

The Little Drummer Boy

Words and Music by KATHERINE DAVIS, HENRY ONORATI and HARRY SIMEONE
Arranged by ROB HOLMES

INSTRUMENTATION

Conductor
1st E♭ Alto Saxophone
2nd E♭ Alto Saxophone
1st B♭ Tenor Saxophone
2nd B♭ Tenor Saxophone
E♭ Baritone Saxophone
1st B♭ Trumpet
2nd B♭ Trumpet
3rd B♭ Trumpet
4th B♭ Trumpet
1st Trombone
2nd Trombone
3rd Trombone
Bass Trombone
Guitar Chords
Guitar
Piano
Bass
Drums

Optional/Alternate Parts

C Flute
Vibraphone
Tuba (Doubles Bass)
Horn in F (Doubles 1st Trombone)
1st Baritone Horn T.C./B♭ Tenor Saxophone (Doubles 1st Trombone)
2nd Baritone Horn T.C./B♭ Tenor Saxophone (Doubles 2nd Trombone)
3rd Baritone Horn T.C./B♭ Tenor Saxophone (Doubles 3rd Trombone)

JAZZ
BAND
SERIES

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NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

“The Little Drummer Boy” is a swinging arrangement of a classic holiday favorite based on the timeless big band chart “Cute,” composed by Neal Hefti. This arrangement takes many cues from the Count Basie Orchestra’s original recording of “Cute,” which can be found on the 1958 album release called *Basie Plays Hefti*. Many Basie recordings demonstrate the traditional big band swing feel, available via YouTube.

Teaching students how to swing the eighth-note lines in this arrangement is critical to a successful performance. It is imperative that both the ensemble and rhythm section focus on the swing feel. You can check out the demo recording of this chart at alfred.com/downloads.

Ensemble eighth notes should maintain a triplet feel throughout the piece. More specifically, students should learn to divide each beat in common time into eighth-note triplets and tie the first two notes of each triplet together. Playing eighth-note lines with this specific triplet feel will make the first eighth note in a group of two eighth notes slightly longer than the second. This will create a swing feel at the indicated tempo. The faster the tempo with any swing tune, the less “swing” feel is needed. As your ensemble begins to swing the eighth-note passages consistently, make sure that your players maintain a *legato* feel, keeping it smooth and connected. This explanation based on triplets is the traditional swing concept that is taught universally. I should point out that an exaggerated and somewhat “corny”-sounding swing concept to be avoided is dotted eighths/sixteenths.

The guitar part is often a written line with the horn section. Therefore the guitarist should strive to blend at all times and provide a color to the lines rather than try to lead the ensemble. For the comping slashes, play with a medium-thick pick, which will give the sound a very bright, acoustic quality, and hold the pick loosely between the thumb and index finger. Strum straight quarter notes to cut off (mute) the sound of the chord right after striking the strings. Strum from the elbow to help *propel* the rhythm section. The guitarist’s quarter note rhythm should perfectly mesh so that the guitar and bass merge into one big sound.

Since the chart features the drummer, play close attention to the drums in the demo recording. You’ll hear the drum solo, which will provide many solo ideas, and the drumming behind the ensemble will showcase how to accompany a big band with brushes in a swing style.

Enjoy!

—Rob Holmes



**Rob
Holmes**

Rob Holmes attended the University of Miami School of Music, earning his bachelor’s degree in jazz saxophone performance. Rob received his master’s in music composition from Virginia Commonwealth University. He has performed with jazz artists Joe Williams, Bob Mintzer, Lew Soloff, Kenny Werner, Jon Faddis, Mulgrew Miller, Chris Potter, Eddie Daniels, and Branford Marsalis, to name a few.

Rob has recorded three of his own CDs. He performs regularly in the D.C./Baltimore area, and is a member and musical director of the US Navy Band Commodores jazz ensemble.

CONDUCTOR
43683S

THE LITTLE DRUMMER BOY

Words and Music by
Katherine Davis, Henry Onorati
and Harry Simeone
Arranged by Rob Holmes

SWING ♩ = 168-192

1st Eb ALTO SAXOPHONE

2ND Eb ALTO SAXOPHONE

1st Bb TENOR SAXOPHONE

2ND Bb TENOR SAXOPHONE

E♭ BARITONE SAXOPHONE

1st Bb TRUMPET

2ND Bb TRUMPET

3RD Bb TRUMPET

4TH Bb TRUMPET

1st TROMBONE

2ND TROMBONE

3RD TROMBONE

BASS TROMBONE

8va

QUINAR

PIANO

BASS

DRUMS

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

SOLO FILL

SOLO FILL

SWING

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Musical score for THE LITTLE DRUMMER BOY, page 2. The score includes parts for ALTO 1, ALTO 2, TENOR 1, TENOR 2, BARI., TPT. 1-4, TBN. 1-3, BASS TBN., GTR., PNO., BASS, and DRUMS. The score is marked with a large red watermark: "Preview Only Requires Purchase".

Measure numbers: 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18.

Chord symbols: Eb, Eb7, Eb9, Eb11, Eb13(b9), Eb13, Eb7, Fm11, Bb7, Eb, Eb, Eb/G, F/Ab, Bb6, Eb, Eb7, Fm11, Bb7(b9), Eb.

Performance markings: CUP MUTE, ME, SOLO, SOLO FILL, ENS.

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

BARI.

TRP. 1

TRP. 2

TRP. 3

TRP. 4

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

TBN. 3

BASS TBN.

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26

SOLO FILL

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Ab6 Em7(b9) Fm7 Bb/D Eb C7 Fm7 Ab Eb/G Fm7 Eb Ebm7 Eb5 Eb9 Ab Cm7(b9)

Musical score for CONDUCTOR, featuring parts for ALTO 1, ALTO 2, TENOR 1, TENOR 2, BARI., TPT. 1-4, TBN. 1-3, BASS TBN., GTR., PNO., BASS, and DRUMS. The score includes a large red watermark: "Preview Only Requires Purchase".

Chord progression for PNO. (measures 27-36):

Measure	Chords
27	(Dm7(b9) G7(b9))
28	Fm11
29	Bb7(b9)
30	Eb Cm1 Bb7
31	Bb11(b9) Eb Eo7
32	Fm11 Bb7 Eb
33	Eb Cm1 Bb7
34	Bm7(b9) Eb
35	Eb
36	Eb

DRUMS: SOLO FILL (measures 27, 28, 29, 33, 34, 35, 36)

CONDUCTOR

THE LITTLE DRUMMER BOY

39

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

SAXI.

TPT. 1

TPT. 2

TPT. 3

TPT. 4

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

TBN. 3

BASS TBN.

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

SOLO

SOLO (W/SAXES.)

(W/GTR.)

(W/PNO.)

(SOLO FILL)

SOLO FILL

SOLO FILL

SOLO FILL

To STICKS

SOLO FILL

(SAXES.)

37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46

APu17 A13(b9) APu16 Eb Du17(b5) G7(b9) Cui Fui Gu1 APu1 Aui7(b5) g7(b9) Eb



CONDUCTOR

THE LITTLE DRUMMER BOY

47

Musical score for vocal parts: ALTO 1, ALTO 2, TENOR 1, TENOR 2, and BARI. Each part contains vocal lines with notes and rests.

Musical score for trumpet parts: TPT. 1, TPT. 2, TPT. 3, and TPT. 4. All parts are currently blank.

Musical score for trombone parts: TBN. 1, TBN. 2, TBN. 3, and BASS TBN. All parts are currently blank.

Musical score for piano and bass. The piano part includes chords and accompaniment. The bass part includes a 'WALK' section. Chord symbols include Eb7(b9), COMB. Ebmaj7, C7(b9), F#m7, Bb7(b9), Bbm7, Eb7(b9), and Abmaj7.

Musical score for DRUMS, showing a rhythmic pattern with a 'TUNE' section.

47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54



CONDUCTOR

55 TRUMPET SOLO

THE LITTLE DRUMMER BOY

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

BARI.

TP. 1

TP. 2

TP. 3

TP. 4

TEN. 1

TEN. 2

TEN. 3

BASS TEN.

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62

SOLO

TRP. SOLO

(Bkgrds.)

m2

Bbm7

Bbm6

Em7(b9)

A7(b9)

Dm7

Bm7

E7

Abm7

D7(b9)

Abm7

Abm6

Dm7(b9)

G7(b9)

Cm7

Am7

D7(b9)

Gbm7

C7(b9)

(Abm7)

Abm6

Dm7(b9)

G7(b9)

Cm7

Am7

D7(b9)

Gbm7

C7(b9)

Abm7

Abm6

Dm7(b9)

G7(b9)

Cm7

Am7

D7(b9)

Gbm7

C7(b9)

CONDUCTOR

63

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

SARI.

TPT. 1

TPT. 2

TPT. 3

TPT. 4

TEN. 1

TEN. 2

TEN. 3

BASS TEN.

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

64

65

66

67

68

69

70

Chord progression for guitar/bass:

- 63: F#m7
- 64: Bb7(b9)
- 65: Ebmaj7
- 66: C7(b9)
- 67: F#m7
- 68: Bb7(b9)
- 69: Bbm7
- 70: Eb7(b9)

Trumpet 2 and Guitar/Bass parts include melodic lines and chord markings: G#m7, C7(b9), F#maj7, D7(b9), G#m7, C7, C#m7, F7(b9).

CONDUCTOR

THE LITTLE DRUMMER BOY

71

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

SARI.

TPT. 1

TPT. 2

TPT. 3

TPT. 4

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

TBN. 3

BASS TBN.

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78

ENG. SOLI

mf

Bbm7 Bbm6 Em7(b9) A7(b9) Dm7 Gm7 C7(b9) Fm7 Am7 D7(b9)

Abm7 Abm6 Dm7(b9) G7(b9) Cm7 Fm7 Bb7(b9) Ebm7 Gm7 C7(b9)

Abm7 Abm6 Dm7(b9) G7(b9) Cm7 Fm7 Bb7(b9) Ebm7 Gm7 C7(b9)

Abm7 Abm6 Dm7(b9) G7(b9) Cm7 Fm7 Bb7(b9) Ebm7 Gm7 C7(b9)



CONDUCTOR

THE LITTLE DRUMMER BOY

79

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

SAR. 1

TPT. 1

TPT. 2

TPT. 3

TPT. 4

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

TBN. 3

BASS TBN.

GR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86

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ENS. SOLO SHOUT CHORUS

G#m7 END SOLO

F#m7 Eb7 Ebmaj7 C7(b9) F#m7 Eb7 Bbm7 Eb7(b9)

CONDUCTOR

THE LITTLE DRUMMER BOY

87

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

SARI.

TPT. 1

TPT. 2

TPT. 3

TPT. 4

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

TBN. 3

BASS TBN.

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

87

88

89

90

91

92

93

94

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Abmaj7 Abmaj6 Dmi7(b9) G7(b9) Cmi7 Am7 D7 Gmaj7 C7(b9)

95

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

SARI.

TRP. 1

TRP. 2

TRP. 3

TRP. 4

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

TBN. 3

BASS TBN.

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

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95

96

97

98

99

100

101

102

SOLO FILL

CONDUCTOR

THE LITTLE DRUMMER BOY

103

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

SAXI.

TRP. 1

TRP. 2

TRP. 3

TRP. 4

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

TBN. 3

BASS TBN.

GR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

SOLO-----1

BEUSHES

103 104 105 106 107 108 109 110

Abmaj7 Abmaj6 Cm7(b9) G7(b9) Cm7 Fm7 Bb7 Eb6



Musical score for 'The Little Drummer Boy' featuring various instruments and a conductor part. The score includes staves for Alto 1, Alto 2, Tenor 1, Tenor 2, Baritone, Trumpet 1-4, Trombone 1-3, Bass Trombone, Guitar, Piano, Bass, and Drums. The piano part includes chord symbols such as Cui, Bb7, Bb9(b9), Eb, Eb7, F#m9, Bb7, Eb, Eb, Eb7, F#m, Bb7(b9), and Eb. The drums part includes 'SOLO FILL' markings. Measure numbers 111 through 118 are indicated at the bottom of the page.

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Musical score for 'The Little Drummer Boy' featuring various instruments and vocal parts. The score includes staves for Alto 1, Alto 2, Tenor 1, Tenor 2, Bass, Trumpet 1-4, Trombone 1-3, Bass Trombone, Guitar, Piano (PNO.), Bass, and Drums. The piano part includes chord symbols such as A6, Em7(b9), Fm7, Bb/D, Eb, C7, Fm7, A6, Eb/G, Fm7, Eb, Ebmaj7, Eb9, Eb9, and Dmi7(b9). The drums part includes 'SOLO FILL' markings.

119

120

121

122

123

124

125

126



CONDUCTOR

THE LITTLE DRUMMER BOY

Musical score for CONDUCTOR, featuring parts for ALTO 1, ALTO 2, TENOR 1, TENOR 2, BARI., TRP. 1, TRP. 2, TRP. 3, TRP. 4, TBN. 1, TBN. 2, TBN. 3, BASS TBN., GTR., PNO., BASS, and DRUMS. The score includes a large red watermark: "Preview Requires Purchase".

Chord symbols for PNO. and BASS:

- 127: (Dmi7(b9)) G7(b9)
- 128: F#m7 G7(b9)
- 129: Eb Cm7 Bb7 Bb13(b9) Eb E67 F#m7 G7 Eb
- 130: Bb7(b9) Eb E67 F#m7 G7 Eb
- 131: Bb7(b9) Eb E67 F#m7 G7 Eb
- 132: Bb7(b9) Eb E67 F#m7 G7 Eb
- 133: Bb7(b9) Eb E67 F#m7 G7 Eb
- 134: Bb7(b9) Eb E67 F#m7 G7 Eb
- 135: Bb7(b9) Eb E67 F#m7 G7 Eb

DRUMS: SOLO FILL

137

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

SARI.

TP. 1

TP. 2

TP. 3

TP. 4

TEN. 1

TEN. 2

TEN. 3

BASS TEN.

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

(SOLO FILL)

136 137 138 139 140 141 142 143 144

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ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

BARI.

TPT. 1

TPT. 2

TPT. 3

TPT. 4

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

TBN. 3

BASS TBN.

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

Preview Only
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145 146 147 148 149 150 151 152 153 154

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