

# Isfahan

(from Impressions of the Far East Suite)

**DUKE ELLINGTON and BILLY STRAYHORN** Arranged by ALAN BAYLOCK

#### **INSTRUMENTATION**

Conductor 1st Trombone 1st E♭ Alto Saxophone 2nd Trombone 2nd El- Alto Saxophone 3rd Trombone 1st B♭ Tenor Saxophone **Bass Trombone Guitar Chords** 2nd Bb Tenor Saxophone El Baritone Saxophone Guitar 1st B♭ Trumpet Piano 2nd B<sub>b</sub> Trumpet Bass 3rd B♭ Trumpet Drums 4th Bb Trumpet

## **Optional Alternate Parts**

C Flute Tuba

Horn in F (Doubles 1st Trombone)

1st Baritone T.C./Bb Tenor Saxophone (Doubles 1st Trombone) 2nd Baritone T.C./Bb Tenor Saxophone (Doubles 2nd Trombone) 3rd Baritone T.C./B, Tenor Saxophone (Doubles 3rd Trombone)

### **NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR**

This setting of the gorgeous Ellington/Strayhorn composition, *Isfahan*, is all about the solo alto player. It is of primary importance that everyone in the band has an opportunity to listen to this tune on Duke Ellington's *Far East Suite* recording. It is the quintessential arrangement and by imitating this unique sound, this new arrangement can really make your band and alto soloist shine.

Make sure the soloist doesn't feel restricted to the written rhythms or even all of the written notes. The solo player can be expressive and, although simplicity is best in this arrangement, encourage him or her to go beyond the written music.

It will be most effective if the band does not get loud until the pick-ups to measure 38, although the end of measure 4 can get pretty close to the same dynamic. From measure 44 to the end, the subdued feel should be a focus. Strive to have the band play soft, but not weak. By keeping all the rhythms accurate, making the most of the phrases, and always playing with a warm, full sound, this can be achieved more easily. Other critical elements are blend and balance—direct the band to listen and adjust as needed. Relax and let this chart flow! Don't rush, but don't lay back too much, either. You can listen to the full length version at alfred.com/downloads.

Thanks for your interest and I sincerely hope you and your band enjoy this arrangement.

—Alan Baylock



# Alan Baylock

Alan Baylock holds the position of Staff Arranger with the United States Air Force Band in Washington, D.C. and is the chief arranger for the Air Force's premier jazz ensemble, the Airmen of Note. Alan holds a Bachelor of Music Education degree from Shenandoah University (VA) and a master's degree in jazz studies from the University of North Texas.

