

Belwin JAZZ

a division of Alfred

BOPLICITY

Arranged by LES HOOPER

INSTRUMENTATION

Conductor

Ist E Alto Saxophone

2nd E Alto Saxophone

Ist B Tenor Saxophone

2nd By Tenor Saxophone

E Baritone Saxophone

Ist B Trumpet

2nd B Trumpet

3rd B Trumpet

4th B Trumpet

Ist Trombone

2nd Trombone

3rd Trombone

4th Trombone **Guitar Chords**

Guitar

Piano

Bass

Drums

Optional Alternate Parts

C Flute (Optional)

Tuba (Optional)

Horn in F

(Doubles 1st Trombone)

Ist Baritone T.C.

(Doubles 1st Trombone)

2nd Baritone T.C.

(Doubles 2nd Trombone)

3rd Baritone T.C.

(Doubles 3rd Trombone)



BOPLICITY

CLEO HENRY Arranged by LES HOOPER

NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

"Boplicity" is right out of the "cool school" of the 1950s. The attitude should be laid-back and relaxed but not dragging. The ensemble should have a sense of a small group because the harmony is often close voicings, which produces a more intimate sound and texture. Blend is critical in this chart. Ask the band to focus their listening on not only each other but also on their section and the entire ensemble. Another critical area is articulation. Because of the intimate texture, no particular voice should stand out; therefore, provide clear direction to your lead players so they may demonstrate to their sections. One rhythm that is often played incorrectly and/or rushed is the quarter-note triplet. Keep the triplets even and relaxed; this goes for the eighth-note triplets as well.

In the 1950s, jazz was more economical because space was considered a good thing rather than a lack of ideas. Often the space allowed the rhythm section to musically poke its head through as a piece of contrast and balance, making the solo more interesting rather than constant and intrusive. Sometimes the one who speaks softly gets more attention.

The solos that are written are typical of this style. Soloists should try to achieve a level of relaxed playing but with coolness; think relaxed but not dragging. I suggest first learning the melody either from the chart itself or from a fake book. After the melody is locked in, the soloist can begin to relax and discover how the written solo fits over the melody and the chord progression. Then he or she can begin to improvise by embellishing the melody and the written solo. Keep in mind that in an improvised solo, it is always valid to simply play the melody.

Another feature of this style is overall volume, which is not overdone. The volume should fall somewhere between a mezzo piano and a mezzo forte. This controlled volume and overall jazz style will provide a valuable education for young people, who have mostly heard loud and driving jazz in the 1990s and 2000s.

























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BOPLICITY

