Too Close for Comfort

Words and Music by JERRY BOCK, LARRY HOLOFCENER and GEORGE DAVID WEISS
Arranged by GORDON GOODWIN

INSTRUMENTATION

Conductor
Vocal Solo
1st Eb Alto Saxophone
2nd Eb Alto Saxophone
1st Bb Tenor Saxophone
2nd Bb Tenor Saxophone
E♭ Baritone Saxophone
1st B♭ Trumpet
2nd B♭ Trumpet
3rd B♭ Trumpet
4th B♭ Trumpet
1st Trombone
2nd Trombone
3rd Trombone
4th Trombone
Guitar Chords
Guitar
Piano
Bass
Drums

Optional Alternate Parts

Alternate Alto Saxophone Solo
Alternate Tenor Saxophone Solo
Alternate Trumpet Solo
Alternate Trombone Solo
NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

This is one of the classic tunes in the “Great American Songbook” and it has been recorded by many legendary artists like Frank Sinatra and Ella Fitzgerald. The Big Phat Band’s version of it features the great Dianne Reeves on the vocal, and I wanted to craft my arrangement to suit Dianne’s sensibilities while paying homage to terrific arrangers of the past: guys like Nelson Riddle and Billy May.

Keep this chart light, buoyant and swinging. The first 52 measures of this chart should be cool and understated, and then those big chords in measure 53 should take the energy up a notch. The ensemble takes the lead from the vocal at measure 70, but quickly things settle back down at 78. It isn’t until measure 94 that we start swingin’ hard, and here is where the band needs to step up. Think unity of ensemble and SWING! The band usually gets only about 8–16 measures to showcase itself during a typical vocal chart, so go for it!

The era of Billy May and Nelson Riddle was a time where the singer and the band were fairly equal partners. The singer was like another instrument in the band and if you listen to music from that period, you can hear how the vocalist fits into the fabric of the arrangement. Dianne Reeves does the same thing in her performance with the Big Phat Band. What a thrill it was to record that track with her!

We have included instrumental lead sheets in case you want to play this chart as an instrumental feature. I’ve made a few adjustments to each one so it would suit each respective instrument, but your soloist should feel free to interpret it as they see fit, but remember, this is a great melody, and melody is king in music like this!

You can hear the Big Phat Band’s version of “Too Close for Comfort” featuring Dianne Reeves on our Immergent Records CD The Phat Pack.

—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.
TOO CLOSE FOR COMFORT

Words and Music by JERRY BOCK, LARRY HOLLOFCENER and GEORGE DAVID WEISS

Arranged by GORDON GOODWIN

As Recorded by Gordon Goodwin's Big Phat Band

CONDUCTOR

2nd/HTBÑ/HTTenor/HTSaxophone
1st/HTBÑ/HTTenor/HTSaxophone
1st/HTEÑ/HTAlto/HTSaxophone
2nd/HTBÑ/HTTrumpet
3rd/HTBÑ/HTTrumpet
3rd/HTTrombone
1st/HTTrombone
(Female)
Drums
Piano
Bass

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When he's so close to your feet, don't go so soft be discreet.
Be discreet and off your feet.

When he's so close to your heart, don't go so sweet be discreet.
Be discreet and off your feet.