## What You Dealin' With WYCLIFFE GORDON

## **INSTRUMENTATION**

Conductor 1st E♭ Alto Saxophone 2nd El Alto Saxophone 1st By Tenor Saxophone 2nd B Tenor Saxophone El Baritone Saxophone 1st B♭ Trumpet 2nd B♭ Trumpet 3rd Bb Trumpet 4th B Trumpet

1st Trombone 2nd Trombone 3rd Trombone **Bass Trombone Guitar Chords** Guitar Piano Bass Drums



## **NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR**

This chart offers opportunities for flexibility in many performance aspects. The suggested tempo is quarter note = 103. To get started, the director can cue the drummer to establish the tempo in the first two measures, or he or she can cue the ensemble after (discreetly) establishing the tempo with a verbal count-off, as notated.

In general, the wind parts are stacked similar to marching band; therefore, there are two players on most parts throughout the chart. Direct the winds to articulate and phrase together for a cohesive sound.

Regarding the overall groove, this chart is a blues with a boogaloo (hip-hop) style feel. The exception to the boogaloo groove is the straight-ahead double-time swing feel for the solo(s) at m. 72.

Articulations are critical. The last sixteenth in a group (m. 4) is played short. *Staccato* marks are short, but not too short or clipped. *Marcato*, or cap, accents are played detached (think "daht"). In the section beginning at m. 11, the articulations should be played as written, but sixteenth notes can be executed as double-time swing eighth notes.

In general, sixteenth notes should be played with a double-time shuffle feel. For the drummer, he or she can play the eighth notes even, but the ensemble should play the eighths with a double-time feel, similar to a double-time swing feel. At m. 25, play a quick "fall" on the eighth note on the "and" of beat 2 in the first measure. Consider directing the guitarist to play a "rhythmic comp" with or without a muted guitar effect if he or she is comfortable doing so. Otherwise, play the written unison part with the band. Check out the demo recording at alfred.com/downloads.

The spoken chant should be executed with confidence—say it like you mean it!

For the rhythm section, the boogaloo section demands that the drummer provide a strong back-beat on 2 and 4. The bass player should lock in the boogaloo groove with the drummer throughout. The piano player may comp with embellishments or as written. In the section at m. 19, consider directing the guitarist to embellish the written line or solo above the band in the upper register (also at m. 125) if he or she is comfortable doing so. Care should be taken to play long phrases in the upper registers so as not to conflict with the written counterpoint. Otherwise, the guitarist should play the written part.

The double-time swing section at m. 72 is a fast swing. The bass player and drummer's ride cymbal will need to lock in the time. This may demand some sectional work to align the time and feel to be consistent and solid for the ensemble and soloist. For the drummer, a cross-stick on beat 4 will help lock in the ensemble time in this section.

There are three solo sections. For the first solo in the boogaloo groove, the trombone 1 plays off the chant at m. 33 with suggested solo licks. Then, at m. 41, the trombone solo has 16 measures of written-out suggested solo. This solo section can be repeated or opened up as desired. The second trombone has optional solo charges.

At m. 64, the solo alto 1 or tenor 1 play off the chant. At m. 72, the groove changes significantly to double-time swing. There are suggested 32-bar solos written out for alto 1 and/or tenor sax 1. These solos can be for either alto, tenor, or both, or any of the additional optional solo parts. Optional solo changes are included for the other saxes, trumpets 3 and 4, and trombones 2 and 3.

In m. 104, the groove returns to the boogaloo style with a solo for trumpet 2 and suggested written-out licks playing off the chant. Measure 112 begins a suggested 16-bar solo for trumpet 2, or this section can be opened up.

Hopefully, this chart is a fun experience for you and your jazz ensemble.

Enjoy!

—Wycliffe Gordon





Musical ambassador and interpreter of America's music, Wycliffe Gordon experiences an impressive career touring the world performing hardswinging, straight-ahead jazz. His unmatched modern mastery of the plunger mute combined with his exceptional technique and signature sound have solidified Gordon a place in musical history as one of the top trombonists of his generation—named "Best in Trombone" by the Downbeat Critics Poll two years running (2012/2013) and "Trombonist of the Year" (2013) by Jazz Journalists Association. He is a past recipient of the ASCAP Foundation Vanguard Award, among many other awards.

Gordon's recordings are a model of consistency and inspiration, and his musical expertise has been captured on numerous recordings, including sixteen solo CDs and seven co-leader CDs. His most recent releases, Hello Pops, A Tribute to Louis Armstrong, and Dreams of New Orleans continue to receive rave reviews and both albums pay homage to Wycliffe's musical hero. In addition to an extremely successful solo career, Gordon tours regularly leading the Wycliffe Gordon Quartet.

Gordon is one of America's most persuasive and committed music educators, and currently serves on the faculty of the Jazz Arts Program at Manhattan School of Music. His songbook This *Rhythm on My Mind* with accompanying CD was recently released and *Sing It First*—Gordon's own unique approach to playing the instrument, was released in 2011. He was awarded an honorary doctorate in 2006 from the University of Scranton, for his tireless dedication to the field. Wycliffe Gordon is a Yamaha Performing Artist and has his own line of Wycliffe Gordon Pro Signature Mouthpieces by Pickett Brass.

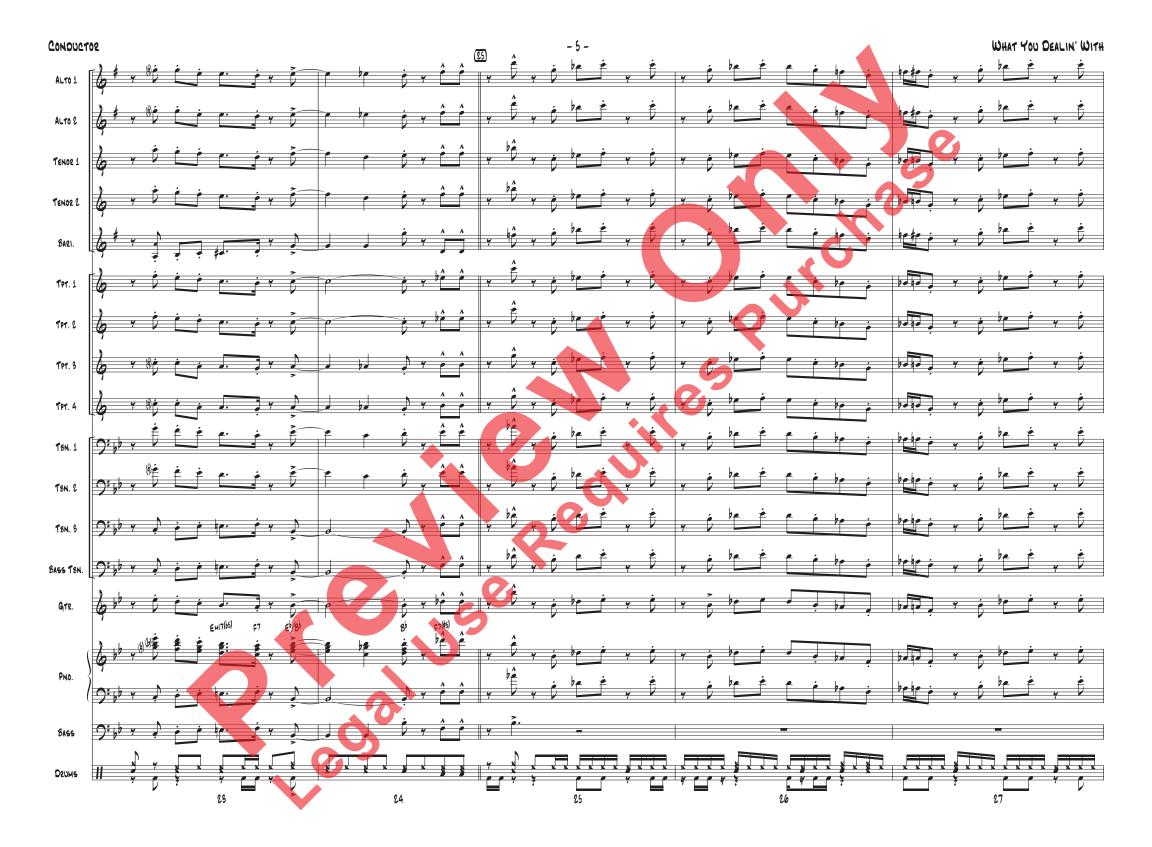
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