

MTSU JAZZ ENSEMBLE and COMBO AUDITIONS

Fall 2026

Jazz Ensemble audition guidelines for fall are as follows:

- Please **enter your contact information**, and your **availability** for ensembles in the following online form: <https://forms.gle/ecqwZcu1G9LW48wD8>
- **Download** the correct jazz ensemble audition excerpt at <https://music.mtsu.edu/ensembles/auditioninformation/> and perform the bracketed portions for the faculty on the following dates:
 - **Rhythm section instruments, vocalists – Tuesday, August 25, 2:45 – 5 p.m., SFA 101**
 - **Horn players – Wednesday, August 26, 3 – 4:30, SFA 101**
- Sign up for an audition time slot outside of SFA 101 the week before the beginning of the semester.
 - All auditions for solo chairs should **improvise** play the melody and then improvise one chorus of the chord progression to Sonny Rollins' "Oleo". For a concert lead sheet, go to <https://www.jwpepper.com/oleo-90530239e/p> Make sure to find the correct key for your instrument.
- A short jazz sightreading excerpt will be included.
- Results will be posted on Thursday/Friday. All ensembles will start rehearsals on the second week of classes. **Please register for the correct section as soon as you find out your placement.** If you already have registered for a section we will move you to the correct section.

MTSU JAZZ COMBO AUDITION guidelines

FALL 2026

- Please **enter your contact information**, and your **availability** for ensembles in the following online form: <https://forms.gle/ecqwZcu1G9LW48wD8>
- Sign up for an audition time slot outside of SFA 101 the week before the beginning of the semester. Auditions will happen:
 - **Rhythm section instruments, vocalists – Tuesday, August 25, 2:45 – 5 p.m., SFA 101**
 - **Horn players – Wednesday, August 26, 3 – 4:30, SFA 101**

- **Please** be prepared to perform the following for the faculty:
 - **Horn players** should play the melody and then improvise one chorus of the chord progression to Sonny Rollins' "Oleo". For a lead sheet, go to <https://www.jwpepper.com/oleo-90530239e/p> Make sure to find the correct key for your instrument.
 - **Guitarists, Bassists, and Pianists** should play the entire melody, then improvise one chorus over the chord progression to Sonny Rollins' "Oleo" and comp/walk the changes for a chorus, keeping the form. For a lead sheet, go to <https://www.jwpepper.com/oleo-90530239e/p>
 - **Drummers** should perform short 8-bar samples of the following styles: Fast bebop swing, medium swing, ballad with brushes, bossa nova, samba, 12/8 afro-cuban, funk. A sight reading excerpt may be required.
 - **Vocalists** should sing a favorite jazz standard, with your own backing track or accompanist.
- Results will be posted on Thursday/Friday so ensembles can begin after Labor Day. **Please register for the correct section as soon as you find out your placement.** If you already have registered for a section we will move you to the correct section.

ALTOS + BARIS

Play bracketed
portions

SIERRA MUSIC PRESENTS
THE OLIVER NELSON SERIES

AS PERFORMED AND RECORDED BY THE BUDDY RICH ORCHESTRA

Tone - You Blow on
beginning
Mellow Tone
ab. concert

ALTO SAXOPHONE 1

DUKE ELLINGTON
ARRANGED BY OLIVER NELSON

MEDIUM SWING $\text{♩} = 150$

Handwritten notes: "Tone - You Blow on beginning Mellow Tone ab. concert" and "ALTOS + BARIS Play bracketed portions".

Handwritten annotations on the score: "2" above the first staff, "UNIS" above the second staff, and "mf" below the second staff.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100

ALTO SAXOPHONE 1 / "IN A MELLOW TONE" PG. 2.

Handwritten musical score for Alto Saxophone 1, page 2. The score is written on ten staves, with measures numbered 37, 41, 46, 51, 56, 61, 66, and 71. The key signature is one flat (Bb). The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, slurs, and dynamic markings.

Handwritten annotations and markings include:

- 37**: *STRONG!* (above the staff), *SOLI* (below the staff).
- 41**: Boxed measure number.
- 46**: Boxed measure number.
- 51**: Boxed measure number.
- 56**: Boxed measure number, *mf* (below the staff).
- 57**: Boxed measure number, *ff on 4!* (above the staff).
- 61**: Boxed measure number.
- 66**: Boxed measure number, *ff on 4!* (above the staff).
- 71**: Boxed measure number, *straight + short* (above the staff), *NO VIS.* (below the staff).

A large curved line spans from measure 37 to measure 71, indicating a continuous phrase or section.

TURN PAGE (TIME)

TENORS
Play bracketed
section

SIERRA MUSIC PRESENTS
THE OLIVER NELSON SERIES

IN A MELLOW TONE

AS PERFORMED AND RECORDED BY THE BUDDY RICH ORCHESTRA

AFTER SHOWN (3rd)

TENOR SAXOPHONE 1

MEDIUM SWING $\text{♩} = 132$

DUKE ELLINGTON
ARRANGED BY OLIVER NELSON

2

9

mf

25

33

1

7

12

17

22

27

32

TENOR SAXOPHONE 1 / "IN A MELLOW TONE" pg. 2.

57

41

46

51

57

62

67

73

78

STRONG!

SOLI

STRG

STRG

NO VIS.

TURN PAGE (TIME)

The musical score is written for Tenor Saxophone 1. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notation includes eighth and sixteenth notes, often beamed together, and rests. Slurs are used to group phrases. Dynamic markings include 'STRONG!' and 'SOLI'. There are also handwritten notes like 'STRG' and 'NO VIS.'. Measure numbers 41, 57, and 73 are boxed. The score ends with a double bar line and the instruction 'TURN PAGE (TIME)'.

LEAD TRPTS

April in Paris - Basie

1ST 8^b TRUMPET

Words by
E.Y. HARBURG

Play bracketed portions

$\text{♩} = 130$ ($\text{♩} = \text{♩} \text{♩}$)

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86

3rd x only

PLAY 3 TIMES!

FPZ

Section Trumpets -

Play all upper parts,

from beginning - ms. 21, beat 1

KENNY DORHAM'S SOLO ON "SERENITY"

SCORE

FROM JOE HENDERSON, "IN AND OUT"

TRANSCRIBED BY JAMEY SIMMONS

TRUMPET IN B $\flat$

The musical score is written for a Trumpet in B-flat in 4/4 time. It consists of eight staves of music. Above the staves, the following chords are indicated: E ϕ , A7ALT, B $\flat$ MA7#11, A $\flat$ MA7#11, F#-7, B7, G-7, C7, FMA7, E ϕ , A7(b9), D-7, B $\flat$ -7, E $\flat$ 7, A7ALT A $\flat$ 7, G7, F#MA7#11, G ϕ , C7ALT, FMA7, E ϕ , A7ALT, E ϕ , A7ALT, E ϕ , A7ALT, B $\flat$ MA7#11, A $\flat$ MA7#11, F#-7, B7, G-7, C7, FMA7, E ϕ , A7(b9), D-7, B $\flat$ -7 E $\flat$ 7, A7ALT, A $\flat$ 7, G7. The score includes various musical notations such as eighth notes, quarter notes, half notes, and triplet markings. Measure numbers 5, 9, 13, 17, 20, and 23 are indicated at the beginning of their respective staves.

LEAD TROMBONE

SIERRA MUSIC PRESENTS
THE OLIVER NELSON SERIES

Play bracketed portions

IN A MELLOW TONE

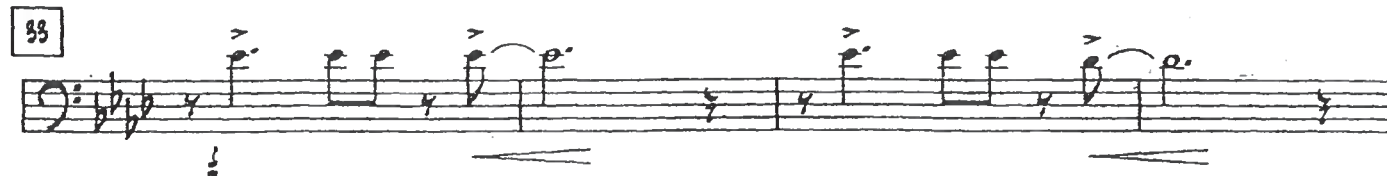
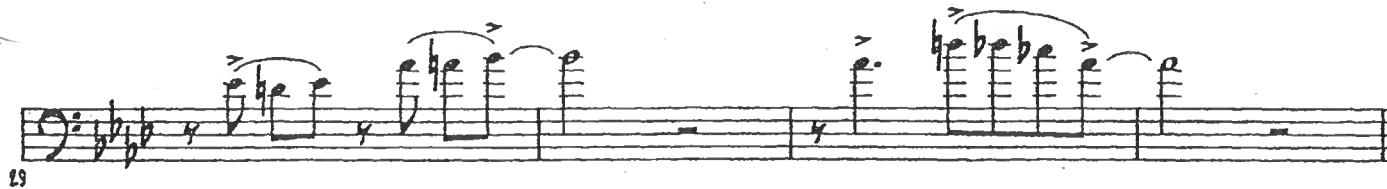
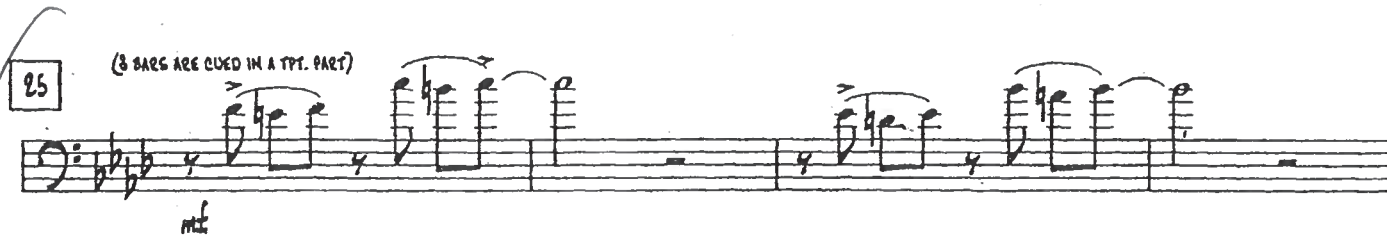
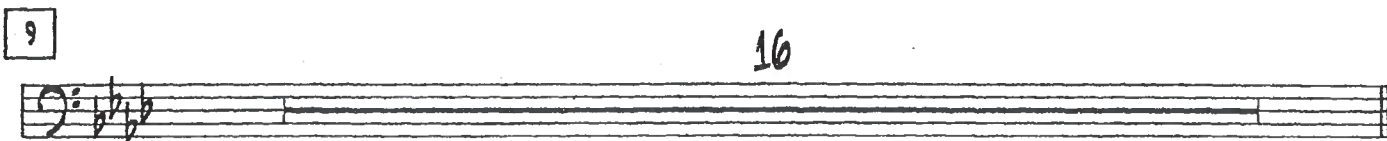
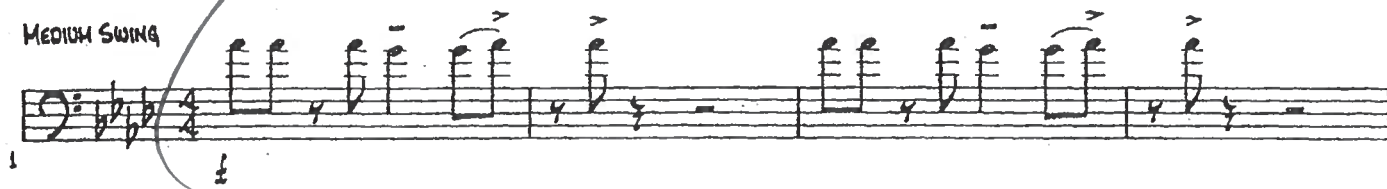
AS PERFORMED AND RECORDED BY THE BUDDY RICH ORCHESTRA

DUKE ELLINGTON

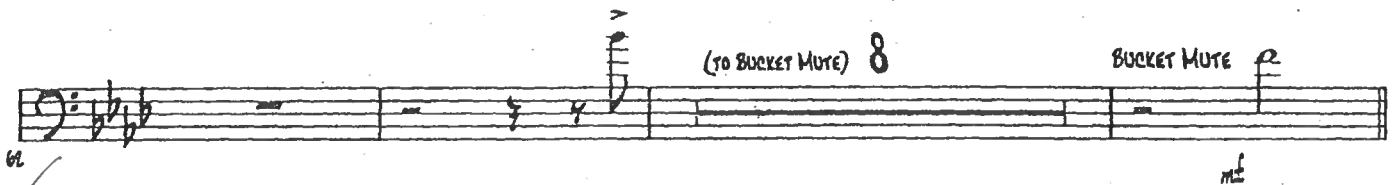
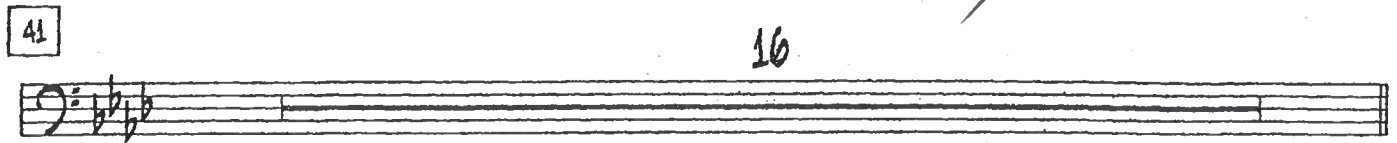
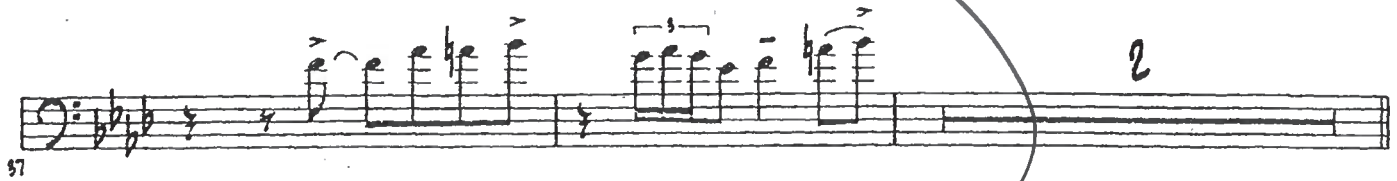
ARRANGED BY OLIVER NELSON

TROMBONE 1

MEDIUM SWING



TROMBONE 1 / "IN A MELLOW TONE" pg. 2.



TURN PAGE (TIME)

SECTION TROMBONES

SIERRA MUSIC PRESENTS
THE OLIVER NELSON SERIES

Play bracketed
portions

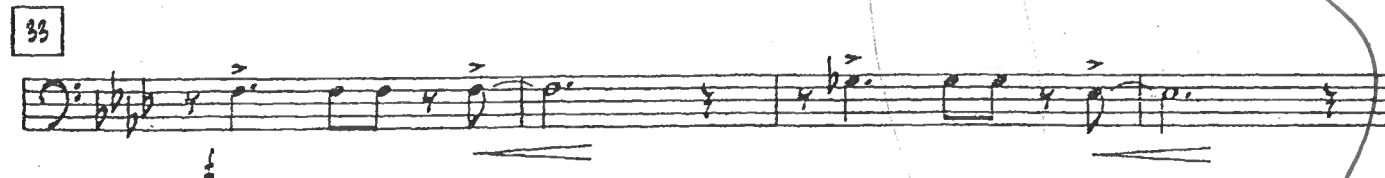
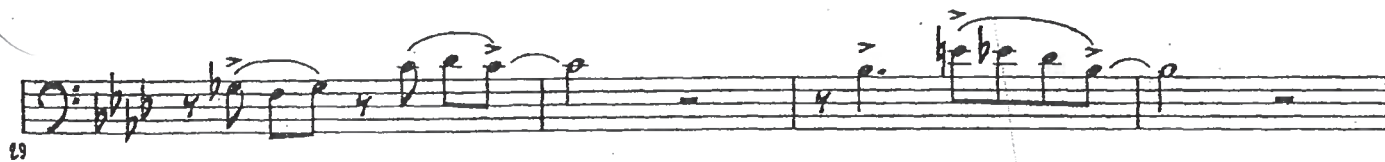
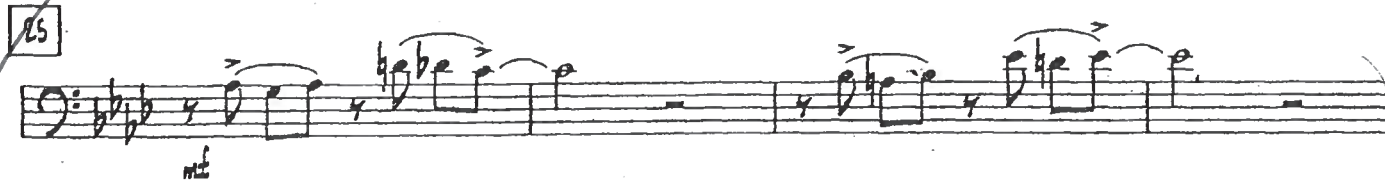
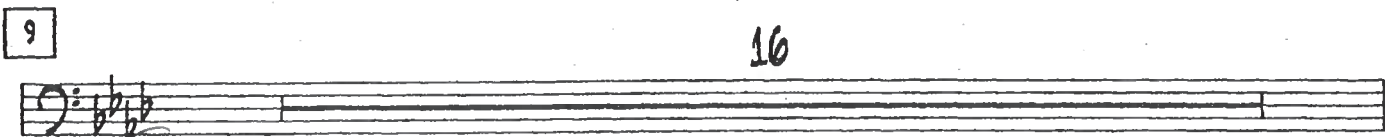
IN A MELLOW TONE

AS PERFORMED AND RECORDED BY THE BUDDY RICH ORCHESTRA

TROMBONE 3

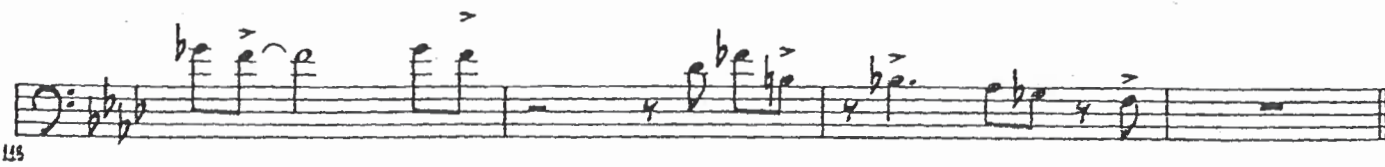
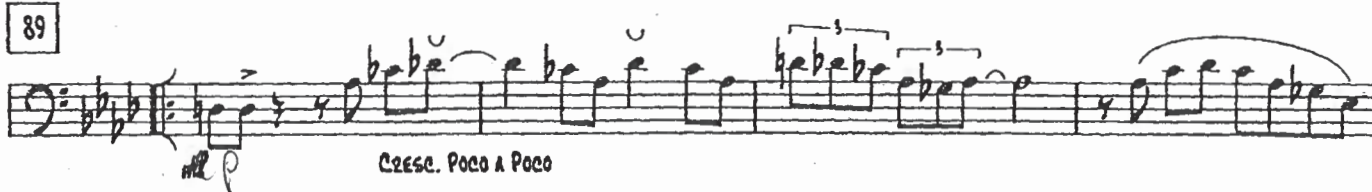
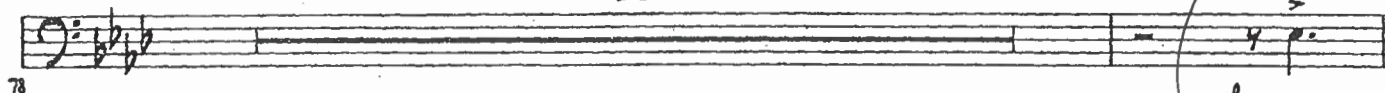
DUKE ELLINGTON
ARRANGED BY OLIVER NELSON

MEDIUM SWING



TROMBONE 3 / "IN A MELLOW TONE" PG. 3.

10



Bass Bone
(also play
section part)

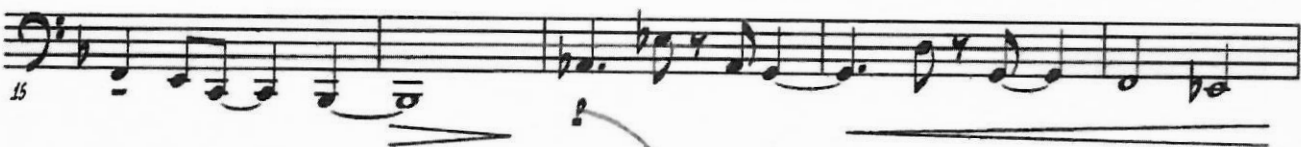
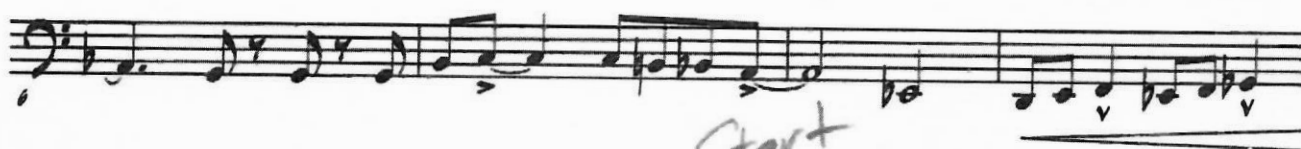
Play 13 - end

GETTING TO THE BOTTOM OF THINGS

FAST LATIN (MAMBO)

BY JAMEY SIMMONS

BASS
TROMBONE



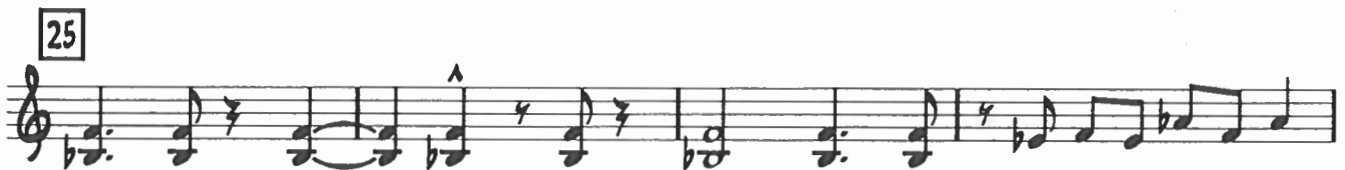
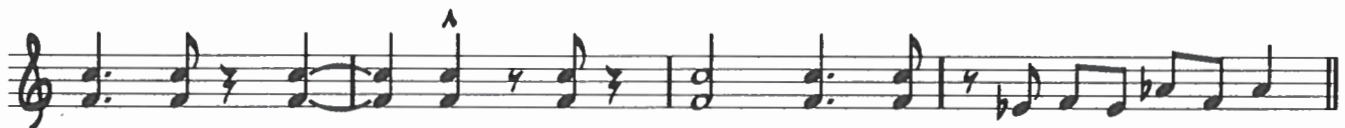
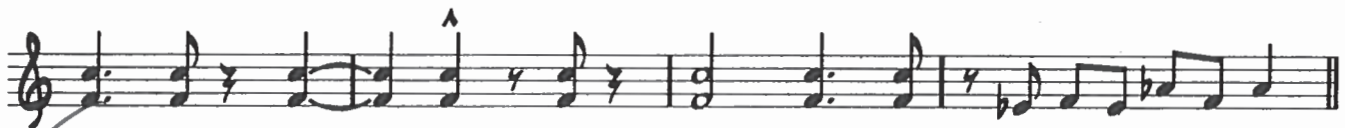
VIBEST
GUITAR

Play bracketed portions WINDS OF THE GULLAH

NEW ORLEANS SECOND LINE GROOVE

COMPOSED BY JIM WHITE/ ARRANGED BY PAUL MCKEE

♩ = 220



37

4

~~Handwritten text, possibly "F#m9"~~

QUIAR

3

81 F7(#9)

Comp 1x



89 Bb13(SUS4)

F7(#9)



97 E maj7(#4)

Db maj7(#4)

Bb maj7(#4)

G maj7(#4)



101 F#m9

Eb7(SUS4) E7(SUS4)

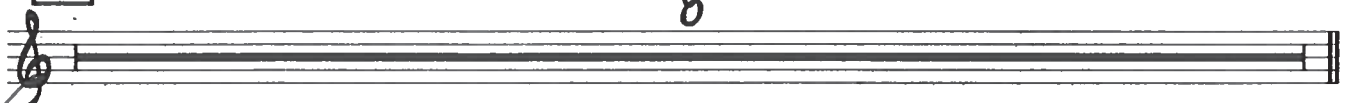


109 F7(#9)



117

8



125

w/T885



133



141

149

157 E maj7(#4) C# maj7(#4) Bb maj7(#4) G maj7(#4) Gb maj7(#4)

165 8

173 6

181 D7(#9) Db7(#9) C7(#9)

185

193

201

Alsa 1a

PIANO

Play
bracketed
portions

WINDS OF THE GULLAH

COMPOSED BY JIM WHITE/ ARRANGED BY PAUL MCKEE

NEW ORLEANS SECOND LINE GROOVE

$\text{♩} = 220$

8



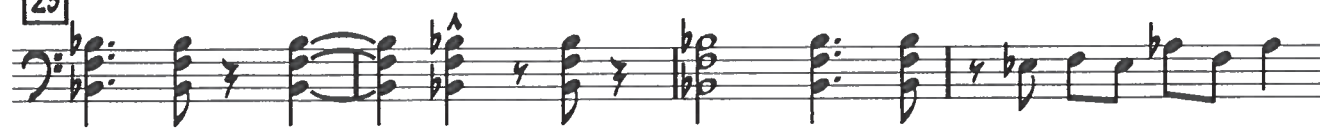
9



17 (TRBS/SAXES)



25



33 E maj7(#4)

D $\flat$ maj7(#4)

B $\flat$ maj7(#4)

G maj7(#4)



Solo section *Complex* ^{ss tb tp pf sx gt. ①} ^{tb-pf-brs.}
PIANO

[81] F7(#9)



[89] Bb13(SUS4)

F7(#9)



[97] E maj7(#4)

Db maj7(#4)

Bb maj7(#4)

G maj7(#4)



[101] F#m9 Montuno

Eb7(SUS4) E7(SUS4)

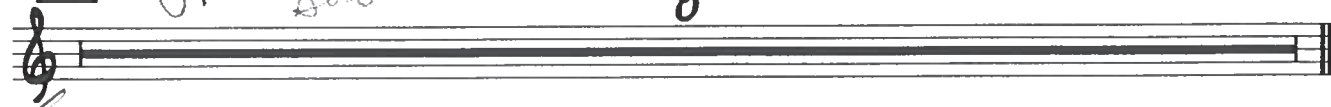


[109] F7(#9)



[117] *drum solo*

8



[125]



[133]



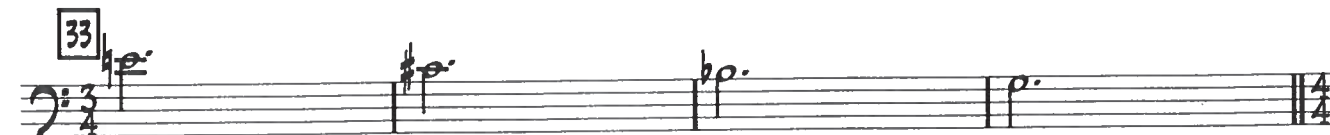
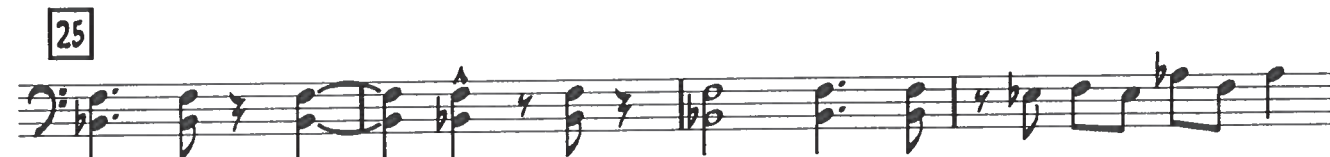
ACOUSTIC BASS

WINDS OF THE GULLAH

*Play
bracketed parts*

COMPOSED BY JIM WHITE/ ARRANGED BY PAUL MCKEE

♩ = 220 NEW ORLEANS SECOND LINE GROOVE



Playbassline 1x

ACOUSTIC BASS

3

81 F7(#9)

last solo = Devante



89 Bb13(SUS4)

F7(#9)



97 E maj7(#4)

Db maj7(#4)

Bb maj7(#4)

G maj7(#4)



101 F#m9

Eb7(SUS4) E7(SUS4)



109 F7(#9)



F7(#9)



117

8



125

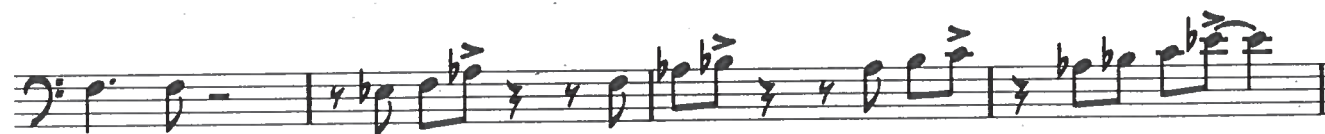


mf



133





Sierra Music Presents

the Bill Holman Big Band Series

ISN'T SHE LOVELY

As recorded by the Bill Holman Band on JVC

Drums

Play bracketed portion

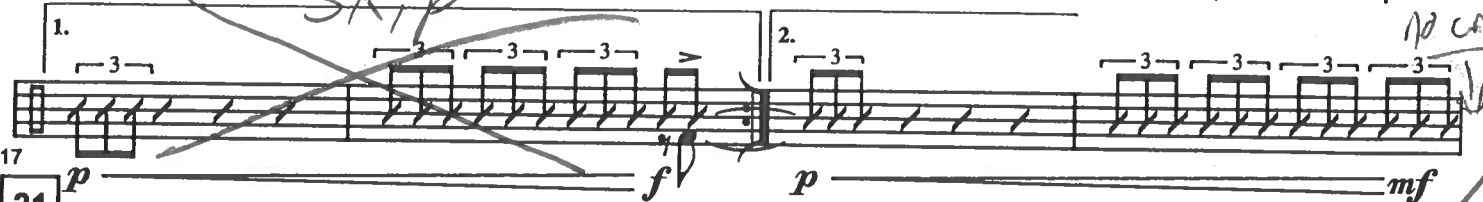
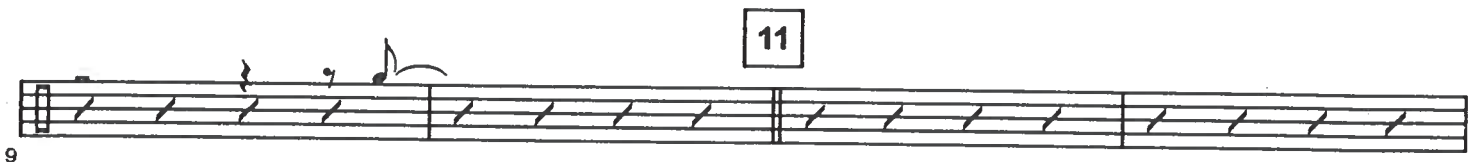
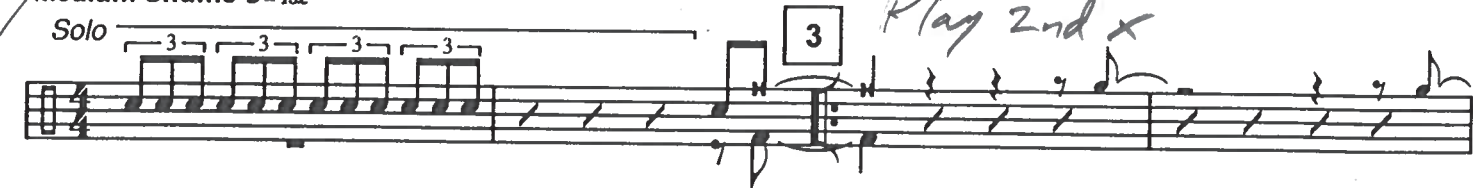
Composed by Stevie Wonder

Arranged by Bill Holman

Medium Shuffle ♩ = 132

Solo

Play 2nd x



85

Float

(4)

85

Shuffle

89

*mf**f**mf*

Steady

*f**p*

94

*f**mp**f*

exaggerate it

99

p

grad. cresc.

ff

104

104

108

112

112

Solo Jeff Hamilton

(4)

End Solo

116

124

124

128