

FIRST YEAR CHARTS

FOR JAZZ ENSEMBLE

 Belwin™ JAZZ
a division of Alfred

Take the "A" Train

BILLY STRAYHORN

Arranged by VINCE GASSI

INSTRUMENTATION

Conductor
1st E♭ Alto Saxophone
2nd E♭ Alto Saxophone
1st B♭ Tenor Saxophone
2nd B♭ Tenor Saxophone (Optional)
E♭ Baritone Saxophone (Optional)
1st B♭ Trumpet
2nd B♭ Trumpet
3rd B♭ Trumpet (Optional)

1st Trombone
2nd Trombone (Optional)
3rd Trombone (Optional)
Guitar Chords
Guitar (Optional)
Piano
Bass
Drums

Optional Alternate Parts

C Flute
Tuba
Horn in F (Doubles 1st Trombone)
Baritone T.C./B♭ Tenor Saxophone (Doubles 1st Trombone)

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NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

Regarding tempo, this chart can be played at a slightly faster tempo with more advanced players, or at a more relaxed tempo with less experienced players.

Dynamics are a relative thing and are often tempered by the attempt to achieve balance in and between the sections of the band. Our ear must be the final judge of just how loud **forte** is as well as every other dynamic on the spectrum. Each player must listen carefully to themselves, their section and the rest of the band.

The marcato or rooftop accent (^) indicates that the note should be played with a detached, hard accent (not a clipped staccato).

At various points in the piece (measures 11–16 for example), the drummer has the word "Time" written in the staff with cue notes on top of the staff. His or her job at this point is to provide a steady, secure sense of time while accentuating the cued ensemble notes. These cued notes are often played as cymbal crashes or rim shots (stick hitting rim and snare head simultaneously).

If the soloists wish to deviate or embellish the written part at measures 41 and 49, I suggest the soloists stay within the diatonic scale, which is concert B♭ in this case. For example, at 41 the alto sax player will sound fine if he or she plays in the scale of written G (measures 41 and 42). At 43 when the chord changes to A7(5), there is an alteration to the G scale. The alto soloist can still think in the key of G, however, but written C or D should change to C♯ and D♯ instead to fit the chord. Similarly, this occurs in the trumpet solo in measures 49–52 where the soloist can think in the key of written C, but in 51 and 52 the F and G should be played F♯ and G♯, the raised 4th and 5th notes of the C scale.

The shout chorus (measures 69–84) is the climactic point of the piece and should be played with energy without speeding up or slowing down.

There have been many fine arrangements of *Take the "A" Train*. It would be wise to have your students listen to as many recordings as possible to include the original by legendary bandleader Duke Ellington. I hope you and the students enjoy playing this chart.

Enjoy!

—Vince Gassi



**Vince
Gassi**

Vince Gassi received his Bachelor of Music Education degree from the University of Western Ontario in London, Canada and attended the Dick Grove School of Music specializing in composition and arranging. Mr. Gassi has written for concert band, jazz ensemble, orchestra, woodwind and brass ensembles, and choral groups. Currently, Mr. Gassi teaches instrumental music, MIDI technology, composition and musical theatre at Mary Ward Catholic Secondary School in Toronto, Canada.

CONDUCTOR
30614S

TAKE THE "A" TRAIN

By BILLY STRAYHORN
Arranged by VINCE GASSI

SWING $\text{d} = 130-142$

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

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CONDUCTOR

-2-

TAKE THE "A" TRAIN

9

FLUTE

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

BARI.

TPT. 1

TPT. 2

TPT. 3

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

TBN. 3

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

RIDE CYM.
ENS. CUE
TIME

CONDUCTOR

- 3 -

TAKE THE "A" TRAIN

(17)

FLUTE

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

SAR.

TPT. 1

TPT. 2

TPT. 3

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

TBN. 3

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

CRASH CYM.

DRUMS

17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24

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17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24

CONDUCTOR

- 4 -

TAKE THE "A" TRAIN

(25)

FLUTE

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

SAR.

TPT. 1

TPT. 2

TPT. 3

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

TBN. 3

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32

SAXES

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The musical score consists of 14 staves of music. The instruments listed on the left are: CONDUCTOR, FLUTE, ALTO 1, ALTO 2, TENOR 1, TENOR 2, SAR., TPT. 1, TPT. 2, TPT. 3, TBN. 1, TBN. 2, TBN. 3, GTR., PNO., BASS, and DRUMS. The score is numbered from 25 to 32. A large red watermark reading "Preview Legal Use Requires Purchase Only" is diagonally across the page.

CONDUCTOR

- 6 -

TAKE THE "A" TRAIN

A musical score page for 'Take the "A" Train'. The page is numbered '- 6 -' at the top center. The title 'TAKE THE "A" TRAIN' is written in the upper right corner. The score consists of ten staves, each with a different instrument name above it. From top to bottom, the instruments are: CONDUCTOR (indicated by a small stick figure), FLUTE, ALTO 1, ALTO 2, TENOR 1, TENOR 2, Sopr. (Soprano), TPT. 1 (Trumpet 1), TPT. 2 (Trumpet 2), TPT. 3 (Trumpet 3), TBN. 1 (Bassoon 1), TBN. 2 (Bassoon 2), TBN. 3 (Bassoon 3), GTR. (Guitar), PNO. (Piano), BASS (Bass), and DRUMS. The music is in 2/4 time, with measures numbered 33 through 40 along the bottom. A large red diagonal watermark reading 'Preview Requires Purchase' is overlaid across the entire page.

CONDUCTOR

- 6 -

TAKE THE "A" TRAIN

(41)

FLUTE G6 SOLO - AD LIB.

ALTO 1 A^{b7(b5)}

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

SAR. 1

TPT. 1

TPT. 2

TPT. 3

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

TBN. 3

GTR. 1 B^{b6}

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

(AS WRITTEN WITH ENSEMBLE)

41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48

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CONDUCTOR

- 7 -

TAKE THE "A" TRAIN

(49)

FLUTE

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

SAR.

TPT. 1

TPT. 2

TPT. 3

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

TBN. 3

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

SOLO - AD LIB.
C6

D7(B5)

(AS WRITTEN WITH ENSEMBLE)

E7(B5)

C7(B5)

C7(B5)

F7

B7

B7

49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56

*Preview Required
Legal Use Requires Purchase Only*

This musical score page contains ten staves of music for various instruments. The instruments listed on the left are Conductor, Flute, Alto 1, Alto 2, Tenor 1, Tenor 2, Bass, Tpt. 1, Tpt. 2, Tpt. 3, Tbn. 1, Tbn. 2, Tbn. 3, Gtr., Pno., Bass, and Drums. The page is numbered - 7 - at the top center. In the top right corner, the title TAKE THE "A" TRAIN is written. The music is divided into measures by rehearsal marks: (49), (50), (51), (52), (53), (54), (55), and (56). Measure 50 includes a note for Solo - Ad Lib. C6. Measures 51 and 52 include notes D7(B5) and (AS WRITTEN WITH ENSEMBLE). Measures 53 and 54 include notes E7(B5) and C7(B5). Measures 55 and 56 include notes F7, B7, and B7. The bottom of the page features a large red watermark that reads "Preview Required Legal Use Requires Purchase Only" diagonally across the staff lines.

CONDUCTOR

- 8 -

TAKE THE "A" TRAIN

(57)

FLUTE

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

SAR.

TPT. 1

TPT. 2

TPT. 3

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

TBN. 3

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64

TAKE THE "A" TRAIN

CONDUCTOR

- 9 -

TAKE THE "A" TRAIN

A musical score for 'Take the "A" Train' featuring ten staves of music. The instruments include FLUTE, ALTO 1, ALTO 2, TENOR 1, TENOR 2, Sopr. (Soprano), TPT. 1 (Trumpet 1), TPT. 2 (Trumpet 2), TPT. 3 (Trumpet 3), TBN. 1 (Bassoon 1), TBN. 2 (Bassoon 2), TBN. 3 (Bassoon 3), GTR. (Guitar), PNO. (Piano), BASS (Double Bass), and DRUMS. The score is in 2/4 time, with key signatures alternating between B-flat major and C major. Measure numbers 65 through 72 are shown at the bottom. A large red diagonal watermark reading 'Preview Requires Purchase Only' is overlaid across the score.

FLUTE
ALTO 1
ALTO 2
TENOR 1
TENOR 2
Sopr.
TPT. 1
TPT. 2
TPT. 3
TBN. 1
TBN. 2
TBN. 3
GTR.
PNO.
BASS
DRUMS

65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72

CONDUCTOR

- 10 -

TAKE THE "A" TRAIN

A musical score for 'Take the "A" Train' featuring 12 staves of music for various instruments. The instruments include: CONDUCTOR (indicated by a conductor's baton icon), FLUTE, ALTO 1, ALTO 2, TENOR 1, TENOR 2, Soprano (Sopr.), TPT. 1, TPT. 2, TPT. 3, TBN. 1, TBN. 2, TBN. 3, GTR., PNO., and BASS. The score is in common time and includes measures 73 through 80. The key signature changes at measure 73 from C major to F major, then to B-flat major at measure 74, back to F major at measure 75, then to B-flat major at measure 76, back to F major at measure 77, then to B-flat major at measure 78, back to F major at measure 79, and finally to C major at measure 80. The title 'TAKE THE "A" TRAIN' is written in the top right corner. A large red watermark reading 'Preview User Requires Purchase' is diagonally across the page.

FLUTE
ALTO 1
ALTO 2
TENOR 1
TENOR 2
Sopr.
TPT. 1
TPT. 2
TPT. 3
TBN. 1
TBN. 2
TBN. 3
GTR.
PNO.
BASS
DRUMS

73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80

CONDUCTOR

- 11 -

TAKE THE "A" TRAIN

FLUTE

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

SAR.

TPT. 1

TPT. 2

TPT. 3

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

TBN. 3

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

85

81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88

Preview Requires Purchase Only

The musical score consists of ten staves of music. The top five staves are vocal parts: FLUTE, ALTO 1, ALTO 2, TENOR 1, and TENOR 2. The bottom five staves are instrumental parts: SARI., TPT. 1, TPT. 2, TPT. 3, TBN. 1, TBN. 2, TBN. 3, GTR., PNO., and BASS. DRUMS is on its own staff at the bottom. Measure 85 starts with a forte dynamic (f) in the brass section. Measures 86-88 feature a vocal line with eighth-note patterns and eighth-note chords in the piano and bass. The score includes various dynamics such as forte (f), pianissimo (p), and fortissimo (ff). Measure 85 also includes harmonic changes indicated by Roman numerals above the staff: CM7, F7, Bb6, Bb7, and EbMaj7.

CONDUCTOR

- 12 -

TAKE THE "A" TRAIN

FLUTE

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

SAR.

TPT. 1

TPT. 2

TPT. 3

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

TBN. 3

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96

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The musical score consists of 12 staves of music for a full orchestra. The instruments listed are Conductor, Flute, Alto 1, Alto 2, Tenor 1, Tenor 2, Soprano (SAR.), Trombones (TPT. 1, TPT. 2, TPT. 3), Bass Trombones (TBN. 1, TBN. 2, TBN. 3), Guitars (GTR.), Piano (PNO.), Bass (BASS), and Drums. The score is numbered from 89 to 96. A large red diagonal watermark reading "Preview Legal Use Requires Purchase Only" is overlaid across the page.

CONDUCTOR

- 13 -

TAKE THE "A" TRAIN

A musical score for 'Take the "A" Train' featuring 13 staves of music for various instruments. The instruments listed on the left are: CONDUCTOR, FLUTE, ALTO 1, ALTO 2, TENOR 1, TENOR 2, BARI., TPT. 1, TPT. 2, TPT. 3, TBN. 1, TBN. 2, TBN. 3, GTR., PNO., BASS, and DRUMS. The score is numbered from 97 to 103 at the bottom. A large red diagonal watermark reading 'Preview Only Legal Use Requires Purchase' is overlaid across the page.

FLUTE
ALTO 1
ALTO 2
TENOR 1
TENOR 2
BARI.
TPT. 1
TPT. 2
TPT. 3
TBN. 1
TBN. 2
TBN. 3
GTR.
PNO.
BASS
DRUMS

97 98 99 100 101 102 103

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