

# Take the "A" Train

*BILLY STRAYHORN*

*Arranged by ALAN BAYLOCK*

## INSTRUMENTATION

Conductor  
1st E $\flat$  Alto Saxophone  
2nd E $\flat$  Alto Saxophone  
1st B $\flat$  Tenor Saxophone  
2nd B $\flat$  Tenor Saxophone  
E $\flat$  Baritone Saxophone  
1st B $\flat$  Trumpet  
2nd B $\flat$  Trumpet  
3rd B $\flat$  Trumpet  
4th B $\flat$  Trumpet  
1st Trombone  
2nd Trombone  
3rd Trombone  
Bass Trombone  
Guitar Chords  
Guitar  
Piano  
Bass  
Drums

**PREMIER  
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## NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

This is a new and more contemporary arrangement of the classic Billy Strayhorn tune, *Take the "A" Train*. It always feels like a daunting task to find a new spin on such a classic tune, but I hope you enjoy how this piece unfolds.

After a short full-band intro, the counter-melody (in the basses) is stated first, over a half-time funk groove. Pay special attention to the articulations. The more traditional melody joins in eight measures later and at the bridge, switch to a Latin groove. The drummer should always strive to make the transitions between different "feels" as smooth as possible. This can be achieved by hinting at the new groove a few beats ahead of where it's actually written.

For the last A section, you're back in the funk groove, which quickly sets up a series of solo breaks (based on the original intro) for alto 1. Trombone 1 solos the second time through if desired, and then trumpet 2 has a chance to play over some solo breaks, then solo. Baritone sax rounds out the solos (if desired on the repeat) and the full band launches into breaks for each of the soloists. I've kept the standard chord changes, so please encourage your soloists to listen to and transcribe one or more solos from any great jazz musician who has recorded this tune—which is most of them!

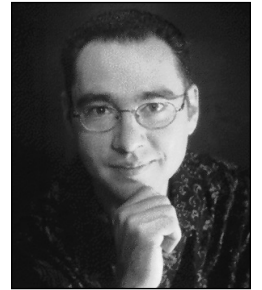
A return of the original intro material sets up a D.S. where the second A melody is restated. A bluesy riff heard throughout is augmented at the Coda and the icing on the cake is the ending from the original arrangement...almost!

On the D.S., from measure 63 through to end, the intensity should be building. Make sure the drummer makes the most of the short fills, especially during the Coda.

This arrangement was originally commissioned by Chris Allen and the Walt Whitman High School Jazz Ensemble, Bethesda, MD.

Thanks a lot for your interest and I hope you enjoy playing this chart!

—Alan Baylock



**Alan Baylock**

Alan Baylock holds the position of Staff Arranger with the United States Air Force Band in Washington, D.C. and is the chief arranger for the Air Force's premier jazz ensemble, the Airmen of Note. Alan holds a Bachelor of Music Education degree from Shenandoah University (VA) and a master's degree in jazz studies from the University of North Texas.

CONDUCTOR  
30644S

# TAKE THE "A" TRAIN

By BILLY STRAYHORN  
Arranged by ALAN BAYLOCK

SWING ♩ = 196-224

1st Eb ALTO SAXOPHONE  
2ND Eb ALTO SAXOPHONE  
1ST Bb TENOR SAXOPHONE  
2ND Bb TENOR SAXOPHONE  
Eb BARITONE SAXOPHONE  
1st Bb TRUMPET  
2ND Bb TRUMPET  
3RD Bb TRUMPET  
4TH Bb TRUMPET  
1st TROMBONE  
2ND TROMBONE  
3RD TROMBONE  
BASS TROMBONE  
GUITAR  
PIANO  
BASS  
DRUMS

The musical score is arranged in a standard orchestral format. It includes parts for 1st and 2nd Eb Alto Saxophones, 1st and 2nd Bb Tenor Saxophones, Eb Baritone Saxophone, 1st through 4th Bb Trumpets, 1st through 3rd Trombones, Bass Trombone, Guitar, Piano, Bass, and Drums. The key signature has one flat (Bb), and the time signature is 4/4. The tempo is marked as SWING with a metronome marking of 196-224. The score is divided into measures 1 through 8. A large red watermark reading "Legal Use Only Requires Purchase" is overlaid diagonally across the entire page.

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8  
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11 FUNK (HALF-TIME FEEL)

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

SAX.

TRP. 1

TRP. 2

TRP. 3

TRP. 4

TEN. 1

TEN. 2

TEN. 3

B. TEN.

QTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

w/ S. TEN. & BASS

w/ BARI. SAX & BASS

w/ BARI. SAX & B. TEN.

w/ BARI. SAX & B. TEN.

w/ BARI. SAX & B. TEN.

GRAND

This musical score is for the piece "Take the A Train". It is a conductor's score, indicated by the "CONDUCTOR" label at the top left. The score is for a full band and includes the following parts:

- Vocalists:** ALTO 1, ALTO 2, TENOR 1, TENOR 2, SARI. (Soprano), TPT. 1, TPT. 2, TPT. 3, TPT. 4, TBN. 1, TBN. 2, TBN. 3, S. TBN. (Soprano Trombone).
- Instrumentalists:** Gtr. (Guitar), PNO. (Piano), BASS, DRUMS.

The score is written in 4/4 time and consists of 26 measures. The vocal parts have lyrics, and the instrumental parts provide accompaniment. A large red watermark "Preview Only" is overlaid diagonally across the score, with the text "Legal Use Requires Purchase" written below it.

CONDUCTOR

TAKE THE "A" TRAIN

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

SARI.

TRP. 1

TRP. 2

TRP. 3

TRP. 4

TEN. 1

TEN. 2

TEN. 3

B. TEN.

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

(FUNK - HALF-TIME FEEL)

CONDUCTOR

TAKE THE "A" TRAIN

43 LATIN - (END HALF-TIME FEEL)

Musical score for 'Take the A Train' featuring vocal parts (Alto 1, Alto 2, Tenor 1, Tenor 2, Soprano) and instrumental parts (Trumpet 1-4, Trombone 1-3, Bass Trombone, Saxophone, Piano, Bass, Drums). The score includes a large red watermark reading 'Preview Only - Legal Use Requires Purchase'. The score is divided into measures 37 through 45. The key signature is one flat (B-flat major/D minor). The tempo is marked 'LATIN - (END HALF-TIME FEEL)'. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamics.

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

BARI.

TRP. 1

TRP. 2

TRP. 3

TRP. 4

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

TBN. 3

B. TBN.

GR. TR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

PLAY ON D.S. ONLY

50 PUNK (HALF-TIME PEEL)

SOFT TIMES

me

Ob. 7/8

F#m7(b9)/G

Bbm7/C

Bbm7(b9)/C

Bbm7/C

Bbm7(b9)/C

Ob. 7/8

FILL

GEORGE

46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55



This musical score is for the piece "Take the A Train" and is page 7 of the conductor's edition. It features a full vocal ensemble and a full orchestra. The vocal parts include Alto 1, Alto 2, Tenor 1, Tenor 2, Baritone, Trumpet 1-4, Trombone 1-3, Bass Trombone, Guitar, Piano, Bass, and Drums. The score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat major). A large red watermark reading "Preview Only - Legal Use Requires Purchase" is overlaid diagonally across the page. The measure numbers 56 through 64 are printed at the bottom of the page.

CONDUCTOR

TAKE THE "A" TRAIN

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

SAX.

TRP. 1

TRP. 2

TRP. 3

TRP. 4

TEN. 1

TEN. 2

TEN. 3

S. TEN.

GR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

TO COCA

SWING - (NO HALF-TIME FEEL)

- 8 -

ALTO(S) SOLO w/ DRUMS

ALTO(S) SOLO w/ DRUMS

SOLO WITH ALTO SAX

SOLO WITH ALTO SAX

66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74

Handwritten annotations above the staffs: *Sax Solo* SOLO w/ DRUMS (measures 77-80), *Drum* SOLO BREAK (measures 81-84).

Handwritten annotations below the staffs: *Cues* (measures 75-80), *Drum* (measures 81-84), *Solo with ALTO Sax* (measures 81-84), *FILL* (measure 84).

Measures 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84 are numbered at the bottom of the page.





CONDUCTOR

89(9) 8m7 E7 Am7 Em7 A7 Dm7 89

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

BARI.

TRP. 1

TRP. 2

TRP. 3

TRP. 4

Dm7 G7 Cm7 Gm7 C7 Fm7 D9

TEN. 1

TEN. 2

TEN. 3

S. TEN.

Dm7 G7 Cm7 Gm7 C7 Fm7 D9

TRP.

PNO.

Dm7 G7 Cm7 Gm7 C7 Fm7 D9

BASS

DRUMS

END THE DRUM

CONDUCTOR

TAKE THE "A" TRAIN

Musical score for CONDUCTOR, featuring parts for ALTO 1, ALTO 2, TENOR 1, TENOR 2, SAEI., TRP. 1, TRP. 2, TRP. 3, TRP. 4, TSN. 1, TSN. 2, TSN. 3, S. TSN., GTR., PNO., BASS, and DRUMS. The score includes notes, rests, and various musical symbols across measures 106 to 116. A large red watermark 'Preview Only - Legal Use Requires Purchase' is overlaid on the score.

1.

ALTO I

ALTO II

TENOR I

TENOR II

BARI.

TRP. I

TRP. II

TRP. III

TRP. IV

TBN. I

TBN. II

TBN. III

S. TBN.

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

Legal Use Requires Purchase

SOLO w/ DRUMS

SOLO WITH TEMPER

SOLO WITH TEMPER

117

118

119

120

121

122

123

124

125

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

BARI.

TRP. 1

TRP. 2

TRP. 3

TRP. 4

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

TBN. 3

S. TBN.

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

SOLO BREAK

SOLO WITH TRUMPET

FILL

126 127 128 129 130 131 132 133 134

*Legal Use Requires Purchase*



135

Musical score for CONDUCTOR, including parts for ALTO 1, ALTO 2, TENOR 1, TENOR 2, BARI., TRP. 1, TRP. 2, TRP. 3, TRP. 4, TSN. 1, TSN. 2, TSN. 3, S. TSN., Gtr., PNO., BASS, and DRUMS. The score includes various musical notations such as clefs, notes, rests, and chord symbols (e.g., Cmaj7, D9(b9), Dm7, G7, Em7, A7(b9), Dm7, G7, Cmaj7).

135      136      137      138      139      140      141      142      143      144



151

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

SAX. 1

SAX. 2

TRP. 1

TRP. 2

TRP. 3

TRP. 4

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

TBN. 3

B. TBN.

GR. 1

GR. 2

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

END TIME ONLY

me

B9(b9)

Bm7

E7

A7m7

E7

A7

Dm7

B9

E9(b9)

E7

A7

Dm7

A7

D7

Gm7

E9

D9(b9)

Dm7

G7

Cm7

Gm7

C7

Fm7

D9

D9(b9)

Dm7

G7

Cm7

Gm7

C7

Fm7

D9

D9(b9)

Dm7

G7

Cm7

Gm7

C7

Fm7

D9

1. 2.

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

BARI.

TRP. 1

TRP. 2

TRP. 3

TRP. 4

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

TBN. 3

B. TBN.

GRG.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

END TIME ONLY

Bb7 E7(b9) A7(b9) Bb7 Eb7 E7

END TIME ONLY

E7(b9) A7(b9) D7(b9) Eb7 E7

END TIME ONLY

END TIME ONLY

END TIME ONLY

D7(b9) G7(b9) C7(b9) D7(b9) D7(b9) G7 C7(b9) Eb7 D7 Db7 C7(b9) Db7 C7(b9) Eb7

D7(b9) G7(b9) C7(b9) D7(b9) D7(b9) G7 C7(b9) Eb7 D7 Db7 C7(b9) Db7 C7(b9) Eb7

D7(b9) G7(b9) C7(b9) D7(b9) D7(b9) G7 C7(b9) Eb7 D7 Db7 C7(b9) Db7 C7(b9) Eb7

END TIME ONLY

169

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

BARI.

TRP. 1

TRP. 2

TRP. 3

TRP. 4

TOM. 1

TOM. 2

TOM. 3

S. TOM.

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

AM7 D9(b9) Gm7 b7 A7 Ab G

Dm7(b9) Bm7(b9) Gm7(b9) Em7(b9) Cm7 F#(b9) Bbm7 D7 C7 B7

Cm7 F#(b9) Bbm7 D7 C7 B7

Cm7 F#(b9) Bbm7 D7 C7 B7

FILL FILL FILL

169 170 171 172 173 174 175 176 177 178

Musical score for 'Take the "A" Train'. The score includes parts for Alto 1 & 2, Tenor 1 & 2, Soprano, Trumpet 1-4, Trombone 1-3, Bass Trombone, Guitar, Piano, Bass, and Drums. A large red watermark 'Preview Only Requires Purchase' is overlaid diagonally across the score. The score is numbered 179 to 190 at the bottom.

CONDUCTOR

TAKE THE "A" TRAIN

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

SARI.

TRP. 1

TRP. 2

TRP. 3

TRP. 4

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

TBN. 3

B. TBN.

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

Chord symbols: A7, D13(b9), Gm7, B7, A7, Ab7, Cm7, G13(b9), Cm7, Eb7, D7, Db7, Cm7, F13(b9), Bbm7, Db7, C7, B7, F7(b9), Dbm7(b9), Bbm7(b9), Gm7(b9), E7m7(b9), Cm7, F13(b9), Bbm7, Db7, C7, B7, F7(b9), Dbm7(b9), Bbm7(b9), Gm7(b9), E7m7(b9), Cm7, F13(b9), Bbm7, Db7, C7, B7.

Fill marks: FILL

CONDUCTOR

TAKE THE 'A' TRAIN

D.S. AL CODA

201

ALTO 1 *C<sub>major</sub>(b9)*

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

BARI. *C<sub>major</sub>(b9)*

TRP. 1

TRP. 2 *C<sub>major</sub>(b9)*

TRP. 3

TRP. 4

TBN. 1 *B<sub>major</sub>(b9)*

TBN. 2

TBN. 3

S. TBN.

GTR.

PNO. *B<sub>major</sub>(b9) B<sub>major</sub>(b9) B<sub>major</sub>(b9) B<sub>major</sub>(b9) B<sub>major</sub>(b9) C<sub>major</sub>(b9) B<sub>major</sub>(b9) C<sub>major</sub>(b9) C<sub>major</sub>(b9) D<sub>major</sub>(b9) B<sub>major</sub>(b9) C<sub>major</sub>(b9) D<sub>major</sub>(b9) D<sub>major</sub>(b9)*

BASS

DRUMS

FILL

FILL

SOLO FILL

201 202 203 204 205 206 207 208 209 210



CONDUCTOR

TAKE THE "A" TRAIN

ALTO 1  
 ALTO 2  
 TENOR 1  
 TENOR 2  
 BARI.  
 TRP. 1  
 TRP. 2  
 TRP. 3  
 TRP. 4  
 TBN. 1  
 TBN. 2  
 TBN. 3  
 S. TBN.  
 GTR.  
 PNO.  
 BASS  
 DRUMS

CODA  
 FILL  
 FILL

211 212 213 214 215 216 217 218 219 220 221

The image shows a page of a musical score for the song "Take the A Train". The score is arranged for a full band and includes a conductor's part. The instruments listed on the left are Alto 1 and 2, Tenor 1 and 2, Baritone, Trumpet 1-4, Trombone 1-3, Soprano Trombone, Guitar, Piano, Bass, and Drums. The conductor's part is at the top, marked "CONDUCTOR" and "CODA". The score is in 4/4 time and features a large red watermark that reads "Legal Use Requires Purchases". The page number is "- 22 -" and the title is "TAKE THE 'A' TRAIN". The bottom of the page shows measure numbers from 211 to 221. There are two "FILL" markings above the drum part at measures 214 and 218. The piano part has "c/b" markings above it at measures 219 and 220.