STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE

ENHANCED COMPREHENSIVE BAND METHOD

By Bruce Pearson

Dear Student:

Welcome to the wonderful world of instrumental music. The moment you pick up your alto saxophone, you will begin an exciting adventure that is filled with challenges and rewards. If you study carefully and practice regularly, you will quickly discover the joy and satisfaction of playing beautiful music for yourself, your family, your friends, or a concert audience.

I hope you have many rewarding years of music-making.

Best wishes,

Bruce Pearson

Practice and Assessment - the key to EXCELLENCE!

► Make practicing part of your daily schedule. If you plan it as you do any other activity, you will find plenty of time for it.

▶ Try to practice in the same place every day. Choose a place where you can concentrate on making music. Start with a regular and familiar warm-up routine, including long tones and simple technical exercises. Like an athlete, you need to warm-up your mind and muscles before you begin performing.

Always tune before you play. Use the tuning tracks found on the Accompaniment Recordings, or use the iPAS Tuner.

Set goals for every practice session. Keep track of your practice time and progress on the front cover Practice Journal.

▶ Practice the difficult spots in your lesson assignment and band music over and over at a slower tempo, until you can play them perfectly, then gradually increase the tempo. Use the *iPAS* Metronome to track your progress and ensure you are playing with a steady pulse.

Spend time practicing alone and with the Accompaniment Recordings.

Assess your progress and achievements by using *iPAS*. Listen to the recordings you create to hear the spots in the music which might need improvement.

At the end of each practice session, play something fun!

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PUTTING YOUR ALTO SAXOPHONE TOGETHER

MOUTHPIECE

cork

2

reed

ligature

NECK

BODY-

neck screw

STEP 1

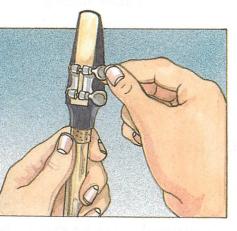
Open your case right side up. Put the thin end of the reed inside your mouth to moisten it. Grease the cork on the neck if necessary.

STEP 2

Put the neck strap around your neck. Hook the body of the instrument to the neck strap. Remove the end plug.

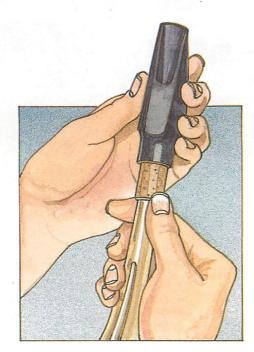
STEP 3

Put the mouthpiece on the neck so that half of the cork is exposed. The flat side of the mouthpiece should be on the bottom side.



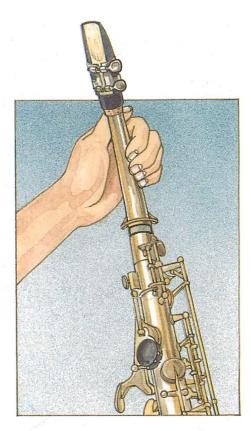
STEP 5

Put the neck onto the body, carefully aligning the connecting lever. Tighten the neck screw.

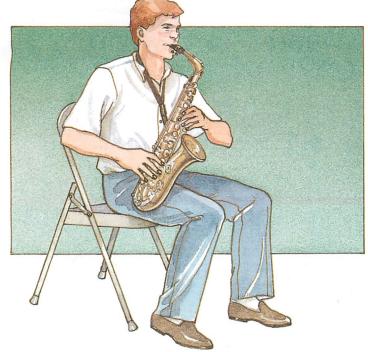


<u>STEP 4</u>

Put on the ligature, and slide the reed behind it. Center your reed on the flat part of the mouthpiece with only a hairline of mouthpiece visible above the reed. Tighten the screws on the ligature only until snug. Overtightening can damage your ligature.



PREPARING TO PLAY



STEP 1

Sit up straight on the edge of your chair.

STEP 2

Allow your neck strap to support the weight of the saxophone.

STEP 3

Position the saxophone on the right side of your body. Adjust your neck strap so the reed touches your lower lip.

STEP 4

Put your left thumb diagonally on the upper thumb rest. Put your right thumb under the lower thumb rest.

STEP 5

Curve your fingers on both hands. Keep your wrists straight. Your elbows should be away from your body.

Playing Your Alto Saxophone

STEP 1

Position your lips as if saying "oh."

STEP 2

Cover your bottom teeth with your lower lip.

STEP 3

Place the mouthpiece in your mouth to where the reed and mouthpiece touch.

STEP 4

Rest your top teeth directly on the mouthpiece. Close your mouth in a drawstring fashion with equal pressure on all sides of the reed. Your chin should be flat and pointed.

STEP 5

Take a full breath of air and play a long, steady tone.

CARING FOR YOUR ALTO SAXOPHONE



STEP 1

After playing, remove the reed. Place it in the reed holder to dry.

STEP 2

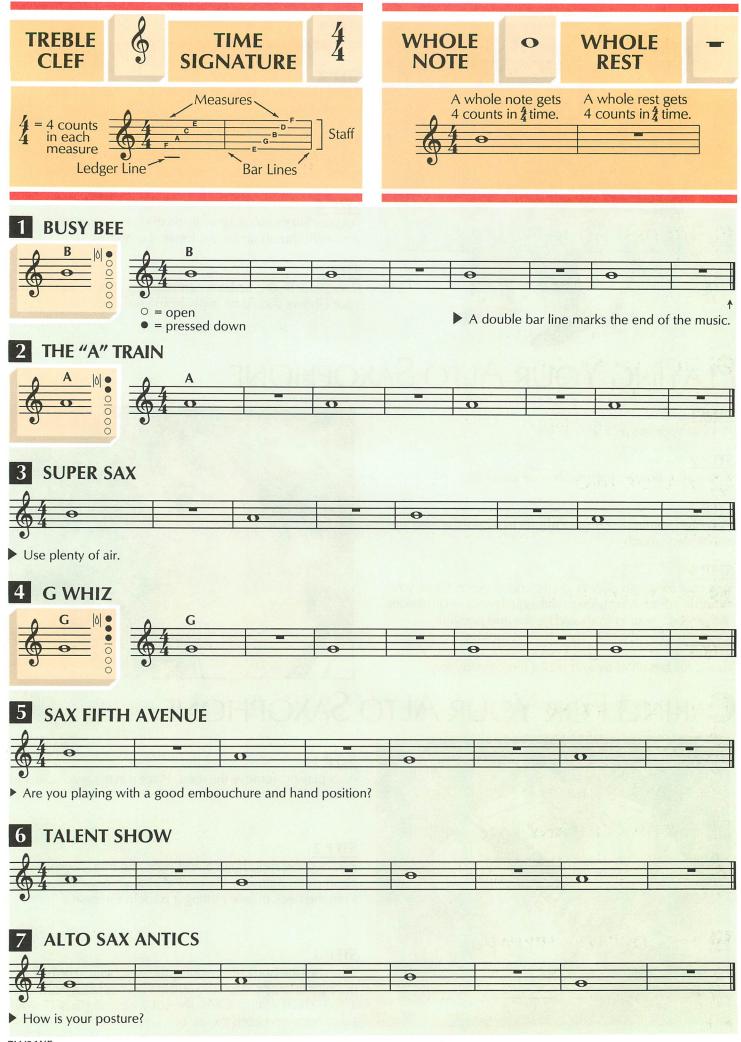
Remove the mouthpiece and wipe the inside with a soft, clean cloth. Remove the neck and drain any excess water from the neck before putting it back in the case.

STEP 3

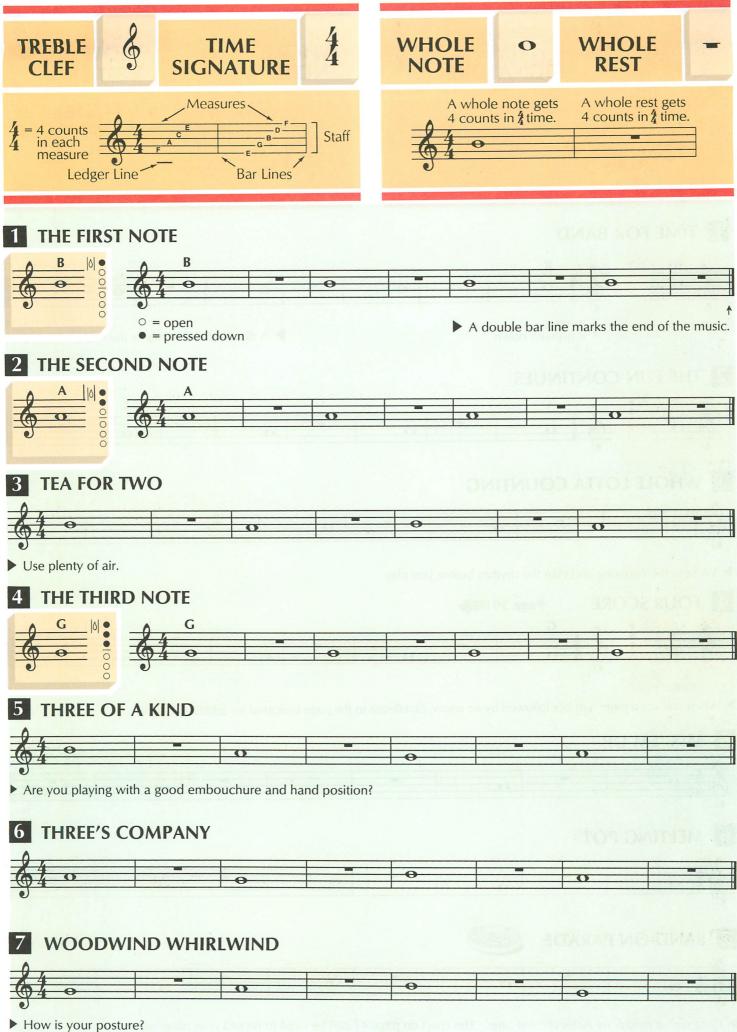
Swab out the body by dropping the weight into the bell and pulling it through. Wipe the outside of your saxophone with a soft, clean cloth. Carefully put away all parts of your saxophone and latch the case.

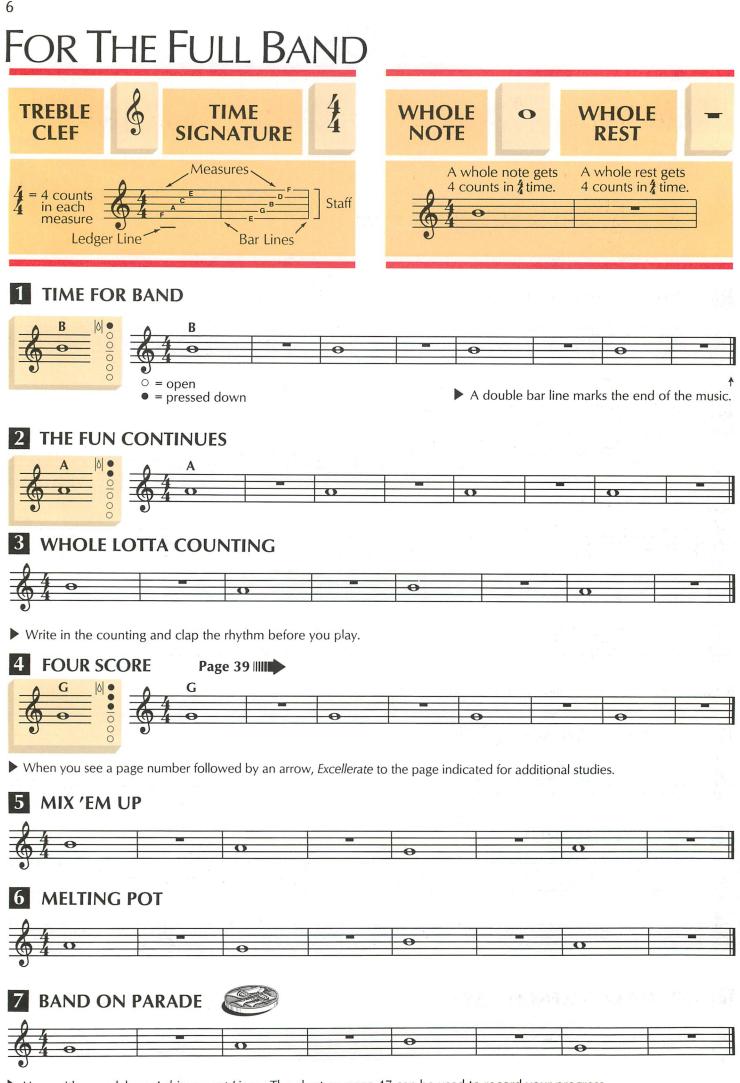


FOR ALTO SAXOPHONES ONLY

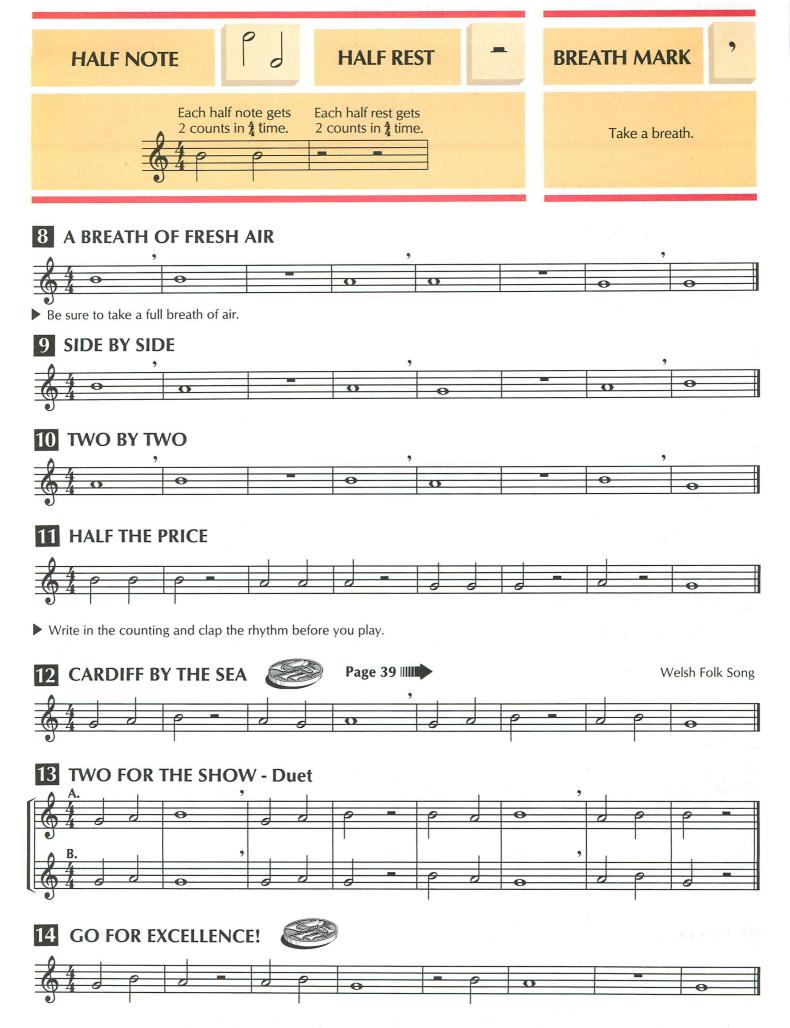


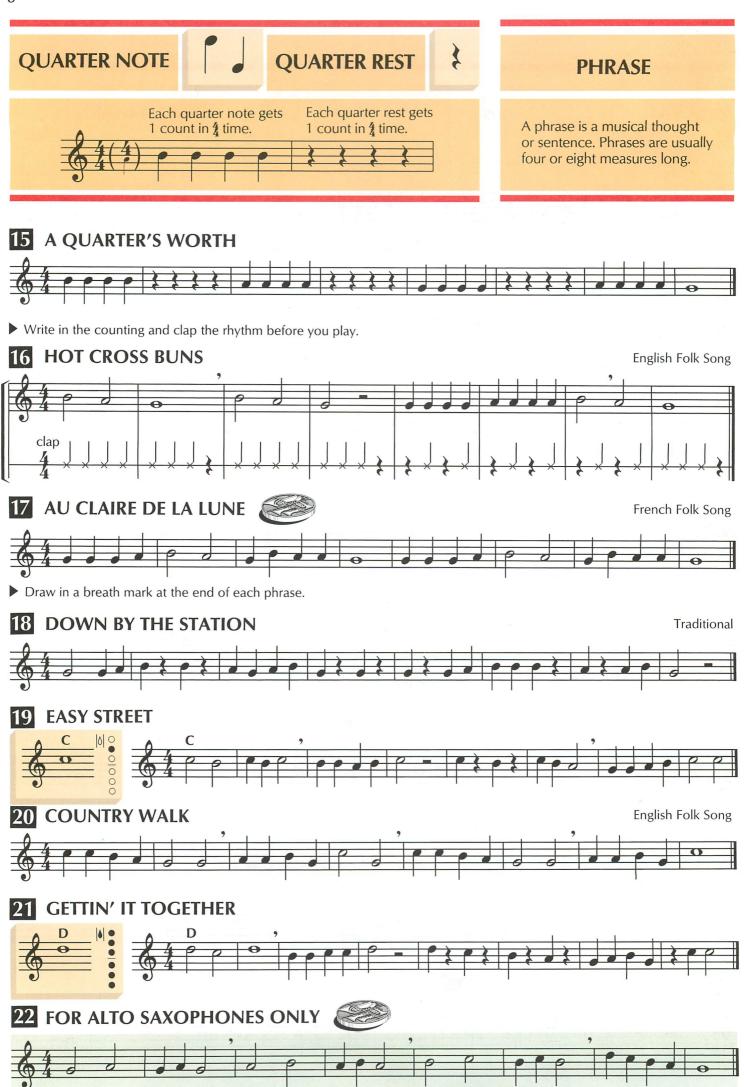
For Woodwinds Only



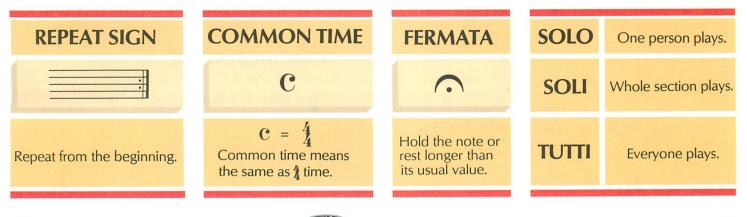


Lines with a medal are Achievement Lines. The chart on page 47 can be used to record your progress.





PW21XE



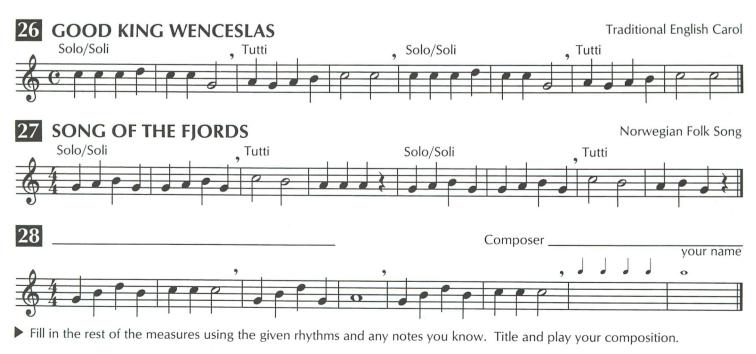


Write in the note names before you play.





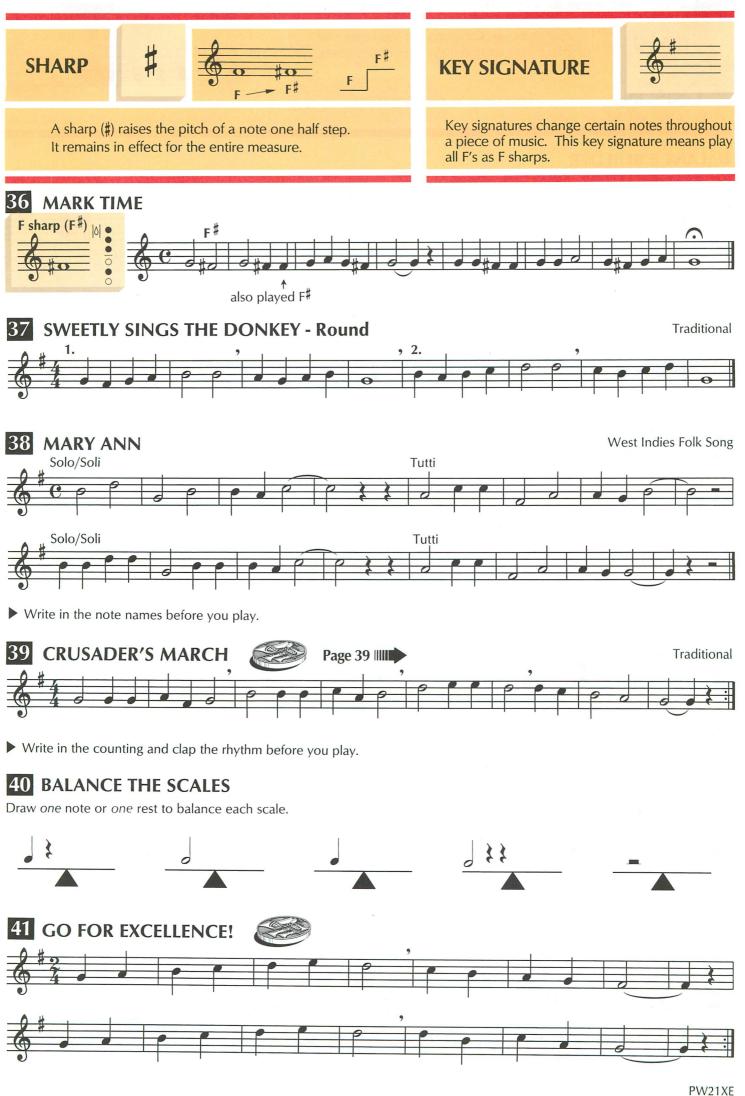
Write in the counting and clap the rhythm before you play.



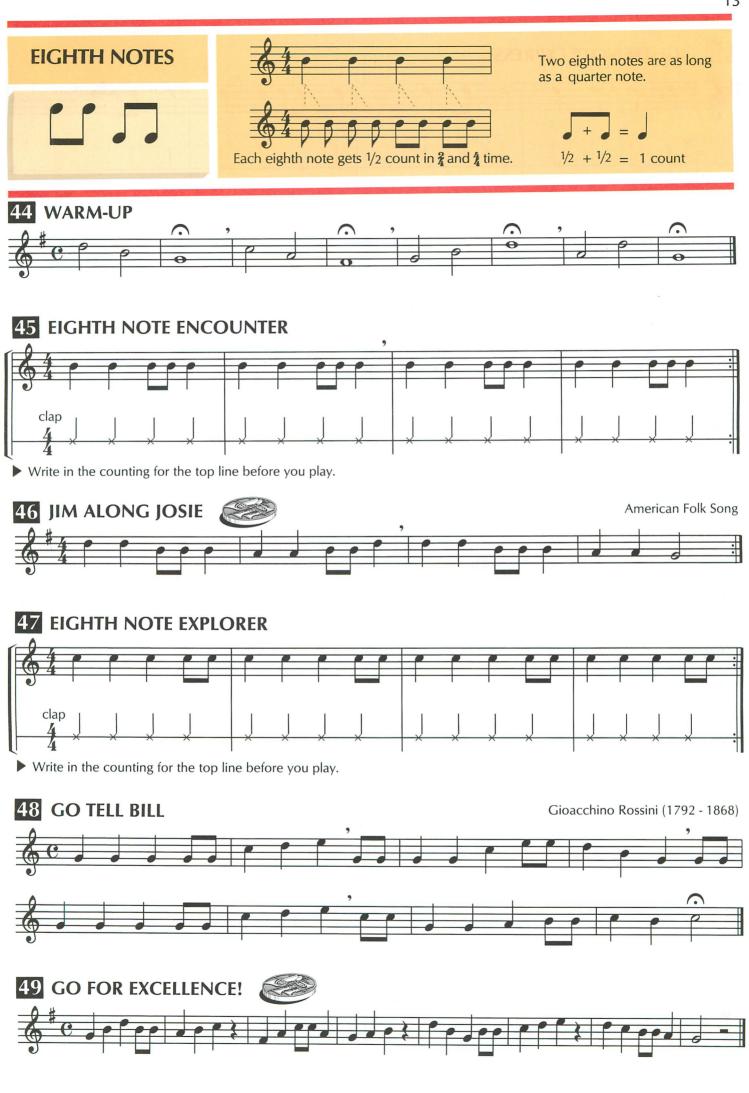


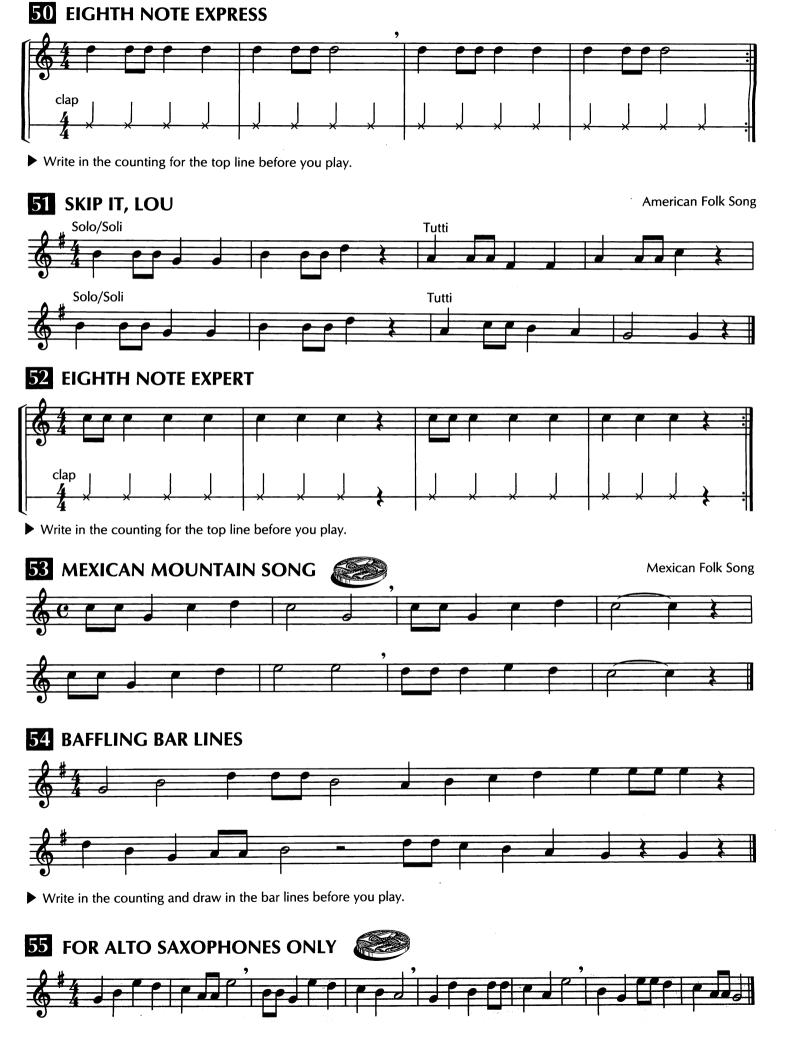
PW21XE



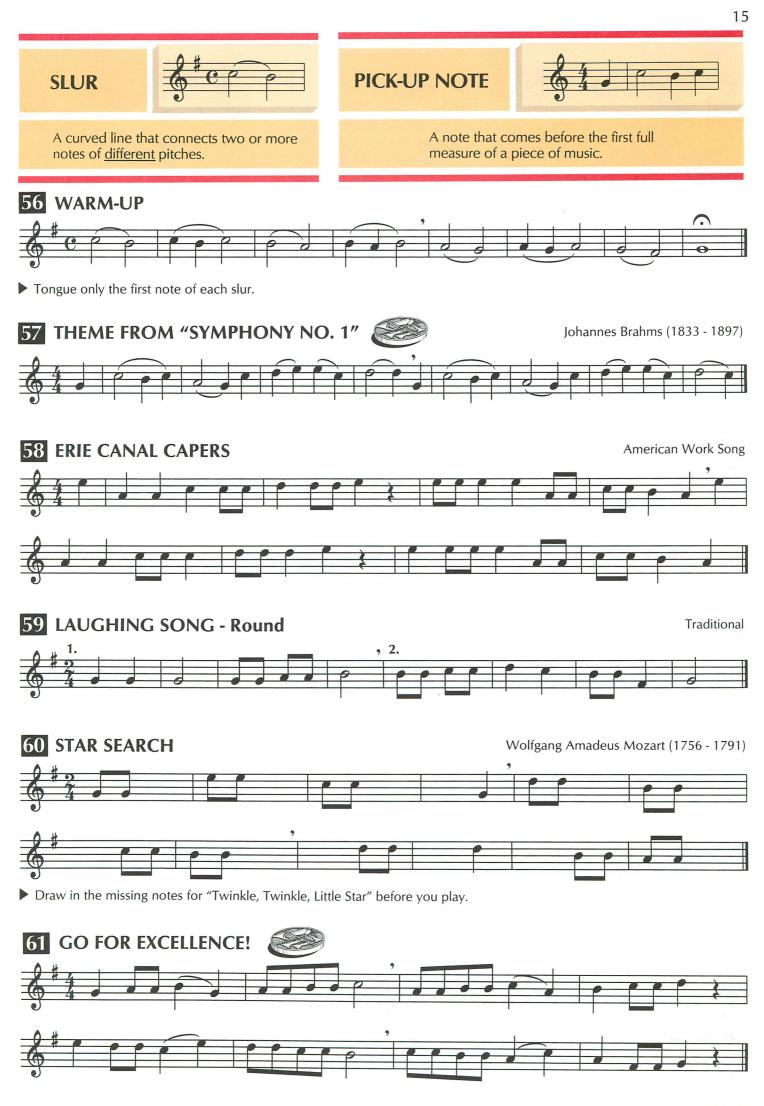


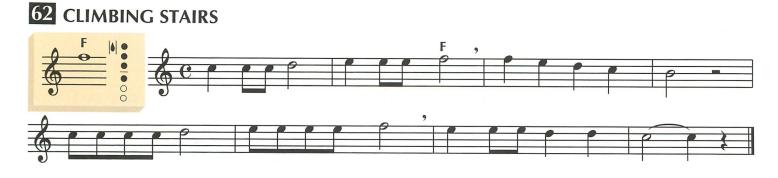






14





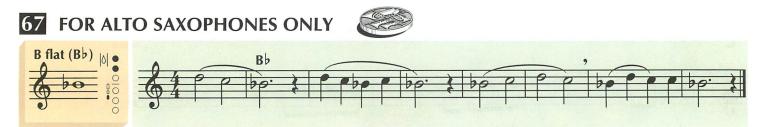












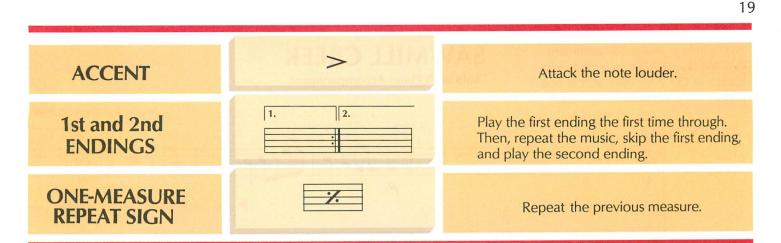






 \blacktriangleright *Use the alternate F[#] fingering when moving from F⁴ to F[#] or F[#] to F⁴.

18



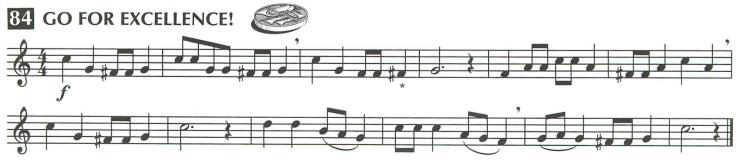








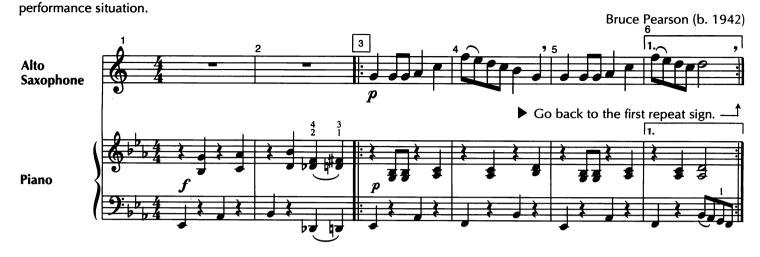
Write an S under each slur and a T under the tie before you play.

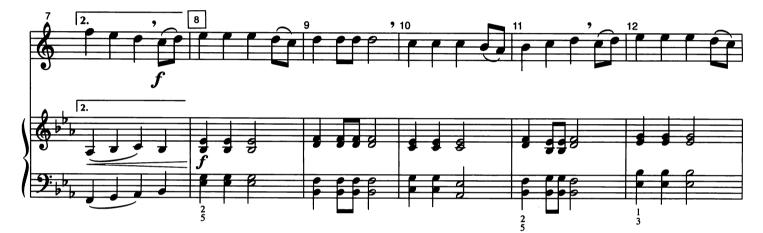


▶ *Use the alternate F[#] fingering.

SAWMILL CREEK

Solo with Piano Accompaniment







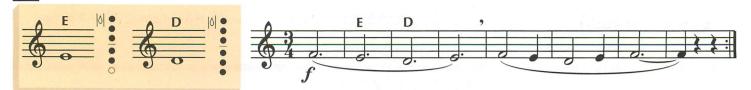


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The written piano accompaniment for SAWMILL CREEK is included on

track 1 of CD 2 for easy access in a





86 FULL OF HOT AIR , <



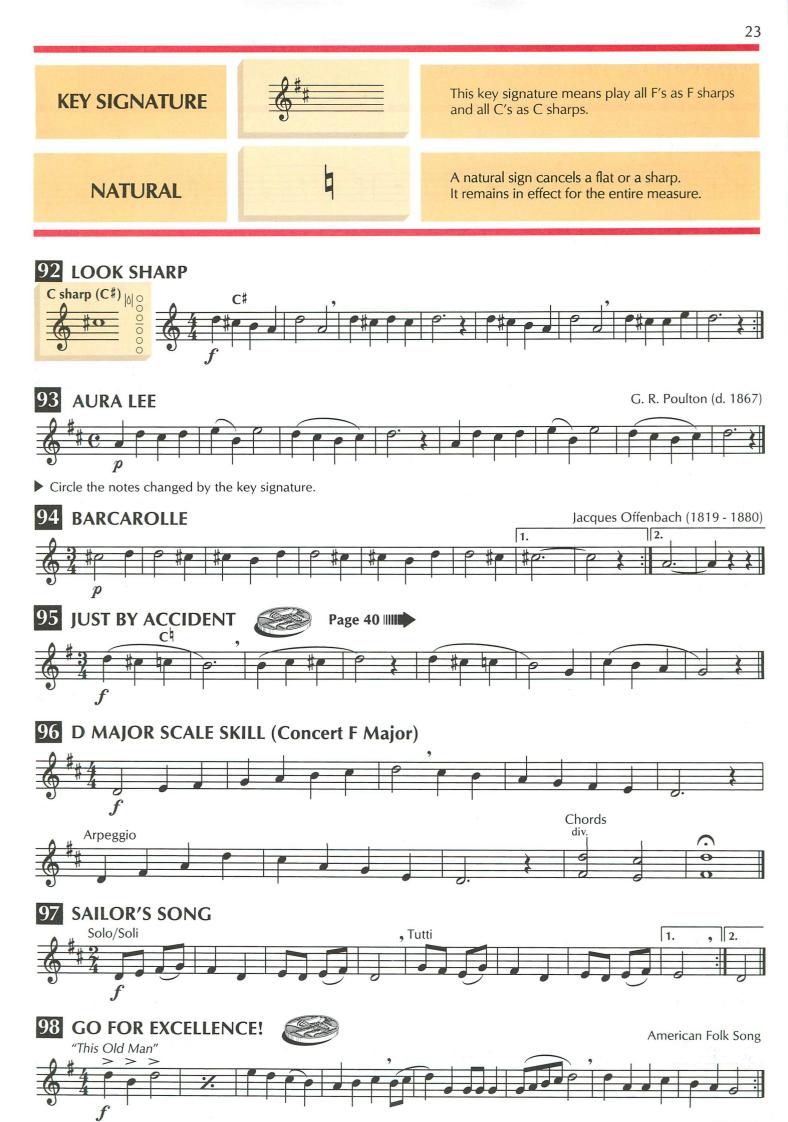






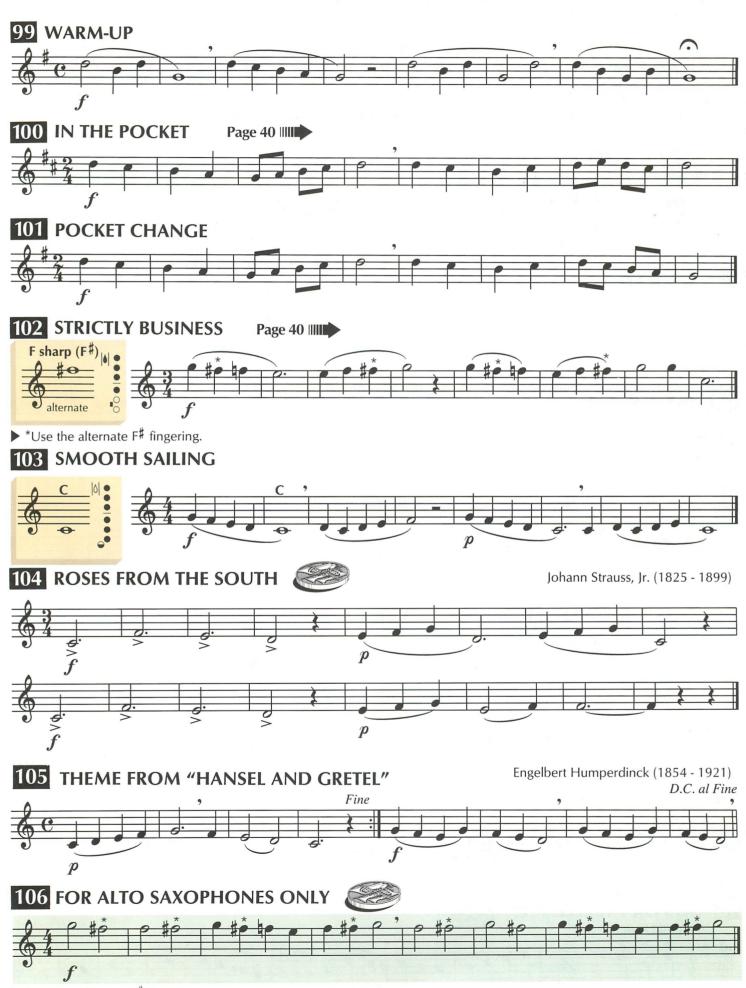
▶ Using the given rhythms, draw in notes to complete the melody. Title and play your composition.





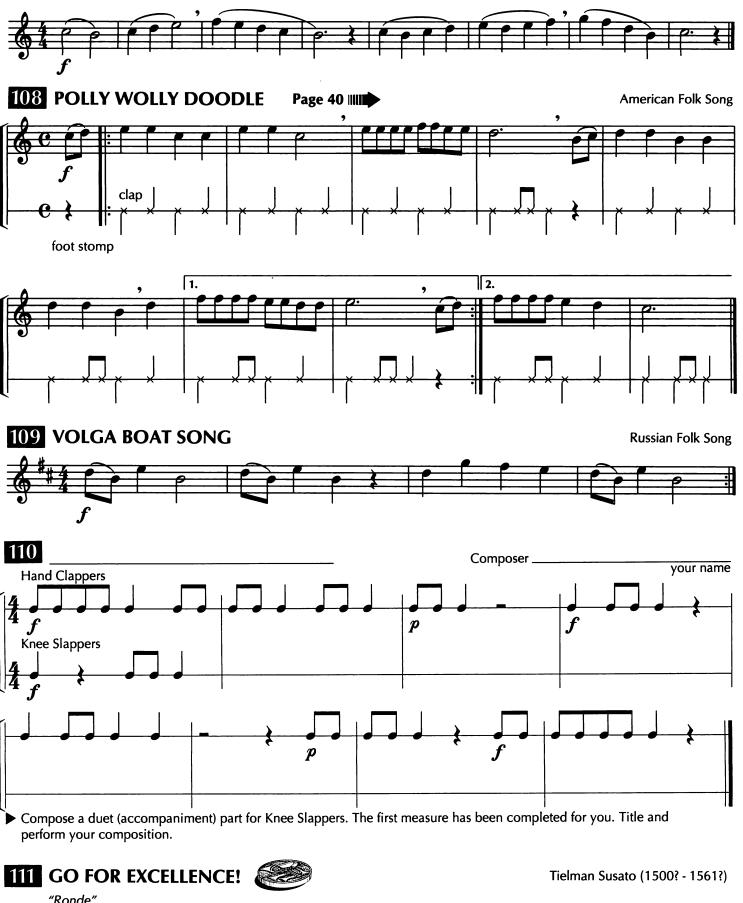
DA CAPO AL FINE (D. C. AL FINE)

24

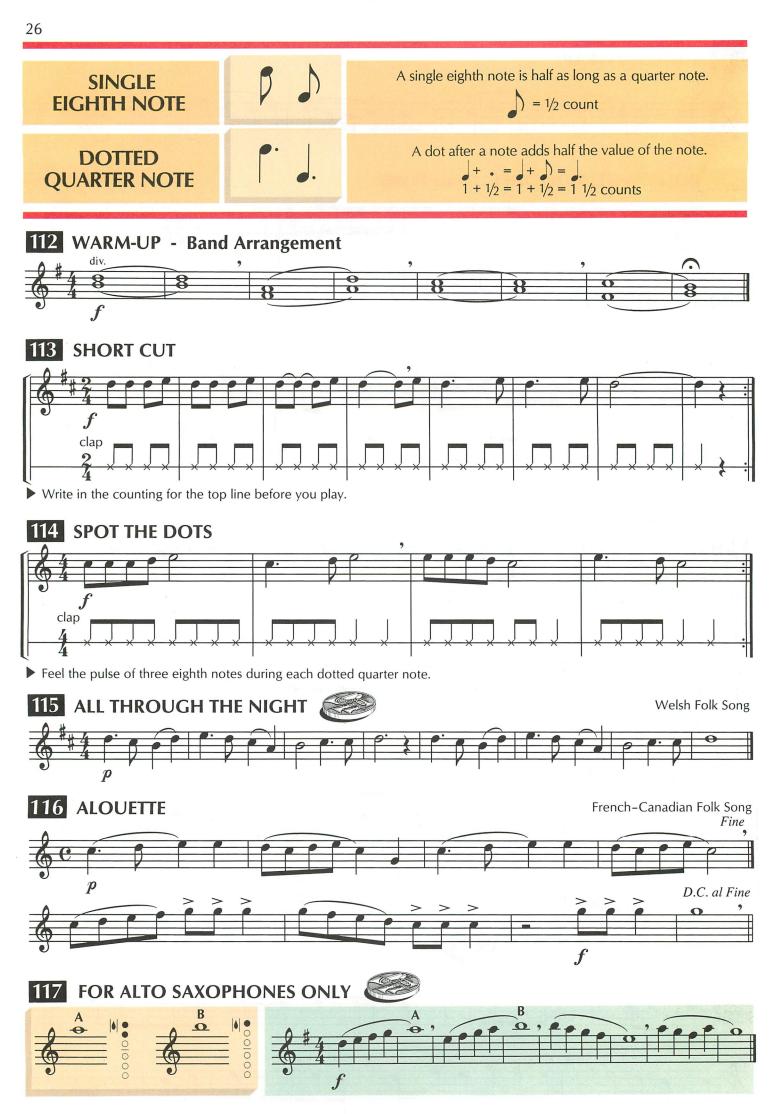


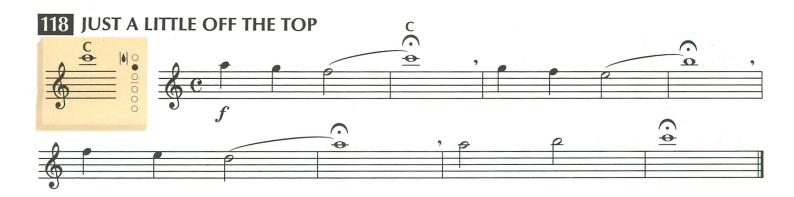
*Use the alternate F[#] fingering.

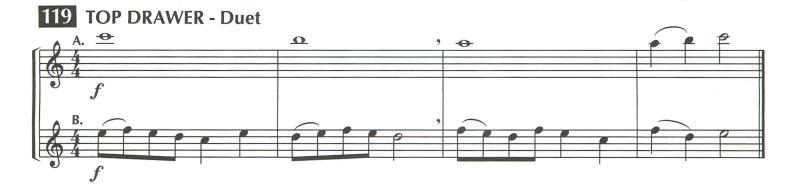
107 THAT'S A WRAP

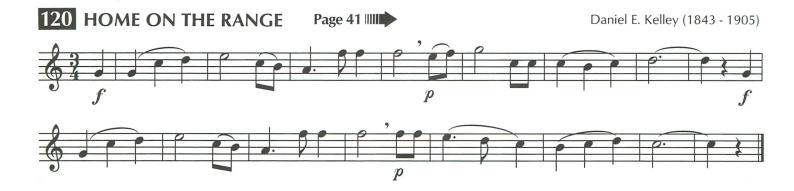










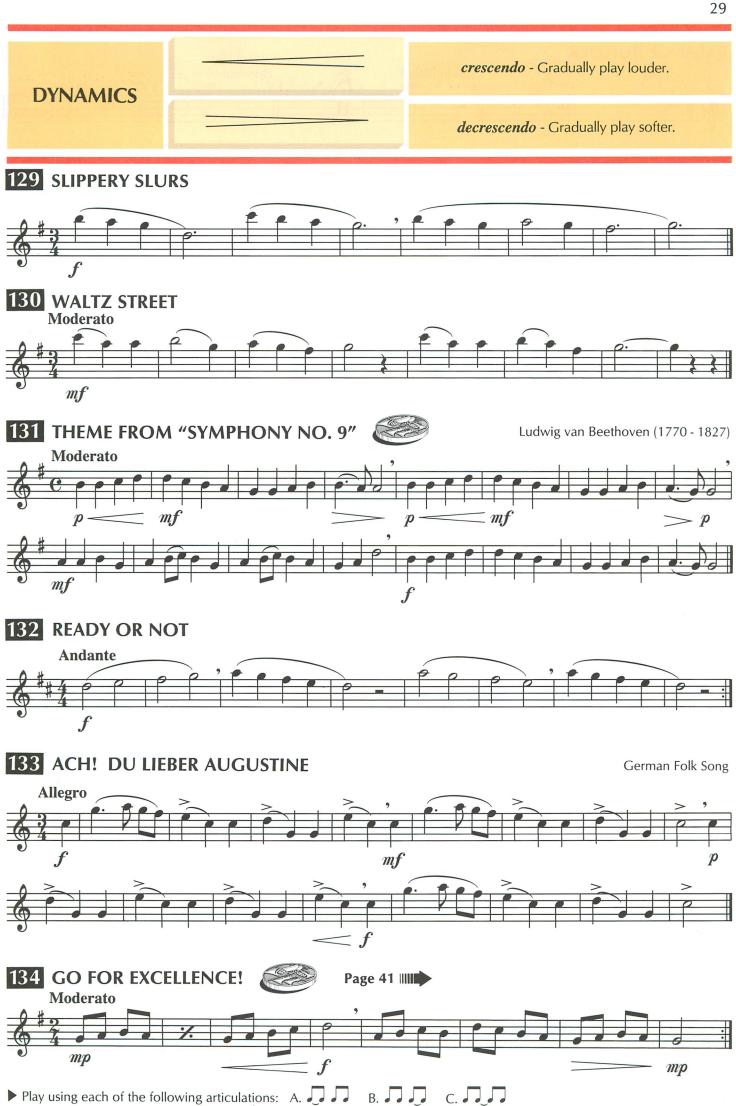




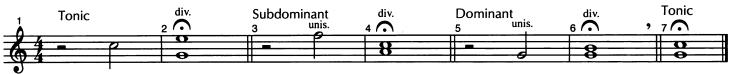




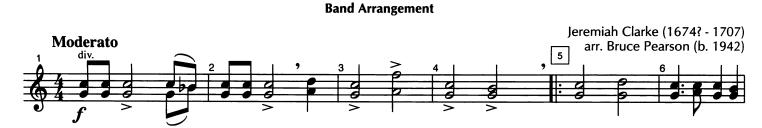
*Use the alternate C fingering when moving from B to C or C to B. PW21XE



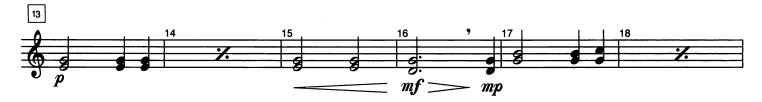
BALANCE BUILDER



TRUMPET VOLUNTARY

















TEMPO

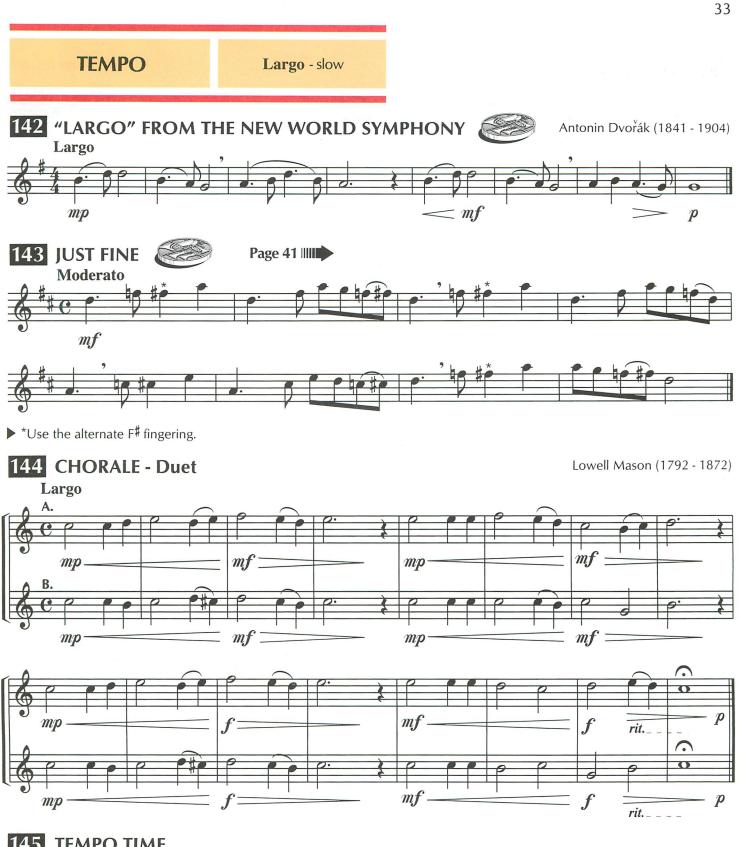
Ritardando (ritard. or rit.) - Gradually slow the tempo.



Compose a variation on "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star."







145 TEMPO TIME

Write in the following tempos from slowest to fastest: Andante Allegro Moderato Largo





▶ *Be sure to use the alternate C fingering. PW21XE



[•] Circle the notes changed by the key signature.

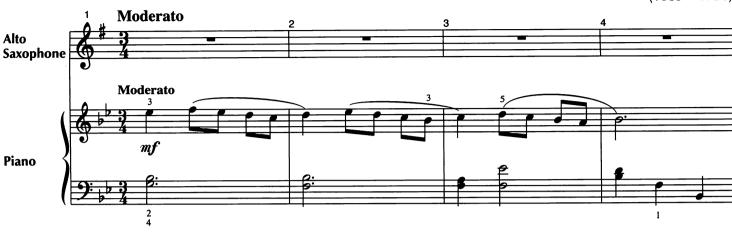




MINUET

Solo with Piano Accompaniment

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 - 1750)



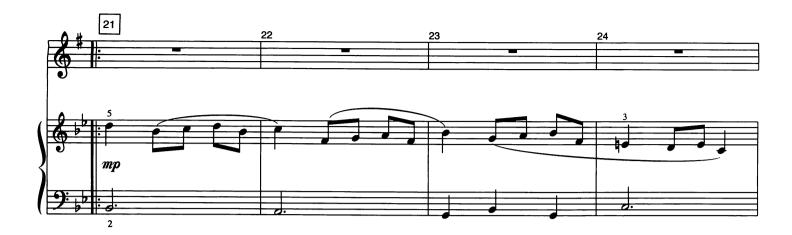




2

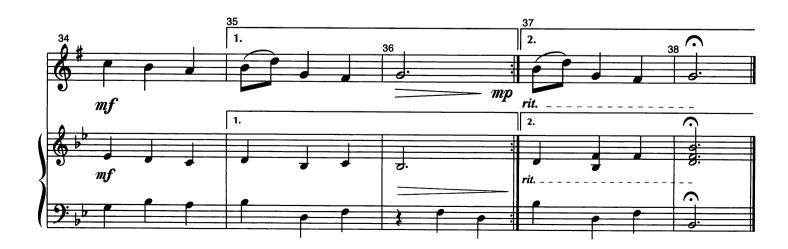


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Band Arrangement

Based on a theme by Jean-Joseph Mouret (1682 – 1738) arr. Chuck Elledge (b. 1961)

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EXCELLERATORS - FOR ALTO SAXOPHONES ONLY

TIE

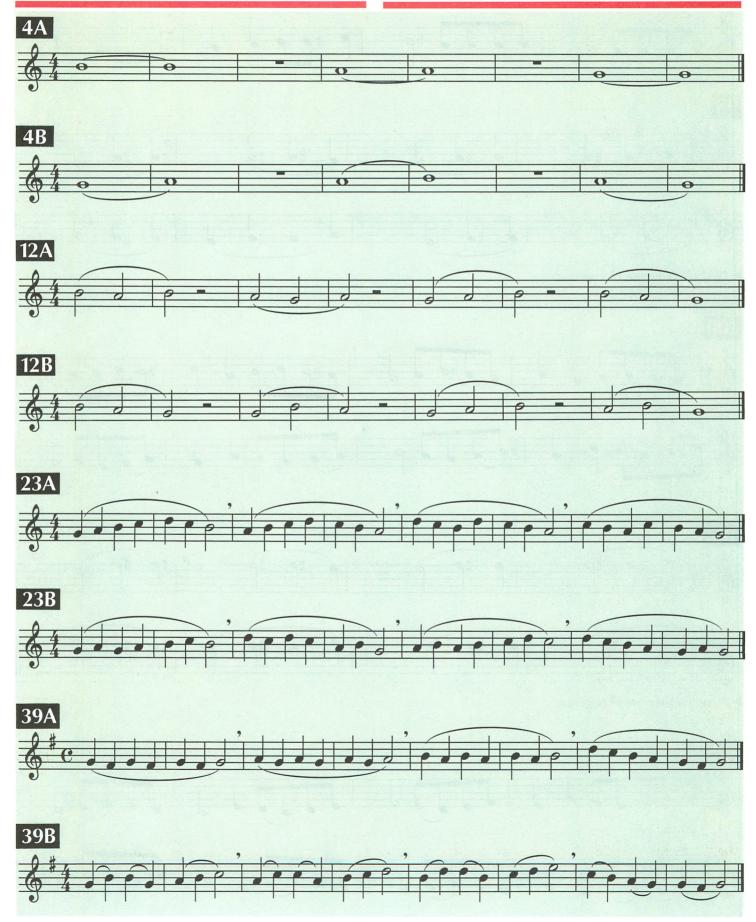


SLUR

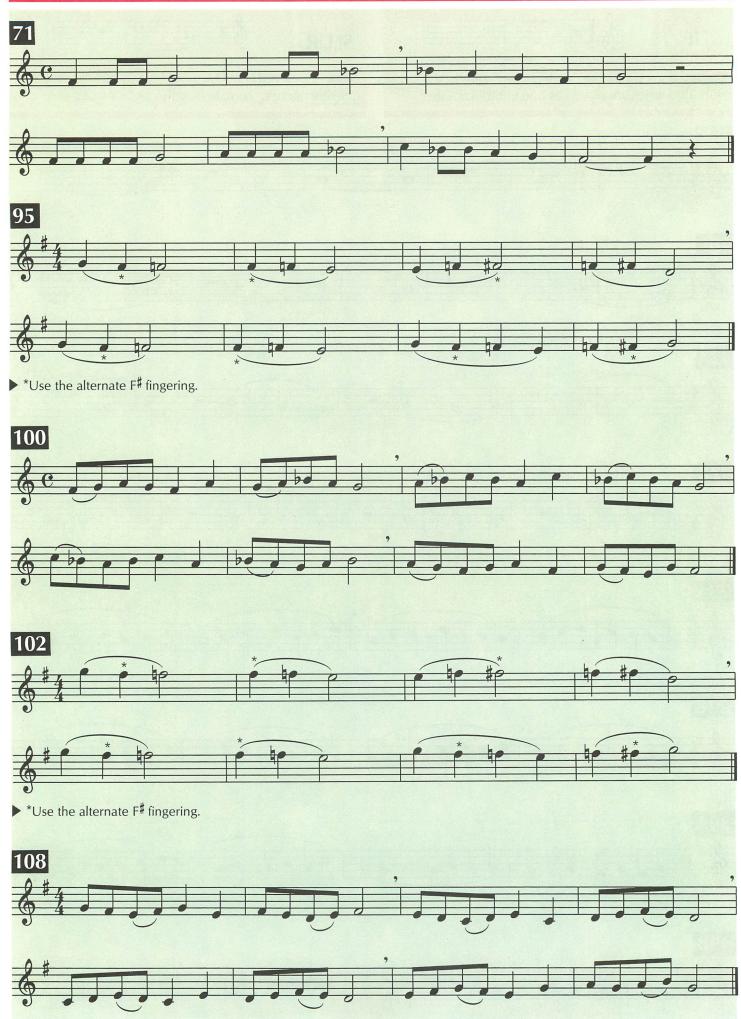
K 0

A tie is a curved line that connects two notes of the <u>same</u> pitch. Tied notes are played as one unbroken note.

A slur is a curved line that connects two or more notes of <u>different</u> pitches. Tongue only the first note of a slur.



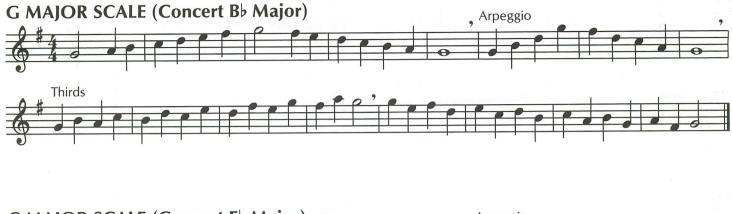
EXCELLERATORS-FOR ALTO SAXOPHONES ONLY



EXCELLERATORS-FOR ALTO SAXOPHONES ONLY



SCALE STUDIES

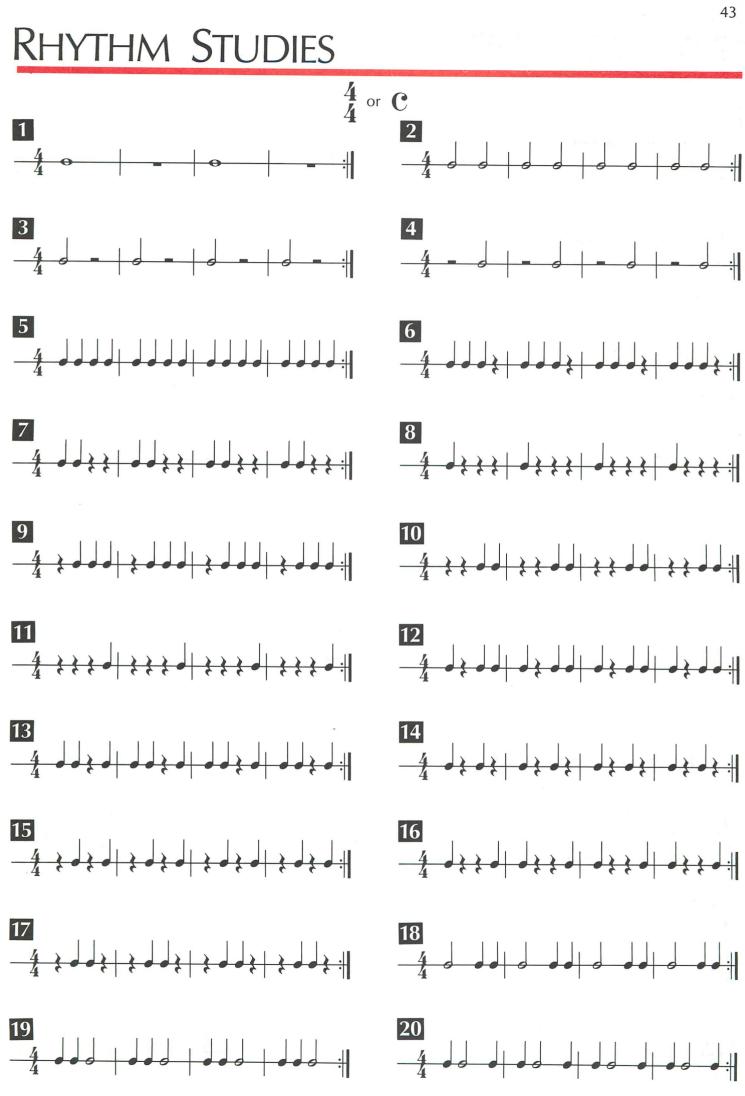




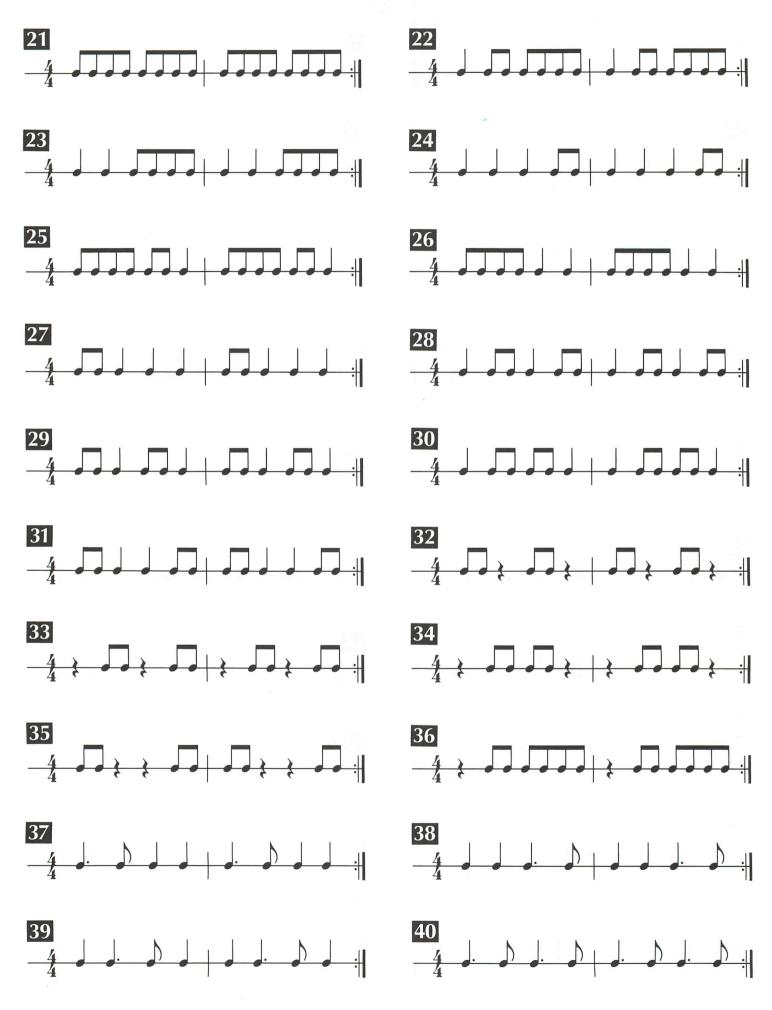




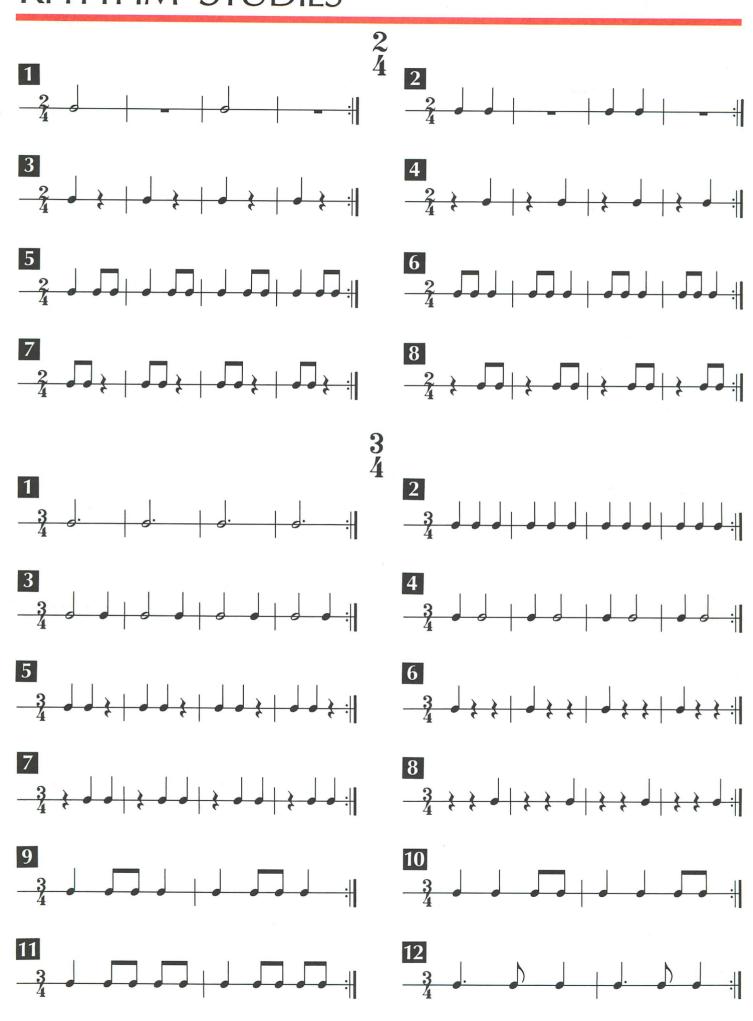




Rhythm Studies



Rhythm Studies



45

GLOSSARY/INDEX

Accent (p.19) >	Measure (pp.4-6) space between two bar lines; also
Accidentals (pp.11, 16, 23) #, b, μ sharp, flat, or natural	known as a "bar"
Allegro (p.28) quick and lively	Mezzo Forte (p.28) mf medium loud
Andante (p.28) moderately slow	Mezzo Piano (p.28) mp medium soft
Arpeggio (pp.22-23, 28, 42) notes of a chord played one at a time	Moderato (p.28) moderate speed
Articulation (pp.15, 19, 39) type of attack used to play a note or	Mouret, Jean-Joseph (p.38) French composer (1682-1738)
group of notes	Mozart, Wolfgang Amadeus (pp.15,
Bach, Johann Sebastian (pp.36-37) German composer (1685-1750)	28, 31) Austrian composer (1756-1791)
Bar Line (pp.4-6) divides the music staff into measures	Natural (p.23) 4 cancels a flat or sharp
Beethoven, Ludwig van (p.29) German composer (1770-1827)	Offenbach, Jacques (p.23) French composer (1819-1880)
Brahms, Johannes (p.15) German composer (1833-1897)	One-Measure Repeat (p.19) 🧭 repeat the previous measure
Breath Mark (p.7) 🤊	Pearson, Bruce American composer/author (b. 1942)
Chord (pp.22-23, 28) two or more pitches sounded at the same	Phrase (p.8) musical thought or sentence
time	Piano (p.17) \boldsymbol{p} soft
Chromatic Scale (p.42)	Pick-Up Note(s) (p.15) note or notes that come before first
Clarke, Jeremiah (p.30)	full measure
Common Time (p.9) C same as 4 Crescendo (p.29) ————————————————————————————————————	Pierpont, J.S. (p.12) American composer (<i>1822-1893</i>) Poulton, G.R. (p.23) American composer (<i>d.1867</i>)
Da Capo al Fine (p.24) <i>D.C. al Fine</i> go back to the beginning and play until	Repeat Sign (pp.9, 20) : : repeat from beginning or repeat section
the Fine	of music between repeat signs
Decrescendo (p.29) gradually play softer	Ritardando (ritard. or rit.) (p.31) gradually slow the tempo
Divisi (p.12)	Root, George F. (p.16) American composer/publisher
and part of the section plays the	(1820-1895)
bottom notes	Rossini, Gioacchino (p.13) Italian composer (1792-1868)
Dominant (pp.12, 30)	Scale (pp.22-23, 28, 42) collection of pitches arranged from low-
note of a scale	est to highest or highest to lowest
Double Bar (pp.4-6)	Sharp (p.11) # raises the pitch of a note ½ step
Dvořák, Antonin (p.33) Czech composer (1841-1904)	Slur (pp.15, 39) curved line that connects two or more
Dynamics (pp.17, 28-29) loudness or softness of music	notes of different pitches
Elledge, Chuck (pp.12, 21, 34, 38) American composer (b. 1961)	Soli (p.9) whole section plays
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EXERCISE 7	EXERCISE 23 notes rhythm repeat	EXERCISE 41 notes rhythm repeat	EXERCISE 55 notes rhythm hand position	EXERCISE 70 notes rhythm dynamics 	EXERCISE 84	EXERCISE 104 notes rhythm dynamics	EXERCISE 122 D notes rhythm slurs	EXERCISE 136 notes rhythm tonguing	EXERCISE 146 Inotes rhythm articulations
EXERCISE 12 rotes rhythm tone	EXERCISE 29	EXERCISE 43 notes rhythm hand position	EXERCISE 57 notes rhythm slurs	EXERCISE 73 notes rhythm dynamics	EXERCISE 87	EXERCISE 106 notes rhythm hand position	EXERCISE 126	EXERCISE 139	EXERCISE 148
EXERCISE 14	EXERCISE 31	EXERCISE 46 notes rhythm tonguing	EXERCISE 61	EXERCISE 78 notes rhythm tonguing 	EXERCISE 91 notes rhythm hand position	EXERCISE 111 notes rhythm dynamics	EXERCISE 128 notes rhythm tempo	EXERCISE 141 notes rhythm tone	EXERCISE 151 notes rhythm articulations
EXERCISE 17	EXERCISE 35 notes rhythm hand position	EXERCISE 49 notes rhythm tone	EXERCISE 63	EXERCISE 79 notes rhythm hand position	EXERCISE 95 D notes rhythm slurs	EXERCISE 115 Inotes rhythm tone	EXERCISE 131 Inotes rhythm dynamics	EXERCISE 142 notes rhythm tempo	EXERCISE 153 Inotes Irhythm Ibreathing
EXERCISE 22	EXERCISE 39 notes rhythm breathing	EXERCISE 53	EXERCISE 67	EXERCISE 82 D notes rhythm slurs	EXERCISE 98	EXERCISE 117 notes rhythm hand position	EXERCISE 134 Inotes Irhythm articulations	EXERCISE 143	EXERCISE 155
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THE ED ALTO SAXOPHONE

ALTO SAXOPHONE HISTORY

The saxophone was invented in 1841 by a Belgian clarinetist named Adolphe Sax. After settling in Paris, Sax patented his new invention in 1846. The instrument soon became popular across all of France. Many American musicians visiting Europe took a liking to the saxophone, and it soon found a home in America, where it has remained popular ever since.

Adolphe Sax actually created 14 different sizes of saxophones, seven for orchestra pitched in C and F, and seven for band, pitched in Bb and Eb. The only saxophones still in common use today are the Eb alto saxophone, the Bb tenor saxophone, and the Eb baritone saxophone. The Bb soprano saxophone is also used occasionally, especially in jazz and small ensemble music, and a few orchestra pieces call for C tenor saxophone. Although saxophones are built in different keys and sizes, each uses the same fingerings, allowing saxophone players to transfer from instrument to instrument with ease.

The saxophone was invented to be a bridge between the woodwind and brass sections, and to boost the sound of the woodwind section in military bands. The instrument's combination of metal body and wooden reed allows it to blend equally well with brass or woodwind instruments. However, the saxophone is classified as a member of the woodwind family because of its flute-like key system and use of a reed.

Today, alto saxophones are played in concert and marching bands, jazz ensembles, small chamber groups, and occasionally in orchestras. They are often featured as solo instruments.

ALTO SAXOPHONE SURVIVAL KIT

swab
neck strap
reed holder
pencil
band music
soft, clean cloth
extra reeds
cork grease
method book

