

INSTRUMENTATION

Conductor 1st E Alto Saxophone 2nd Eb Alto Saxophone (Optional Flute) 1st Bb Tenor Saxophone 2nd Bb Tenor Saxophone Eb Baritone Saxophone 1st Bb Trumpet 2nd Bb Trumpet 3rd Bb Trumpet 4th Borrumpet

1st Trombone 2nd Trombone 3rd Trombone 4th Trombone **Bass Trombone Guitar Chords** Guitar Piano Bass Drums Vibes



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NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

This tune seems tailor made for jazz, doesn't it? Here are a few suggestions for rehearsing and performing this chart.

Before the band gets to swingin, the saxes state the melody in a chorale style and they should take it nice and easy, not too loud or too fast, plus it would be effective to use a little rubato interpretation in the phrasing. Above all, pay attention to maintaining a good blend, and phrase together.

The rhythm enters at measure 25, and off we go. The tenor saxes and trombones state the melody at measure 35. This doesn't have to be very loud but it needs to be in tune, so listen up! The melody gets passed to the altos and trumpets for a while at measure 42, but soon the whole ensemble plays the melody (measure 67) and here is where we finally should be blowing full out. Having said that, keep the ensemble phrases tight and mobile. There's nothing like a big band playing tight, swinging licks over a driving rhythm section!

The solo section starts at measure 95, and the send-off lick at measure 95-96 happens for each soloist. The stop-time in the rhythm section happens only at the beginning of each solo.

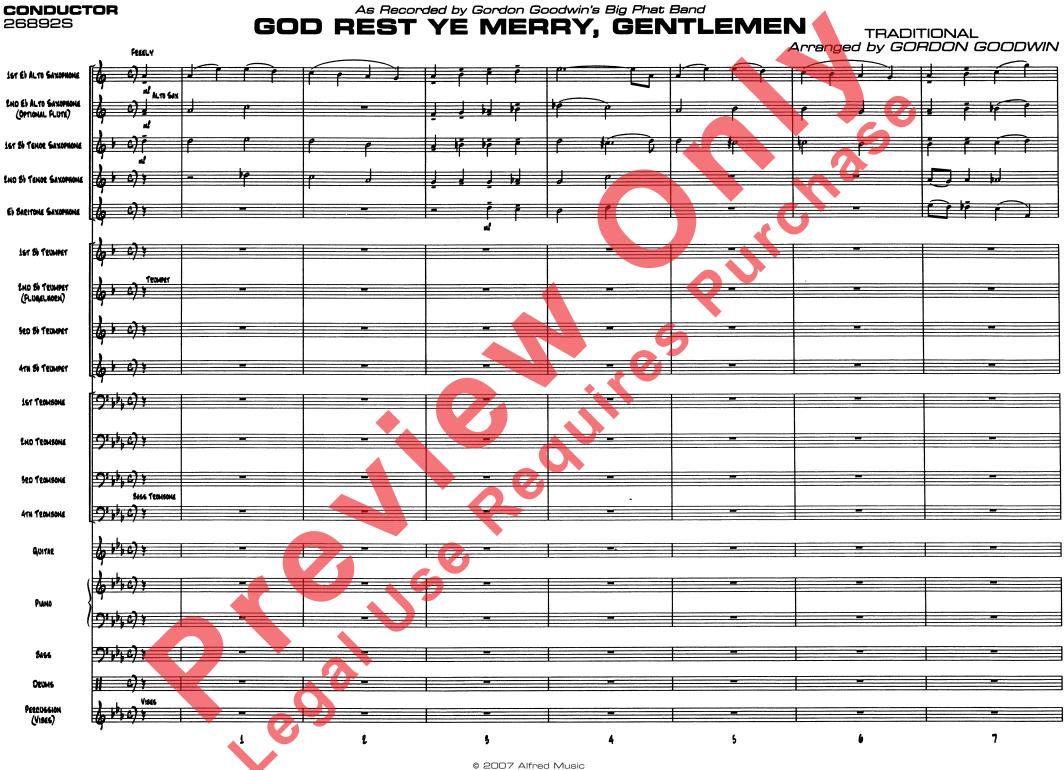
After the solos, the drums lead us into the development section at measure 129. The drummer's job is to transition us from the hard swinging solo section, bring it down in intensity to the combo-like development section, and the drummer should stay mindful of this during those eight measure — think melodically on those drums!

You can hear the Big Phat Band's version of this on our CD Bah Humduck: A Looney Tunes Christmas on Immergent Records. Thanks for playing "God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen" and have a swingin' holiday!

—Gordon Goodwin



Gordon Goodwin is a three-time Emmy Award winner and GRAMMY[®] winner. His band's debut album *Swingin' for the Fences* (Silverline Records) received two GRAMMY[®] nominations and is the best-selling jazz item in the DVD[®] Audio 5.1 surround-sound format.



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