

# Rhapsody in Blue

GEORGE GERSHWIN®

Arranged by GORDON GOODWIN

## INSTRUMENTATION

Conductor

1st E♭ Alto Saxophone (Piccolo)

2nd E♭ Alto Saxophone (Clarinet, Flute)

1st B♭ Tenor Saxophone

2nd B♭ Tenor Saxophone

E♭ Baritone Saxophone (Bass Clarinet)

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

Auxiliary Percussion

(Vibraphone, Xylophone, Congas,

Triangle, Timpani)



CONDUCTOR  
BIG BAND

## NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

It was with great respect that I took a shot at arranging one of the great pieces in American music. I did not want to distort George Gershwin's intent with any wacky concepts, yet I wanted to adapt his melodies to jazz ensemble in somewhat of a unique way.

Your band will need a good grasp of jazz and classical concepts to play this arrangement. Of course there's no getting around the fact that you need a good clarinet player to play this piece, right? I guess the opening solo would kinda work on a soprano sax (except for that first low G) if you had to go there, but I don't think that's anybody's first preference. This piece also benefits greatly from having a percussionist that can play mallets and timpani. If your regular percussionist does not play those instruments, maybe you can borrow one from a concert band or orchestra.

The introduction is a mélange of some of the thematic fragments Gershwin used building to the familiar clarinet solo gliss. The tempo in the intro (measures 1–28) can be very fluid just like the orchestral version. When you get to measure 29, lock into a medium Basie swing feel, so play it nice and easy — not too loud, and not too fast. The tempo picks up at measure 44, where the horns play the solo piano part taken from the original Gershwin — make sure to keep those triplets nice and tight.

A fast swing tempo kicks in at measure 54, and the saxes get a workout, once again playing the original solo piano lick; it's tough, but don't blame me, I just arranged it! Saxes should practice 56–63 slowly and work it up to speed.

Your best soloists crank it up at measure 96, and I know the chart is in the key of A, but be brave, hang in there — the key of C is right around the corner at measure 112. After the solo(s), the chart transitions to one of the more beautiful melodies ever written, in my opinion. The trombone solo at 149 should be played with a warm tone, and I suggest some nice vibrato. Check out Tommy Dorsey for the definitive example of that lyrical, melodic style. Saxes, play nice and soft behind the soloist and give the 'bone player a nice cushion of support.

Things start to build at 167, where the lead trumpet gets a shot at this great melody. Don't worry about playing too loud, but save some air for the big climax at measure 176. What a thrilling moment this will be—go for it!

Saxes, be sure to lock in the rhythm at measure 180—listen to the hi-hat for the "time". The final statement at measure 188 should be full out—it's time to bring this medley home. At measure 204, the medley ends very much like Gershwin's original, so that means straight eighths with an orchestral feel and sound. And when you hit that last chord, check out your audience as it rises up in tribute to one of the more enduring pieces of music ever written: George Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue*.

Please enjoy!

—Gordon Goodwin



**Gordon  
Goodwin**

Gordon Goodwin is a three-time Emmy Award winner and GRAMMY® winner. His band's debut album *Swingin' for the Fences* (Silverline Records) received two GRAMMY® nominations and is the best-selling jazz item in the DVD® Audio 5.1 surround-sound format.



CONDUCTOR

RHAPSODY IN BLUE

rit.

SLOWER

To ALTO 13

♩ = 92

Musical score for CONDUCTOR, featuring parts for ALTO 1, ALTO 2, TENOR 1, TENOR 2, BARI., TPT. 1-4, TBN. 1-3, BASS TBN., GRE., PNO., BASS, DRUMS, and AUX. PERC. The score includes various musical notations such as dynamics (cresc., decresc.), articulation (acc.), and performance instructions (Solo, Enter, Open, Choke). A large red watermark 'Preview Only - Requires Purchase' is overlaid diagonally across the page.

CONDUCTOR

RHAPSODY IN BLUE

FASTER (♩ = 112)

ALTO SAX

Musical score for Rhapsody in Blue, page 8. The score includes parts for Alto 1, Alto 2, Tenor 1, Tenor 2, Baritone, Trumpet 1-4, Trombone 1-3, Bass Trombone, Guitar, Piano, Bass, Drums, and Auxiliary Percussion. The tempo is marked 'FASTER (♩ = 112)'. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The score features various musical notations including dynamics (p, mf, f), articulation (accents), and performance instructions such as 'SOLO', 'SOLO TONE MUTE', and 'OPEN'. A large red watermark 'Preview Only - Legal Use Requires Purchase' is overlaid diagonally across the page. Measure numbers 16 through 24 are indicated at the bottom of the page.

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

CONDUCTOR

RHAPSODY IN BLUE

rit.

♩ = 115

23 SWING FEEL

Musical score for Rhapsody in Blue, page 4. The score includes parts for Alto 1, Alto 2, Tenor 1, Tenor 2, Baritone, Trumpet 1-4, Trombone 1-3, Bass Trombone, Guitar, Piano, Bass, Drums, and Auxiliary Percussion. The score is in 3/4 time with a tempo of 115 beats per minute. A large red watermark 'Preview Only - Requires Purchase' is overlaid on the score. The piano part includes chord symbols: G7(b9)(b5) E7(b9) Eb7, Ab9, Eb7(b9), Ab9, D9 D9, Cm7, C7(b9)w7(A), Eb7(b9) Ab6, E7(b9)(b5) Eb7(b9), and Eb7(b9).

33

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

AUX. PEER.

Cue:

Ab9 Eb7(b9) Ab D7 D9 Ab/C C9 Bb7(A) Eb7(b9) Eb7(b9) D9(b9) D9(b9) D7 D7 Eb7(b9) G7(b9) G7(b9)



CONDUCTOR

RHAPSODY IN BLUE

44

FASTER  $\text{♩} = 123$

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

AUX. PERC.

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41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48



CONDUCTOR

FAST SWING! ♩ = c. 250

RHAPSODY IN BLUE

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.

GRG.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

AUX. PERC.

rit.

TIME W/ILLS

56

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

AUX. PERC.

ALTO SAX

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E7

E13

E13

E13

E13

F7

me (WALK)

me

D7(9)

E7(9)

64

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

AUX. PERC.

64

65

66

67

68

69

70

71

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

AUX. PERC.



CONDUCTOR

RHAPSODY IN BLUE

30

SOLO STARTS (BEAT 1)

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

AUX. PERC.

Chords: C<sup>9</sup>, G<sup>15</sup>, D<sup>9</sup>11/G, G<sup>15</sup>, D<sup>9</sup>11/G, G<sup>0</sup>, G<sup>9</sup>, C<sup>15</sup>, B<sup>b15</sup>, A<sup>b15</sup>

SOLOS  
96

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

BARIT.

TRP. 1

TRP. 2

TRP. 3

TRP. 4

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

TBN. 3

BASS TEN.

GRG.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

AUX. PERC.

1ST TIME ONLY

BEATS 1 & 2 REST 1ST TIME ONLY

CONGAS

96 97 98 99 100 101 102 103

F#

C#7(#9)

F#

G9

F#

B9

F#7(#9)

B9

C9

B9

F#

C#7(#9)

F#

G9

F#

A9

E7(#9)

A9

Bb9

A9

A9

E7(#9)

A9

Bb9

A9

A9

E7(#9)

A9

Bb9

A9

96

97

98

99

100

101

102

103



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, DRUMS, and AUX. PERO. The score includes various musical notations such as clefs, key signatures, and chord symbols (e.g., C#7(#9), B9, A9, E7(#9)).

112 113 114 115 116 117 118 119

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  
AUX. PERO.

Chord markings: D<sup>9</sup>(sus7), G<sup>9</sup>(sus7), F<sup>9</sup>, F<sup>9</sup>(sus7), G<sup>9</sup>(sus7), F<sup>9</sup>(sus7)

Performance markings: *me*, *mf*, *f*, *sfz*, *rit.*

Conductor's cues: BEADS ON CUE



CONDUCTOR

RHAPSODY IN BLUE

REPEAT AS NEEDED FOR SOLOS

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

AUX. PERC.

Handwritten notes and musical notation for various instruments including chords (A9, B7(#9), E7(#9), D9, C9, Bb9, A7, E7, G7(#9), Ab9, Eb9) and melodic lines.

ON CLUE AFTER SOLOS

128

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

AUX. PERC.

128

129

130

131

132

133

134

135

CONDUCTOR

RHAPSODY IN BLUE

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

AUX. PERO.

SOLO W/PNO.

TOP NOTE SWA ME

SOLO W/GTR.

TO MALLETS

CONDUCTOR

RHAPSODY IN BLUE

SOLO

rit.

(149) BROADLY  $\text{♩} = 109$

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

AUX. PERO.

SOLO

MALLERS

144 145 146 147 148 149 150

*(Musical notation for various instruments including vocal staves, trumpets, trombones, guitar, piano, bass, drums, and auxiliary percussion)*

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Musical score for Rhapsody in Blue, page 20. 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, Drums, and Aux. Perc. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). The score is marked with a large red watermark: "Preview Only".





CONDUCTOR

RHAPSODY IN BLUE

167 SLIGHTLY FASTER  $\text{♩} = 115$

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

AUX. PERO.

SOLO

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167 168 169 170 171 172 173 174

CONDUCTOR

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  
AUX. PEER.

217. (180) FASTER  $\text{♩} = 180$

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Chords:  $G\flat 7$ ,  $F\flat 7$ ,  $D\flat 9(b9)$ ,  $G\flat 7$ ,  $C\flat 9$ ,  $C\flat 7(\flat 9)$ ,  $C\flat 7$  SOLO

PERCUSSION: MUREO, (HAT) STICKS, TRIANGLE

175 176 177 178 179 180 181 182

CONDUCTOR

RHAPSODY IN BLUE

SLOWER SWING  $\text{♩} = 100$

183

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

BAR.

TRP. 1

TRP. 2

TRP. 3

TRP. 4

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

TBN. 3

BASS TBN.

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

AUX. PERC.

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

BARI.

TRP. 1

TRP. 2

TRP. 3

TRP. 4

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

TBN. 3

BASS TEN.

GR. (Guitar)

PNO. (Piano)

BASS

DRUMS

AUX. PERC.

CONDUCTOR

STRAIGHT 8THS rit.

RHAPSODY IN BLUE

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

AUX. PERC.

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CONDUCTOR

RHAPSODY IN BLUE

204

$\text{♩} = 92$

rit.

$\text{♩} = 87$

rit.

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

AUX. PEER.



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