

15 DUOS FOR 2 HORNS

As a teen-ager in 1964, I composed my first duo for two horns, now lost. Since the horn is my instrument, I honestly don't know why I didn't return to the form for over a half-century!

I was spurred into action one recent spring when my friend Suzanne, a member of the horn section of the community band I play in, told me she was looking for new duos that she and Mary, another member of our section, could play together. She then asked me, as composer-in-residence for the band, if I had any duos for our instrument, and I somewhat sheepishly had to admit that I had none, but would rectify the omission as quickly as I could. This set of 15 unaccompanied duos is the result.

To work faster, I recycled themes from earlier dormant compositions in some of them, while the rest are completely new material. Each duo is titled for the musical form it utilizes, and can be played complete without turning a page. The difficulty levels run from grade 3 to 5, and they are arranged randomly with easier and harder pieces appearing in no particular order. The two parts are always of equal importance and difficulty, crossing frequently.

Although these duos bear little resemblance to Mozart's **12 Duos for 2 Horns**, K. 487, I did borrow the title from them, and hid a subtle nod to those pieces in one of mine. It is up to horn players familiar with the Mozart set to find it.