

PERFORMANCE NOTES

“Button Up Your Overcoat” was written in 1928 for the musical *Follow Through*. Made popular by the great vocalist Ruth Etting, the best-known recording of this song is by Helen Kane, the original voice of Betty Boop! Another terrific recording is by Gene Puerling’s outstanding vocal quartet, *The Hi-Lo’s*.

This arrangement is written with the intention of introducing developing voices to the elements of jazz style (jazz, swing, and improvisation) while having some fun in the process!

Encourage your singers to feel beats 2 and 4 in 4/4 meter, and perhaps even snap their fingers on those beats. Beats 2 and 4 (and the off-beats) are essential to the groove in jazz music.

Singers can get a feel for improvisation in the written scat section at measures 38-52. Both vocal parts may be sung by the entire choir, a few select voices, or even soloists.

The modulation (key change) at measure 62 provides a perfect opportunity to introduce this wonderful musical device to your singers.

The piano accompaniment has been written with the non-jazz pianist in mind, and emphasizes a bass line that might be played by a double bass. The accompanist is encouraged to play the part as written and, with a little practice, will sound like a jazz pianist.

Have fun and enjoy the educational process of this great American musical style ... jazz!

Dr. Steve Zegree

BUTTON UP YOUR OVERCOAT

for 2-part voices and piano
with optional SoundTrax CD*

Arranged by
STEVE ZEGREE

Words and Music by
B. G. DeSYLVA, LEW BROWN,
and **RAY HENDERSON**

Swing, bouncy and fun (♩ = ca. 126) (♩ = $\overset{-3}{\text{♩}}$)

Fmaj⁹

PIANO *mf*

4 PART I

6 *mf*

PART II *mf*

But - ton up your

But - ton up your

Gm⁷ Gm/B^b Bdim C⁹ F⁶

7

o - ver-coat when the wind is free.

o - ver-coat when the wind is free.

G¹³

* SoundTrax CD available (33115).

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and STEPHEN BALLENTINE MUSIC (c/o The Songwriters Guild of America)
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Sole Selling Agent for This Arrangement: Alfred Music

To purchase a full-length performance recording of this piece, go to alfred.com/downloads

Take good — care of your-self, — you be - long to me!

Take good — care of your-self, — you be - long to me!

Csus⁴ C⁷/G Csus⁴ C⁹ F⁶

Eat an ap - ple ev - 'ry day, —

Eat an ap - ple ev - 'ry day, —

F⁶

get to bed by three. Take good —

mel get to bed by three. Take good —

G¹³ Csus⁴ C⁷/G

19

mel. mp

care of your-self, — you be - long to me! Be care - ful

mp

care of your-self, — you be - long to me! Be care - ful

Csus⁴ C⁹ F

22

mf

cross-ing streets — oo! — Don't eat meats —

mf

cross-ing streets — oo! — Don't eat meats —

B^b6 F

25

do do do do! Cut out sweets — oo! —

do do do do! Cut out sweets — oo! —

G⁹

28

cresc. 30 *f*

You'll get a pain and ru - in your tum - tum! Wear your flan - nel

cresc. *f*

You'll get a pain and ru - in your tum - tum! Wear your flan - nel

C⁷ Dm⁷ Em⁷ Fmaj⁷ Gm⁷ G[#]dim F⁶

cresc. *f*

31

un - der-wear — when you climb a tree.

mel.

un - der-wear — when you climb a tree.

G^b

34

Take good — care of your-self — you be - long to me!

Take good — care of your-self — you be - long to me!

Csus⁴ C⁷/G Csus⁴ C⁹ F⁶

37 38 *mf*

Do do ba do do ba do ba did-dle-ee do ba do ba

40

dat da ba dat da ba da ba dat. Dat dat do ba do ba

G¹³ C^{sus4} C⁷/G

43

dat do dat da ba da do da — ba da ba da ba da dat!

mf

Da ba

C^{sus4} C⁹ F⁶ D⁷ G⁷ C¹³

46

da da ba da da ba da da — dat dat da da ba da did-dle-ee

F⁶ G¹³

49

da do dat. Do ba do ba do ba do ba da ba da ba da ba da ba

Csus⁴ C⁷/G Csus⁴ C⁹

52

54

Be care - ful cross - ing streets —

do ba doot doot do dat! Be care - ful cross - ing streets —

F B^b₆

55

oo! _____ Don't eat meats _____ do do do do!

oo! _____ Don't eat meats _____ do do do do!

F

58

Cut out sweets _____ oo! _____ You'll get a pain and ru -

Cut out sweets _____ oo! _____ You'll get a pain and ru -

G⁹ C⁷ Dm⁷ Em⁷

cresc. cresc. cresc.

61

62

- in your tum - tum! Eat an ap - ple ev - 'ry day, _____

- in your tum - tum! Eat an ap - ple ev - 'ry day, _____

Fmaj⁷ Gm⁷ D⁷ G⁶

f f

get to bed by three. Take good —

mel.

get to bed by three. Take good —

A¹³ Dsus⁴ D⁷/A

care of your-self, — you be-long to me! Take good —

care of your-self, — you be-long to me! Take good —

Dsus⁴ D⁹ G¹³ F¹³ E⁷ Am⁷ D⁹

care of your-self, — you be - long to me!

care of your-self, — you be - long to me!

Am⁷ D⁹ G¹³