

Vienna Suite PowerPan, Part 2: Brass Placement

By [Peter Lawrence Alexander](#) / March 19, 2011

In this continuing review, Power Pan continues to demonstrate why it's the Vienna Suite's secret weapon.

Continuing our review on the [Vienna Suite](#) Power Pan, [Numerical Sound's Ernest Cholakis](#) has created suggested panning positions for the trumpets, trombones, tuba and French horns. These can be approximated using the Power Pan feature within the Vienna Ensemble, but completely duplicated using the Power Pan plug-in within the Vienna Suite. This can also be tested with the Epic Orchestra accompanying the Vienna Ensemble PRO, and the licensed Vienna library within Apple Logic's EXS24 sampler and Kontakt.

About Brass Positioning

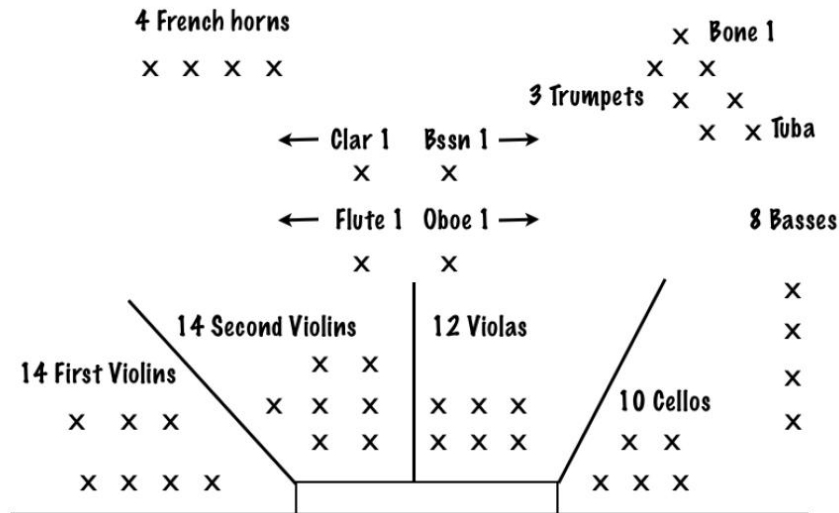
The brass arrangement found in the YouTube screen capture below from the Colorado Symphony Orchestra is based on the typical orchestra seating arrangement for a scoring session in Los Angeles. The word *typical* must be emphasized, because ultimately, the two factors determining the final seating arrangement, and hence, placement in the stereo spectrum, are the stage on which the orchestra sits, and the desire of the conductor.



The conductor/music director must work out:

- the seating arrangement;
- the number of chairs needed;
- the number of music stands needed.

Here's a Brass seating arrangement favored by many symphony orchestras.



In your favorite search engine type in: "orchestra seating chart". Go to the Images section of the search engine and you'll immediately find a variety of seating arrangements including different positions for the brass.

In the video below, Christian Thielemann conducts Wagner's *Die Meistersinger Von Nurnburg*. You'll see a different seating plan with the brass in the back, Violins 1 on the left, and Violins 2 on the right with violas and cellos in between. The basses are at the far back behind the brass.

YOUTUBE VIDEO: <https://youtu.be/uypHlrZsgg>



Wagner (pronounced “vagner”) may not be your cup of tea musically, but within three minutes of seeing and hearing this performance, it becomes evident you’re not locked into a particular seating arrangement with the Vienna Instruments.

One of the least explained benefits of the Vienna Instruments is your ability to design your own orchestral setup and recreate seating arrangements. This is a different type of sound design.

As previously explained, Power Pan within the Vienna Suite enables you to do just that including working with the width of the stereo field. This is why I believe that Power Pan is the Vienna Suite’s secret weapon.

Therefore, let’s look at the setup below based on the setup used many times by the late Jerry Goldsmith:

Trumpets



Trombones



Tuba



French horns



Conclusion

The Vienna Suite Power Pan continues to demonstrate itself as being the secret weapon of the Vienna Suite. With Power Pan, you can position each instrument in the stereo field so that it has its own space and speaks clearly.

Grade: A+

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