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# ST. LOUIS BLUES

W. C. HANDY Arranged by VICTOR GOINES

# INSTRUMENTATION

### Conductor

Ist E Alto Saxophone

2nd E Alto Saxophone

Ist By Tenor Saxophone

2nd B Tenor Saxophone

E Baritone Saxophone

Ist B Trumpet

2nd B Trumpet

3rd B Trumpet

4th Bb Trumpet

Ist Trombone

2nd Trombone

3rd Trombone

4th Trombone Guitar Chords

Guitar

Piano

Bass

**Drums** 

### **Optional Alternate Parts**

C Flute

Tuba

Horn in F (Doubles 1st

Trombone)

Ist Baritone T.C. (Doubles

**Ist Trombone**)

2nd Baritone T.C. (Doubles

2nd Trombone)

3rd Baritone T.C. (Doubles

3rd Trombone)



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### NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

William Christopher Handy (November 16, 1873–March 28, 1958) was an African-American blues composer and musician, often known as "the Father of the Blues." Handy composed *St. Louis Blues* in 1914. Though the name of the song may imply that it is about events in St. Louis, Missouri, it instead refers to a sophisticated woman from that city. The form is unusual in that the verses are the familiar standard 12-bar blues but it also has a 16-bar bridge written in the habañera rhythm, popularly called the "Spanish Tinge." Handy said in writing *St. Louis Blues*, his objective was "to combine ragtime syncopation with a real melody in the spiritual tradition."

My arrangement features a traditional swing feel and a Latin rumba style. The drumset player should set up the rumba feel 2 or 3 beats prior to the change in order to prepare the ensemble for the different feel. All Latin grooves are played with straight eighth notes. This contrast with the swing eighths is a key element in this arrangement. The rhythmical essence of the rumba is an accented pattern of beats 1, the "and" of 2, and 4, or it can be visualized as two dotted-guarter notes and a quarter note.

In the swing section for the rhythm section, the guitar should comp with a traditional quarter note feel. The guitar is of less importance in the rumba style. The bass will provide the rumba rhythmic pattern as written. The pianist can embellish the comping in the rumba style, but should keep it simple and coordinated with the bass pattern.

Soloists may play the suggested written solo or ad lib, but always play in the appropriate style.

For the ensemble, play the marcato, or rooftop (^), accent detached, but not staccato or clipped. Play the fall-off in measure 53 quickly. Section players should mimic the lead player in a fall-off. The last two measures may be dictated to enhance the dramatic ending. The drummer may fill over these chords if desired.

Please enjoy!

-Victor Goines

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These charts are based on repertoire from the Jazz for Young People Curriculum, a multimedia jazz appreciation curriculum.

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CONDUCTOR - 9 ST. LOUIS BLUES







CONDUCTOR - 12 ST. LOUIS BLUES







CONDUCTOR - 15

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