

JAZZ BEGINNINGS SERIES

 **Belwin JAZZ**
a division of Alfred

Polar Vortex

VICTOR LÓPEZ

INSTRUMENTATION

Conductor	1st Trombone
1st E \flat Alto Saxophone	2nd Trombone (Optional)
2nd E \flat Alto Saxophone	Guitar Chords
1st B \flat Tenor Saxophone	Guitar (Optional)
2nd B \flat Tenor Saxophone (Optional)	Piano
1st B \flat Trumpet	Bass
2nd B \flat Trumpet (Optional)	Drums

Optional/Alternate Parts

1st C Flute
2nd C Flute
1st B \flat Clarinet
2nd B \flat Clarinet
E \flat Baritone Saxophone
Vibraphone
Auxiliary Percussion (Cowbell, Tambourine)
Tuba (Doubles Bass)
Horn in F (Doubles 1st Trombone)
Baritone Horn T.C./B \flat Tenor Saxophone (Doubles 1st Trombone)
iPad/Cell Phone Sound Effect (Download)

NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

Some fun facts: A “polar vortex” is a large pocket of very cold air, typically the coldest, that sits over the arctic region of North America during the winter. The polar vortex is not a new phenomenon, as scientists have been studying it for many decades. What really happens is that every now and then, areas of high pressure displace this mass of cold air over the Pacific, pushing the colder air south over Canada and into the upper regions of the United States.

Now to the music. The introduction sets the mood for the siren-like sound at m. 5, followed by a thematic funk bass unison motive, played by the bass, guitar, and piano, that leads to the unison melody at m. 13. Up to that point, the music anticipates the arrival of something—the “polar vortex.”

At m. 21, the mood changes, as the melodic line is now harmonized in fourths to give the harmony an edgy, cool sound. Then the siren-like effect returns, and musical intensity begins to develop as the unison melody returns.

At m. 42, the solo section includes a written alto sax solo. The soloist can play as written or embellish some improvisational ideas. If desired, other soloists could play in this solo section.

When programming this work, adding an actual siren/alarm sound effect will certainly enhance the dramatic effectiveness of the piece. You are encouraged to experiment with the following idea:

Have a couple of students research the Internet for a siren/alarm-like sound effect application (app).

Download the app to a Smart Phone or Tablet.

Once the download is completed, play the siren/alarm sound through a sound system or small amplifier so that it is heard, but make certain the sound is not distorted and does not drown out the ensemble. With a little practice, this approach should come off smoothly and effectively.

To make this activity even more fun, get the audience involved by inviting the school principal, a parent, or a community leader to play the sound effect. This person would not have to read music; just cue the sound effect as needed.

Have fun!

—Victor López



**Victor
López**

Victor López is a highly acclaimed educator, composer, arranger, and adjudicator. He holds music degrees from the University of Florida and Florida International University, with an Ed.D. in Educational Administration and Supervision. He has served as director of bands at the middle and senior high school levels and as an administrator in the Miami-Dade County Public Schools. He has recorded and performed with various artists and has appeared in numerous music videos. He has over 450 compositions/arrangements published as an exclusive composer, arranger and clinician for Alfred Music.

CONDUCTOR
43661S

POLAR VORTEX

By Victor López (ASCAP)

Rock $\text{♩} = 120$

1st C FLUTE (OPTIONAL)

2ND C FLUTE (OPTIONAL)

1st B♭ CLARINET (OPTIONAL)

2ND B♭ CLARINET (OPTIONAL)

1st E♭ ALTO SAXOPHONE

2ND E♭ ALTO SAXOPHONE

1st B♭ TENOR SAXOPHONE

2ND B♭ TENOR SAXOPHONE (OPTIONAL)

1st B♭ TRUMPET

2ND B♭ TRUMPET (OPTIONAL)

1st TROMBONE

2ND TROMBONE (OPTIONAL)

GUITAR (OPTIONAL)

PIANO

BASS

DRUMS

1 2 3 4 5 6

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CONDUCTOR

POLAR VORTEX

Musical score for CONDUCTOR, featuring parts for FLUTE 1, FLUTE 2, CLAR. 1, CLAR. 2, ALTO 1, ALTO 2, TENOR 1, TENOR 2, TRP. 1, TRP. 2, TBN. 1, TBN. 2, GTR., PNO., BASS, and DRUMS. The score includes measures 7 through 12. A large red watermark 'Preview Only - Legal Use Requires Purchase' is overlaid on the page.

CONDUCTOR

FLUTE 1

FLUTE 2

CLAR. 1

CLAR. 2

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

TPT. 1

TPT. 2

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

H.H. CLOSED

13 14 15 16 17 18

CONDUCTOR

POLAR VORTEX

- 4 -

21

Musical score for CONDUCTOR, featuring parts for FLUTE 1, FLUTE 2, CLAR. 1, CLAR. 2, ALTO 1, ALTO 2, TENOR 1, TENOR 2, TPT. 1, TPT. 2, TBN. 1, TBN. 2, GRE., PNO., BASS, and DRUMS. The score includes measures 19 through 24. A large red watermark 'Legal Use Requires Purchase' is overlaid diagonally across the page.

19

20

21

22

23

24

CONDUCTOR

- 5 -

To CODA

POLAR VORTEX

FLUTE 1

FLUTE 2

CLAR. 1

CLAR. 2

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

TRP. 1

TRP. 2

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

GRE.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

25 26 27 28 29 30

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CONDUCTOR

POLAR VORTEX

FLUTE 1

FLUTE 2

CLAR. 1

CLAR. 2

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

TRP. 1

TRP. 2

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

31 32 33 34 35 36

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CONDUCTOR

POLAR VORTEX

Musical score for the piece "POLAR VORTEX", page 7. The score is arranged for a full orchestra and vocal soloists. The instruments and parts listed are:

- FLUTE 1
- FLUTE 2
- CLAR. 1
- CLAR. 2
- ALTO 1
- ALTO 2
- TENOR 1
- TENOR 2
- TRP. 1
- TRP. 2
- TBN. 1
- TBN. 2
- Gtr.
- PNO.
- BASS
- DRUMS

The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings. A large red watermark "Preview Only - Legal Use Requires Purchase" is overlaid diagonally across the page. Measure numbers 37, 38, 39, 40, and 41 are visible at the bottom of the page.

CONDUCTOR

42 (OPT. OPEN FOR SOLOS)

PLAY END TIME ONLY OR ON CUE

Musical score for CONDUCTOR, including parts for FLUTE 1, FLUTE 2, CLAR. 1, CLAR. 2, ALTO 1, ALTO 2, TENOR 1, TENOR 2, TPT. 1, TPT. 2, TBN. 1, TBN. 2, GTR., PNO., BASS, and DRUMS. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings like *mf*. A large red watermark "Preview Only - Legal Use Requires Purchase" is overlaid diagonally across the page. Measure numbers 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, and 48 are indicated at the bottom of the page.

CONDUCTOR

FLUTE 1

FLUTE 2

CLAR. 1

CLAR. 2

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

TRP. 1

TRP. 2

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

50

49 50 51 52 53 54

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CONDUCTOR

POLAR VORTEX

D.S. $\frac{3}{8}$ AL CODA

FLUTE 1

FLUTE 2

CLAR. 1

CLAR. 2

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

TRP. 1

TRP. 2

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

55 56 57 58 59 60 61

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CONDUCTOR

POLAR VORTEX

♩ CODA

Musical score for CONDUCTOR, featuring parts for FLUTE 1, FLUTE 2, CLAR. 1, CLAR. 2, ALTO 1, ALTO 2, TENOR 1, TENOR 2, TPT. 1, TPT. 2, TRN. 1, TRN. 2, GTR., PNO., BASS, and DRUMS. The score includes measures 62 through 69, with a CODA section starting at measure 62. A large red watermark 'Preview Only - Legal Use Requires Purchase' is overlaid diagonally across the page.

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