# Song from M\*A\*S\*H

Words and Music by MIKE ALTMAN and JOHNNY MANDEL
Arranged by JOHN DENTON

## **INSTRUMENTATION**

1st Trombone 1st E♭ Alto Saxophone 2nd Trombone 2nd El Alto Saxophone 3rd Trombone 1st By Tenor Saxophone **Bass Trombone** 2nd B Tenor Saxophone **Guitar Chords** Baritone Saxophone Guitar 13t By Trumpet Piano 2nd B♭ Trumpet Bass 3rd B♭ Trumpet Drums 4th B Trumpet

### **Optional/Alternate Parts**

C Flute Vibraphone

Tuba (Doubles Bass)

Horn in F (Doubles 1st Trombone)

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





#### NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

Johnny Mandel's famous theme for the movie and TV series *M\*A\*S\*H* was originally written as background to a scene in the movie, but it became the theme of the TV show. I've tried to retain the original flavor of the tune in this arrangement, while casting it in a slightly more contemporary light.

The band should carefully observe the dynamics in the introduction. The brass should observe the *decrescendo* in mm. 12–14, and the saxes should do the same in mm. 14–15. Note the articulation marks in the initial statement of the melody. The syncopated notes are all long in mm. 16–25. However, in mm. 26–31, they are short. The same articulation occurs in the second chorus.

The solo section in mm. 54–69 can be extended if desired. In this case, the saxes and trombones should play the background figures only on the last repeated chorus. Similarly, the saxophone solo section at m. 86 also can be extended, in this instance by repeating from m. 99 back to m. 84. The brass should play the background figures only the last time through.

The montuno section in mm. 106–122 begins with solo piano, and the planist should play with strict thythm to establish the feel. The section at m. 110 should begin man and build as additional groups of instruments are added.

The rhythm section parts are well notated for piano, bass, and drums. The guitar part has written notes and slashes to indicate comping. For guitar comping in this style, direct the guitarist to keep it light and understated. For the best sound, ask the guitarist to use medium-thick picks, which will give the sound an acoustic quality, and to hold the pick loosely between the thumb and index finger.

Encourage the saxes to play with confidence at m. 122, with the entire ensemble building to the end. All should exaggerate the marking in mm. 133–134.

I hope your band enjoys playing this great modern standard

—John Denton





#### John Denton

John Denton Fluck is a retired U.S. Navy bandmaster, whose career included assignments to the U.S. Navy Band and U.S. Naval Academy Band. He has over 40 years of experience composing and arranging for jazz ensembles of all levels. A well-respected pianist, he has toured the world as both a performer and conductor.



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