

I'LL BE HOME FOR CHRISTMAS, Lyrics by Kim Gannon, Music by Walter Kent SANTA CLAUS IS COMIN' TO TOWN, Words by Haven Gillespie, Music by Fred Coots HAVE YOURSELF A MERRY LITTLE CHRISTMAS, Words and Music by Hugh Martin and Ralph Blane FROSTY THE SNOWMAN, Words and Music by Steve Nelson and Jack Rollins

Arranged by CARL STROMMEN

INSTRUMENTATION

Conductor 1st EJ- Alto Saxophone 2nd EJ- Alto Saxophone 1st BJ- Tenor Saxophone 2nd BJ- Tenor Saxophone EJ- Baritone Saxophone (Optional) 1st BJ- Trumpet 2nd BJ- Trumpet 3rd BJ- Trumpet 4th BJ- Trumpet (Optional)

un JAZZ

1st Trombone 2nd Trombone 3rd Trombone (Optional) 4th Trombone (Optional) Guitar Chords Guitar (Optional) Piano Bass Drums

Optional Alternate Parts

C Flute Tuba Horn in F (Doubles 1st Trombone) 1st Baritone T.C./B, Tenor Saxophone (Doubles 1st Trombone) 2nd Baritone T.C./B, Tenor Saxophone (Doubles 2nd Trombone)

NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

Big Band Holiday celebrates the holidays with four well-known seasonal tunes. First up is **"I'll Be Home For Christmas,"** scored to be played with a laid-back "Basie" feel. The laid-back feel is most effective with the contrasting feel of the horns playing relaxed and the rhythm section driving with forward motion. A key element of this style is that the rhythm section cannot lay back or the tempo will slow down real fast. Of course there is a fine line between the horn section laying back and dragging the time—don't let it drag. Note that the *marcato* (rooftop) accents are played detached but not staccato (think "daht"). A general rule for eighth note articulation is that the last eighth note in a group is short.

The rhythm section will have control of the transitions between each tune in this medley, especially the drumset player. The drummer will need to look ahead and be aware of what tempo change is necessary—faster or slower—and make the change gradually but decisively.

The tempo picks up a bit for **"Santa Claus is Comin' To Town."** The solo section at measure 49 is written for trombone with cues for alto sax 2 and trumpet 2. The chord symbols are written but I suggest staying close to the melody. Another suggestion is to alternate soloists for each rehearsal or performance.

The tempo slows at measure 61 to 62 which brings the chart into **"Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas"** featuring solo alto sax. This solo should be interpreted with smooth, lyrical and smooth phrasing. The triplet in measure 66 for the soloist and 74 for the sax section looks more complicated than it is. This triplet is simply a relaxed interpretation of the melody written out. Probably the best way to explain or teach this is to think of the vocal interpretation of the lyrics in that part of the tune. The lyrics (and rhythm) in that measure will flow like "mer-ry-lit-tle Christ-mas."

The fermata is brief at measure 82, and then give a downbeat at 83 in the new tempo into **"Frosty the Snowman."** To help lock in the upcoming swing feel, click off a few beats of the new tempo while holding the fermata. Keep the opening figures in measures 83–86 tight and clean. Measure 104 calls for the off beats to be played detached. In measure 114 the saxes have swing eighth notes. Direct them to play with the "ands" slightly accented so it will sound like "doo-*dah*-doo-*dah*." Measure 126 should be played f by the tenors, bari and rhythm section—don't be timid.

I hope you enjoy this chart.

-Carl Strommen



Carl Strommen

Carl Strommen teaches orchestration and composition at the C.W. Post Campus of Long Island University (NY) and was Director of Bands at Mamaroneck High School in Mamaroneck, New York. An ASCAP award winner, he continues to maintain an active commission, clinic, and writing schedule. Mr. Strommen is a graduate of Long Island University (NY) and The City College of New York.

CONDUCTOR

BIG BAND HOLIDAY

























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