

Practical Transposition Exercises for the Aspiring Trumpeter/Band Director:

As adjunct trumpet faculty at The Hartt school for over 30 years I taught my share of both performance majors and music education majors. The majority of these education majors were looking forward to a career as band directors at the high school or middle school level.

I created these practical assignments with the intent of sharpening their transposition skills. I used two jewels of the concert band repertoire by Gustav Holst: the "1st Suite in Eb for Military Band" and the "2nd Suite in F for Military Band" as material. I required each student to either purchase the score or to check it out of the music library.

I outlined approximately 25 studies on each suite and would usually assign several per lesson; they are all short licks. I would ask my students to read from the score and to play the licks quickly & confidently. Just pick up the horn and rip off the lick, show the band how it's done!

The idea behind this book started with my own experience as a student in a band conducted by a very good trumpeter/band director.

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I graduated high school in 1976, in a northern suburb of Los Angeles. In those years the band programs were particularly strong. My high school band director, Charles "Chuck" Davidson, besides being our band director, was an accomplished trumpet player.

When Mr. Davidson conducted our band he would have a trumpet next to the stand which he would pick up to great effect. Pointing his bell at the offending party he would say something like: "no trombones, it goes like this" and then he would play their lick perfectly. Or: "Flutes, I said staccato! Play it like this. He would then rip off their lick, in the proper octave for a trumpet, like it was nothing.

As a student sitting in the band you were immediately impressed with the fact that he could play everyone's licks at any time, like it was nothing. That kind of ability commands a lot of respect!

As I look back on it now I realize that, in practical terms, Mr. Davidson gave the impression that he was "able to play everyone's part" simply because HE COULD TRANSPOSE!

Gustav Holst – 1st Suite in Eb for Military Band

Score – M1203 H75 S1
Recording – MD1203 H75

#	Start	End	Instrument
1 st Movement – Chaconne			
1	Beginning	8	Euphonium
2	A -9	A -2	1 st Bb Clarinet
3	B -10	B	Eb Alto Sax
4	C -8	C	Bassoon
5	C +8	D	Flute
6	E +7	F	2 nd Bb Clarinet
7	F	End	1 st Horn in F
2 nd Movement – Intermezzo			
8	2	A -7	1 st Oboe
9	Beginning	A	2nd Eb Clarinet
10	A +3	A +14	Solo Bb Clarinet
11	C	D	Solo Bb Clarinet
12	C +4	C +13	1 st Horn in F
13	D +10	D +13	Eb Alto Sax
14	E -8	E	Euphonium
15	F	End	Eb Baritone Sax
16	F +14	F +17	Flute
3 rd Movement – March			
17	4	A	Euphonium
18	A +4	B	Eb Alto Sax
19	B	B +18	Euphonium
20	D	D +24	Euphonium
21	D +24	Meno mosso	Eb Clarinet
22	Meno mosso	Più mosso	3 rd Bb Clarinet

Gustav Holst – 2nd Suite in F for Military Band

Score – M1203 H75 S2
Recording – MD1203 H75

#	Start	End	Instrument
1 st Movement – March			
1	3	B	1 st Trombone
2	B	C	Flute
3	D	E	Bb Bass Clarinet
4	D	E	3 rd Trombone
5	E	G	Euphonium
6	E	Fine	Basses
7	G -1	Fine	Eb Alto Sax
8	H	J	Euphonium
9	I	J	Bb Tenor Sax
10	J	K	Oboe
11	K	End	3 rd Horn
2 nd Movement – Song Without Words			
12	2	A	Solo Clarinet
13	A	End	3 rd Clarinet
3 rd Movement – Song Of The Blacksmith			
14	Beginning	A	2nd Trombone
15	A -5	B	Eb Clarinet
16	B	C	2 nd Trombone
17	C	End	1 st Horn
4 th Movement – Fantasia On The 'Dargason'			
18	Beginning	A	Eb Alto Sax
19	A	B	Bb Bass Clarinet
20	B -8	B +8	
21	B	C	Flute
22	C +1	D +8	
23	D	D +8	Bb Bass Clarinet
24	E -9	F	2 nd Trombone
25	F	G	Eb Alto Sax
26	G +1	H -7	3 rd Horn
27	H	H +16	2 nd Clarinet