Fables from Aesop

for violin and trombone (or euphonium or bassoon)

The performers read from score. Two copies of the score are provided so that the players may practice the music individually. During performance, if the performers position the scores on 2 music stands side by side, page turns will be facilitated.

1. The Dog Who Chased A Lion

From a safe vantage point a fox watched with astonishment as a hunting dog surprised, and then, began chasing a lion. It was not long before the lion's shock turned to reason. He abruptly halted, faced his pursuer, and let out a resounding roar. The frightened dog yelped and quickly retreated. The fox later commented to the dog, "You sorry creature, you boldly chase a lion, yet flee as a coward from the mere sound of his voice."



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III. The Camel Who Wanted Horns

A camel studied a powerful bull and marvelled at his majestic horns. She thought, "If only I had such horns, I would be the most magnificent creature alive." She obsessed over the matter and decided to petition Zeus for a pair. Zeus was furious with the camel's request, it was obvious that she had little appreciation for the remarkable strength, stamina, and other assets he had bestowed upon her. Not only did he deny her horns, he also decided to reduce the size of her ears.



IV. The Crow and the Pitcher

The drought was severe. A dehydrated crow approached a pitcher of water on a table in a garden. He hopped onto the rim and stretched as far as possible; however, he could not reach the water. When he attempted to topple the pitcher over to spill its contents, he discovered it was too heavy to budge. The crow thought, "If I do not drink water soon I will surely die." An idea came to him. He dropped a pebble into the pitcher and watched keenly as the water level rose ever so slightly. He dropped another, and another, and before



V. The Rabbits and the Frogs

The rabbits had a conference at which they concluded they were hopeless cowards. They resolved to end their disgrace permanently by jumping, as a group, off of a cliff into a pond. The rabbits hurried towards the cliff, darting to and fro, hopping helter-skelter through the brambles, over and around fallen logs, rocks, and gullies. Onward they charged with each rabbit feeling a heightened sense of purpose and an unfamiliar, yet somewhat invigorating feeling - could it be courage? As the lead rabbit was about to make his suicidal leap he noticed that a group of frogs at the water's edge became startled by the sound of the approaching rabbits. The frogs promptly plunged into the pond. The leader turned about, faced his comrades and exclaimed, "Stop, we need not jump. Didn't you see? Those aniumals are more cowardly than we!"

