato.

$\text{♩} = 100$ A

Learner Flute

Learner Trombone

Percussion

SCORE (Piano)

B

8. STUDY Nº2

As STUDY No 1, this is a training exercise for breathing, pitching, tone and tonguing. Particularly good for beginner basses.

$\text{♩} = 100$

A

Learner
Flute

Learner
Trombone

Percussion

SCORE
(Piano)

B

10. WALTZ

A 'one-in-a-bar' waltz. Play crotchets staccato both in the tune and accompaniment. At E the tune should be smoother, but the accompaniment still staccato. In the Coda, the top parts are staccato but the bass marcato.

Quick Waltz $\text{♩} = 60$

Learner
Flute

Learner
Trombone

Percussion

SCORE
(Piano)

The first system of the musical score for 'Quick Waltz' consists of five staves. The top three staves are for individual instruments: Learner Flute (treble clef), Learner Trombone (bass clef), and Percussion (percussion clef). The bottom two staves are for the piano accompaniment (SCORE), with a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The key signature is one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 3/4. The tempo is marked as 'Quick Waltz' with a quarter note equal to 60 beats per minute. The music features a 'one-in-a-bar' waltz pattern, with crotchets played staccato in the tune and accompaniment. The first four measures of the system are shown, with the fifth measure being a repeat of the first.

A

§

The second system of the musical score for 'Quick Waltz' consists of five staves, continuing from the first system. It includes the same instruments: Learner Flute, Learner Trombone, Percussion, and the piano accompaniment (SCORE). The key signature remains one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 3/4. The music continues with the 'one-in-a-bar' waltz pattern, maintaining the staccato character in the tune and accompaniment. The first four measures of the system are shown, with the fifth measure being a repeat of the first.

B

Musical score for section B, featuring a vocal line and piano accompaniment. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). The vocal line consists of a melody with eighth and quarter notes. The piano accompaniment includes a right hand with chords and eighth notes, and a left hand with a steady eighth-note bass line. The section is marked with a double bar line and repeat signs.

C

Musical score for section C, featuring a vocal line and piano accompaniment. The key signature changes to C major (no sharps or flats). The vocal line continues with a similar melodic pattern. The piano accompaniment features a right hand with chords and eighth notes, and a left hand with a steady eighth-note bass line. The section is marked with a double bar line and repeat signs.

Continuation of the musical score, featuring a vocal line and piano accompaniment. The key signature remains C major. The vocal line continues with a similar melodic pattern. The piano accompaniment features a right hand with chords and eighth notes, and a left hand with a steady eighth-note bass line. The section is marked with a double bar line and repeat signs.

D

To Coda 

Musical score for section D, featuring vocal staves and piano accompaniment. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The vocal staves show a melody with dotted rhythms and rests. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and single notes in both hands.

E



Musical score for section E, continuing the vocal and piano parts. It includes a double bar line and repeat signs. The piano part features a prominent chordal texture in the right hand and a more active line in the left hand.

F



Musical score for section F, the final section on this page. It continues the vocal and piano parts, ending with a double bar line. The piano accompaniment features a mix of chords and moving lines in both staves.

11. SLAPSTICK

Good fun for players and audiences alike. Staccato to open but smoother at C. The Coda should be played as fast as possible. Throughout the piece, but especially in the EFFECTS bar, as much additional percussion as possible (swanee whistle, motor horn, football rattle etc.) should be used.

Allegro

Learner Flute
 Learner Trombone
 Percussion
 SCORE (Piano)

A Presto ♩ = 180

B

Musical score for section B, measures 1-6. The score is written for four staves: two vocal staves (treble and bass clef) and two piano staves (treble and bass clef). The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). The time signature is 4/4. The music features a mix of eighth and quarter notes, with some rests. The piano accompaniment includes chords and single notes. The section ends with a double bar line.

To Coda



1.

Musical score for section 1, measures 1-6. The score is written for four staves: two vocal staves (treble and bass clef) and two piano staves (treble and bass clef). The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). The time signature is 4/4. The music features a mix of eighth and quarter notes, with some rests. The piano accompaniment includes chords and single notes. The section ends with a double bar line.

2.

Musical score for section 2, measures 1-6. The score is written for four staves: two vocal staves (treble and bass clef) and two piano staves (treble and bass clef). The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). The time signature is 4/4. The music features a mix of eighth and quarter notes, with some rests. The piano accompaniment includes chords and single notes. The section ends with a double bar line.