Strike Up the Band

Music and Lyrics by GEORGE GERSHWIN and IRA GERSHWIN
Arranged by JOHN WHITNEY

INSTRUMENTATION

1 Conductor
1 1st Flute
1 2nd Flute
1 1st Oboe
1 2nd Oboe
1 1st B♭ Clarinet
1 2nd B♭ Clarinet
1 B♭ Bass Clarinet
1 1st Bassoon
1 2nd Bassoon
1 1st F Horn
1 2nd F Horn
1 3rd F Horn
1 4th F Horn
1 1st B♭ Trumpet
1 2nd B♭ Trumpet
1 3rd B♭ Trumpet
1 1st Trombone
1 2nd Trombone
1 3rd Trombone
1 Tuba
3 Mallet Percussion
(Whistle, Bells, Xylophone)
1 Timpani
(Cow Bell) (G-B♭-C-F)
2 Percussion I
(Snare Drum, Bongos)
1 Percussion II
(Cymbals/Cabasa or Maracas/Suspended Cymbal)
8 1st Violin
8 2nd Violin
5 Viola
5 Cello
5 String Bass

PROGRAM NOTES

The Broadway musical, Strike Up the Band was born in 1930 and by all reports, it was a bomb. The film, made by MGM in 1940, was a huge hit for several reasons. The most obvious was that The Wizard of Oz was released in 1938, making 16 year-old Judy Garland a huge star. Babes in Arms followed this in 1939 with Judy and Mickey Rooney. These two were also well known to American audiences for playing teen neighbors in the Andy Hardy series of movies, so their presence almost ensured a hit. Gershwin’s music was an important component, along with the appearance in Strike Up the Band of Paul Whiteman and his orchestra. In the plot line, Mickey Rooney makes a strong impression as a jazz drummer who impresses Whiteman. The patriotic element was also part of the musical plot, as America was preparing for possible armed conflict.

NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

This arrangement is an ideal opener for a concert of light music and equally appropriate as an encore piece. Audiences will note a few quotes from the American military marches and reference to “La Conga,” a large-scale production number in the film. Additional Latin percussion may be added during those sections, if the conductor wishes. On a personal note, I was born in 1942 and was touched by Gershwin several times during my youth. My mother dragged me out of the Paramount Theater in 1952 as I was sitting through a second showing of American in Paris. The music had me spellbound.

John Whitney
Southern Tier Symphony

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

All Belwin string parts have been carefully bowed and fingered appropriately by level. The Yellow Very Beginning series includes many bowings as well as reminder fingerings for first-time readers. The Red Beginning series includes frequent bowings to assist younger players. Fingerings for altered pitches are often marked. The Green Intermediate series includes appropriately placed bowings for middle-level students. Fingerings and positions are marked for notes beyond first position. The Blue Concert series includes bowings appropriate for the experienced high school player. Fingerings and position markings are indicated for difficult passages.

Bob Phillips
Belwin/Pop String Editor

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Please note: Our band and orchestra music is now being collated by an automatic high-speed system. The enclosed parts are now sorted by page count, rather than score order.
Strike Up the Band

CONDUCTOR SCORE
Duration - 4:30

Moderato (\( \dot{\text{c}} = 108 \))

Flutes
Oboe
B♭ Clarinets
B♭ Bass Clarinet
Bassoon
Horns in F
Trombones
Tuba
Mallet Percussion
Timpani
Percussion I
Percussion II
Violins
Viola
Cello
String Bass

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52 Lightly (2 + 3)
[64] March style

Conga!

Fls.
Ob.
Cls.
B. Cl.
Bsn.
Hns.
Tpts.
Tbn.
Tuba
Mlt. Perc.
Timp.
Perc. I
Perc. II

[64] March style

Conga!

Vlns.
Vla.
Cello
Str. Bass

March style

S.D.

Conga!

F

Conga!

F

Conga!

F

Conga!

F

Conga!

F

Conga!

F

Conga!

F

Conga!

F

Conga!

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