

It Don't Mean a Thing (If It Ain't Got That Swing)

Music by Duke Ellington
Words by Irving Mills
Arranged by Ralph Ford

INSTRUMENTATION

Conductor
C Flute (Optional)
1st E \flat Alto Saxophone
2nd E \flat Alto Saxophone
1st B \flat Tenor Saxophone
2nd B \flat Tenor Saxophone
E \flat Baritone Saxophone (Optional)
1st B \flat Trumpet
2nd B \flat Trumpet
3rd B \flat Trumpet
4th B \flat Trumpet (Optional)
1st Trombone
2nd Trombone
3rd Trombone (Optional)
4th Trombone (Optional)
Guitar Chords
Guitar (Optional)
Piano
Bass
Drums

Optional/Alternate Parts

B \flat Clarinet
Vibraphone
Tuba
Horn in F (Doubles 1st Trombone)
1st Baritone Horn T.C./B \flat Tenor Saxophone (Doubles 1st Trombone)
2nd Baritone Horn T.C./B \flat Tenor Saxophone (Doubles 2nd Trombone)

YOUNG
JAZZ
ENSEMBLE

NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

Recognized as one of the “standards” of jazz, Duke Ellington’s masterpiece composition has been covered by hundreds—if not thousands—of artists from all genres of music.

This arrangement includes an added twist of stating the first half, or four measures, of the verse in a Latin style, and then answering with the second half (four measures) of the verse in a swing style. For rehearsal purposes, it will be imperative for the rhythm section to rehearse this transition to ensure a smooth change of “feel” between the styles. The key difference in these two patterns is the Latin to swing rhythms in the drums and piano, and the change from a samba-style bass riff to a walking bass pattern. The winds should swing the eighths in the swing section but play eighths more straight and even in the Latin section. These differences become less obvious at a faster tempo.

The wind articulation stays much the same in between the two styles, utilizing long-short (doo-daht) eighth-note patterns. Be sure to exaggerate the f dynamic from mm. 32–35, with a big hit and fall-off on the last half of m. 35 leading into the solo sections at m. 36. In general, *marcato*, or rooftop, markings are detached and accented—think “daht.” *Staccatos* are short but not clipped or too short.

There are written solos beginning at m. 36 for tenor 1 and trumpet 1. Feel free to cue the backgrounds at your discretion, particularly if the solo section is repeated more than twice for additional solos. As in the verse and throughout the chart, the transfer of styles remains constant. Leading into the ending of the chart, beginning at m. 99, direct the build to start softly and exaggerate to the conclusion. Enjoy a new take on the classic Ellington masterpiece!

Enjoy!

—Ralph Ford



**Ralph
Ford**

Ralph Ford (b. 1963) is a composer, arranger, conductor, educator, media creator, producer, writer, radio host, and announcer with over thirty years of experience in these various genres. He is an exclusive composer and arranger for the Belwin division of Alfred Music, with over 240 titles available worldwide for orchestra, concert band, jazz ensemble, and marching band.

He earned his undergraduate degree in 1986 and his Master of Science degree in 1988 from Troy. He was then appointed to the Troy music faculty where he taught orchestration, arranging, theory, technology, jazz studies, and applied brass followed by his appointment as director of bands, coordinator of winds and percussion, and professor of music. Ralph retired from Troy University in June 2011.

A frequently commissioned composer, his music has been premiered and performed by university, military, professional, community, and school ensembles around the world. Ralph is also in demand as a conductor, clinician, adjudicator, and guest lecturer throughout the United States and abroad.

CONDUCTOR
46157S

IT DON'T MEAN A THING

(If It Ain't Got That Swing)

Music by Duke Ellington
Words by Irving Mills
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LATIN $\text{♩} = 100-112$

C FLUTE (OPTIONAL)

1ST E♭ ALTO SAXOPHONE

2ND E♭ ALTO SAXOPHONE

1ST B♭ TENOR SAXOPHONE

2ND B♭ TENOR SAXOPHONE

E♭ BARITONE SAXOPHONE (OPTIONAL)

1ST B♭ TRUMPET

2ND B♭ TRUMPET

3RD B♭ TRUMPET

4TH B♭ TRUMPET (OPTIONAL)

1ST TROMBONE

2ND TROMBONE

3RD TROMBONE (OPTIONAL)

4TH TROMBONE (OPTIONAL)

QUINAR (OPTIONAL)

PIANO

BASS

DRUMS

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Musical score for 'It Don't Mean a Thing'. The score includes parts for Flute, Alto 1 & 2, Tenor 1 & 2, Baritone, Trumpet 1-4, Trombone 1-4, Guitar, Piano, Bass, and Drums. The music is in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). A large red watermark 'Preview Only Requires Purchase' is overlaid diagonally across the page. The score shows measures 9 through 16, with a 'SOLO' section for the piano starting at measure 9. Chord markings include Fmi, Gm7, and Fmi. The conductor's part shows a downbeat at the beginning of measure 9.

9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16

CONDUCTOR

IT DON'T MEAN A THING

SWING

FLUTE (17)

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

SAXI.

TRP. 1

TRP. 2

TRP. 3

TRP. 4

TEN. 1

TEN. 2

TEN. 3

TEN. 4

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24

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25 LATIN SWING

FLUTE

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

BARI.

TRP. 1

TRP. 2

TRP. 3

TRP. 4

TEN. 1

TEN. 2

TEN. 3

TEN. 4

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32

Legal Use Preview Requires Purchase

FLUTE

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

SARI.

TRP. 1

TRP. 2

TRP. 3

TRP. 4

TEN. 1

TEN. 2

TEN. 3

TEN. 4

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40

E^b7 A7 D⁹ E^b7 E7 G^b7 G7(b9) E7(b9) G7 E^b A⁹ G7 G⁹

The image shows a page of a musical score for the song "It Don't Mean A Thing". The score is arranged for a conductor and includes parts for Flute, Alto 1, Alto 2, Tenor 1, Tenor 2, Saxophone (SARI.), Trumpet 1-4, Tenor 1-4, Guitar (GTR.), Piano (PNO.), Bass, and Drums. The music is written in a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a common time signature. A large, diagonal red watermark reading "Preview Only" is overlaid across the entire page. The page number "- 5 -" is centered at the top, and the title "IT DON'T MEAN A THING" is in the top right corner. The conductor's part is labeled "CONDUCTOR" in the top left. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings. At the bottom, there are measure numbers 33 through 40 and a series of chord symbols: E^b7, A7, D⁹, E^b7, E7, G^b7, G7(b9), E7(b9), G7, E^b, A⁹, G7, and G⁹.

CONDUCTOR

IT DON'T MEAN A THING

41 LATIN SWING

Musical score for conductor, featuring parts for Flute, Alto 1, Alto 2, Tenor 1, Tenor 2, Bari., Trumpet 1, Trumpet 2, Trumpet 3, Trumpet 4, Tenor 1, Tenor 2, Tenor 3, Tenor 4, Gtr., PNO., BASS, and DRUMS. The score includes dynamics such as *cresc.* and *f*, and includes a large red watermark reading "Preview Only! Legal Use Requires Purchase".

FLUTE

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

BARI.

TPT. 1

TPT. 2

TPT. 3

TPT. 4

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

TBN. 3

TBN. 4

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

SOLOS ON CUE

1ST TIME ONLY

2ND TIME ONLY

SOLO 1ST TIME

(Saxos.)

Chords: F#m7, F#m9, C7, D7, G#m6, B7, E7(b9), E6sus, A7, C9(#9)

56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63



CONDUCTOR

IT DON'T MEAN A THING

64

FLUTE

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

BARI.

TRP. 1

TRP. 2

TRP. 3

TRP. 4

TEN. 1

TEN. 2

TEN. 3

TEN. 4

TRP.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71

Chord symbols: Gmi6, Gmi6(9), Gmi9, Eb9, D9(b9), Gmi9, C7, Cm7(b9), Fm9, Eb9, Cm7, Fm7

Chord symbols: Fmi6, Fmi6(9), Fmi9, D9, Cm7(b9), Fmi9, Eb9, Cm7(b9), Eb9, Ab9, Cm7



CONDUCTOR

IT DON'T MEAN A THING

REPEAT AS NEEDED FOR SOLOS

72 SWING

FLUTE

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

SAXI.

TRP. 1

TRP. 2

TRP. 3

TRP. 4

TEN. 1

TEN. 2

TEN. 3

TEN. 4

GRV.

PNO.

SAGG.

DRUMS

72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79

Chords: F#m7, B9, Ebm7, F#m7, F#o7, Ebm7/G, C7, C#5, F9, D7(#9)

Chords: Ebm7, Ab9, D#m7, Ebm7, Eo7, D#m7/F, Bb7, Bb15, Eb9, C7(#9)



30 LATIN

FLUTE

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

BARI.

TPTR. 1

TPTR. 2

TPTR. 3

TPTR. 4

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

TBN. 3

TBN. 4

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

Chord symbols: G^{mi6} , $G^{mi}(sus7)$, G^{mi9} , E^b9 , $D9(\#9)$, G^{mi9} , $C7$, $C^{mi7}(b9)$, F^{sus} , B^b9 , $D7(\#9)$ END SOLO

Chord symbols: F^{mi6} , $F^{mi}(sus7)$, F^{mi9} , D^b9 , $C9(\#9)$, F^{mi9} , B^b7 , $B^b^{mi7}(b9)$, E^b^{sus} , A^b9 , $C7(\#9)$

80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87



CONDUCTOR

TO CONTINUE

89 LATIN

SWING

DRUM SOLO

IT DON'T MEAN A THING

Musical score for CONDUCTOR, featuring parts for FLUTE, ALTO 1, ALTO 2, TENOR 1, TENOR 2, BARI., TRP. 1, TRP. 2, TRP. 3, TRP. 4, TEN. 1, TEN. 2, TEN. 3, TEN. 4, GTR., PNO., BASS, and DRUMS. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamics like *CRESC.* and *SOLO*. A large red watermark reading "Preview Only" is overlaid diagonally across the page.

99

Musical score for CONDUCTOR, featuring parts for FLUTE, ALTO 1, ALTO 2, TENOR 1, TENOR 2, BARI., TRP. 1, TRP. 2, TRP. 3, TRP. 4, TEN. 1, TEN. 2, TEN. 3, TEN. 4, GTR., PNO., BASS, and DRUMS. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings.

97 98 99 100 101 102 103 104



FLUTE

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

BARI.

TRP. 1

TRP. 2

TRP. 3

TRP. 4

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

TBN. 3

TBN. 4

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

105 106 107 108 109 110 111 112 113

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