

JAZZ BAND SERIES

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Written for the Souhegan High School Jazz Ensemble, Amherst, NH,
Carl Benevides, Director

My Friend the Couch

CRAIG SKEFFINGTON

INSTRUMENTATION

Conductor
1st E♭ Alto Saxophone
2nd E♭ Alto Saxophone
1st B♭ Tenor Saxophone
2nd B♭ Tenor Saxophone
E♭ Baritone Saxophone
1st B♭ Trumpet
2nd B♭ Trumpet
3rd B♭ Trumpet
4th B♭ Trumpet

1st Trombone
2nd Trombone
3rd Trombone
Bass Trombone
Guitar Chords
Guitar
Piano
Bass
Drums

Optional Alternate Parts

C Flute
Tuba
Horn in F (Doubles 1st Trombone)
1st Baritone T.C./B♭ Tenor Saxophone (Doubles 1st Trombone)
2nd Baritone T.C./B♭ Tenor Saxophone (Doubles 2nd Trombone)
3rd Baritone T.C./B♭ Tenor Saxophone (Doubles 3rd Trombone)

NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

Commissioned by jazz ensemble at Souhegan HS, Amherst, NH, and director Carl Benevides. I'm hopeful that this chart will inspire your students to get off the "Couch" and get working on some big band Latin jazz!

This chart isn't the slow laid-back tune the title might lead you to believe, but rather "Couch" is a modal samba in G Dorian. The introduction and main theme of the tune is supported by the pianist playing the single note line, alternating RH and LH fingers.

The melody is layered-in slowly; gradually adding background figures but be careful not to let the backgrounds dominate. By measure 25, the main theme is full-out with brass backgrounds and then winding into the bridge at measure 45, work the transition groove from drummer's eighth note hi-hat to the two-feel samba. The bridge demonstrates a different feel and is a bit more technical with lines in the saxes and trumpets, some of which may look intimidating, but don't let the figures and melodic lines scare the players—they can do it! Rehearse at a slower tempo to gain confidence if needed. Careful attention to the syncopation in the backgrounds is key. The main theme returns with a low brass pedal. Balance is very important in this section, make sure the melody, the secondary background lines, and the pedal notes are all in perspective. Measures 57 and 59 offer a space for a tasty drum fill to set up the ensemble on beat 4.

The solo section is based on a (concert) G Dorian minor chord and scale. A simple explanation for G Dorian is an F major scale beginning on G. From that scale, have them first concentrate on small note groupings or cells—for example, G, B \flat , and C. Then move the cell around, maybe F, G, B \flat , and so on. The idea is to minimize or limit the note choices and concentrate on rhythmic development. Although the section is designed for solos for tenor 1 and trumpet 2, feel free to open it up to anyone. Always encourage improvisation. Make sure the backgrounds are dynamically under the soloists.

The bridge returns after the solo section. To get the most of the harmonized sax line, direct the 2nd alto and tenors to play out and work the octave pitch issue between alto 1 and bari. As the bridge moves back to the main theme and the single note piano line figure, have the drummer pick up the intensity especially in the 4 bars preceding the modulation at 127. From this point out, precision is key with busy, syncopated lines, but work them slowly at first. The *subito mezzo piano* at measure 143 is very effective if everyone including the rhythm catches it. Coming out of that, make sure to count measures 147–150 as there are syncopated figures that stretch over the bar line. Spend some quality time on these few measures. The ending should be understated, with light cymbal colors on the fermata.

Enjoy!

—Craig Skeffington



**Craig
Skeffington**

Craig Skeffington has been an active New England composer for the past 2 decades with commissions for jazz, marching and wind band. A high school band director of 15 years, Craig was the 2003 MMEA Teacher of the Year and is currently on the faculty of the University of Southern Maine. Craig has performed professionally with Barry Manilow, Natalie Cole, and toured with the Artie Shaw Orchestra.

CONDUCTOR
38689S

Written for the Souhegan High School Jazz Ensemble - Amherst, NH
Carl Benevides, Director

By CRAIG SKEFFINGTON

MY FRIEND THE COUCH

SAMBA $\text{d} = 80$

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

PLAY SINGLE NOTE LINE WITH 2 FINGERS, LH - RH
N.C.

N.C.

BASS

DRUMS

S.O.

8TH NOTES ON H.H.

FILL

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

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CONDUCTOR

-2-

MY FRIEND THE COUCH

9 W/TPT. 2

W/ALTO 1, TPT. 2, BS. TEN.

W/ALTO 1, BARI.

N.C.

FILL

10 11 12 13 14 15 16

CONDUCTOR

- 3 -

MY FRIEND THE COUCH

(17)

ALTO 1
ALTO 2
TENOR 1
TENOR 2
BASS.
TPT. 1
TPT. 2
TPT. 3
TPT. 4
TBN. 1
TBN. 2
TBN. 3
TBN. 4
GTR.
PNO.
BASS
DRUMS

17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24

ENSEMBLE

CONDUCTOR

- 4 -

MY FRIEND THE COUCH

(25)

ALTO 1
ALTO 2
TENOR 1
TENOR 2
BASS
TPT. 1
TPT. 2
TPT. 3
TPT. 4
TBN. 1
TBN. 2
TBN. 3
TBN. 4
GTR.
PNO.
BASS
DRUMS

25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33

ENSEMBLE

ENSEMBLE

CONDUCTOR

- 6 -

MY FRIEND THE COUCH

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

BASS.

TPT. 1

TPT. 2

TPT. 3

TPT. 4

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

TBN. 3

TBN. 4

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

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ENSEMBLE
FILL

CROSS STICK

34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42

CONDUCTOR

- 6 -

MY FRIEND THE COUCH

45

ALTO 1
ALTO 2
TENOR 1
TENOR 2
BASS.
TPT. 1
TPT. 2
TPT. 3
TPT. 4
TBN. 1
TBN. 2
TBN. 3
TBN. 4
GTR.
PNO.
BASS
DRUMS

(Guit.)
(Guit.)
(Guit.)

TIME - SAMBA

43 44 45 46 47 48 49

ENS.

ALTO 1
ALTO 2
TENOR 1
TENOR 2
BASS
TPT. 1
TPT. 2
TPT. 3
TPT. 4
TBN. 1
TBN. 2
TBN. 3
TBN. 4
GTR.
PNO.
BASS
DEUMS

Dm7 G7
Dm7 G7
Am7(b5) D7(b9)
Am7(b5) D7(b9)
G9 G7(b9) G15
G9 G7(b9) G15
Dm7 G7
Dm7 G7
Am7(b5) D7(b9)
Am7(b5) D7(b9)
G9 G7(b9) G15
G9 G7(b9) G15

50 51 52 53 54 55 56

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

BASS.

TPT. 1

TPT. 2

TPT. 3

TPT. 4

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

TBN. 3

TBN. 4

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DEUMS

57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65

CONDUCTOR

- 9 -

MY FRIEND THE COUCH

(66)

ALTO 1
ALTO 2
TENOR 1
TENOR 2
BASS.
TPT. 1
TPT. 2
TPT. 3
TPT. 4
TBN. 1
TBN. 2
TBN. 3
TBN. 4
GTR.
PNO.
BASS
DRUMS

QUAD. CRES.
QUAD. CRES.

N.C.
QUAD. CRES.

8TH NOTES ON H.H.
B.D.

66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73

Fill.

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CONDUCTOR

- 10 -

MY FRIEND THE COUCH

(74)

ALTO 1
ALTO 2
TENOR 1
TENOR 2
BASS
TPT. 1
TPT. 2
TPT. 3
TPT. 4
TBN. 1
TBN. 2
TBN. 3
TBN. 4
GTR.
PNO.
BASS
DRUMS

QUAD. CRESO.
TIME-SAMBA

8bMaj9 07 8bMaj9 A15
8bMaj9 07/C 8bMaj9 A15
ENSEMBLE

74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83

Preview Use Requires Purchase Only

A page of musical notation for a 15-piece ensemble. The page is heavily redacted with large, diagonal text reading "Legal Use Requires Purchase Only".

The musical score includes parts for:

- ALTO 1
- ALTO 2
- TENOR 1
- TENOR 2
- BARI.
- TPT. 1
- TPT. 2
- TPT. 3
- TPT. 4
- TBN. 1
- TBN. 2
- TBN. 3
- TBN. 4
- Gtr.
- PNO.
- BASS
- DRUMS

The score is numbered from 84 to 93 at the bottom. Measure 85 contains specific key signatures: B^b major (#1), D⁷, B^b major/G, A^b major/G, G minor. Measure 86 contains: B^b major (#1), D^{7/C}, B^b major/G, A^b major/G, G minor. Measures 87 through 93 are mostly blank or contain rests. Measure 90 has an "ENSEMBLE" instruction. Measure 93 ends with a fermata over the bass line.

(94) SOLOS FOR TENOR 1/TPT. 2 (BACKGROUNDS ON SECOND TIME)

ALTO 1
ALTO 2
(FIRST SOLOIST)
AH17
D9
AH17
EM17
TENOR 1
TENOR 2
BASS
TPT. 1
(SECOND SOLOIST)
AH17
D9
AH17
EM17
TPT. 2
TPT. 3
TPT. 4
TBNS. 1
TBNS. 2
TBNS. 3
TBNS. 4
GTR.
PNO.
BASS
TIME - SAMBA
CROSS STICK
SEMI CLOSED HI HAT
Drums
80
94
95
96
97
98
99
100
101

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

BASS.

TPT. 1

TPT. 2

TPT. 3

TPT. 4

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

TBN. 3

TBN. 4

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

102 103 104 105 106 107 108 109

CONDUCTOR

- 14 -

MY FRIEND THE COUCH

110

111

112

113

114

115

116

117

TIME - SAMBA

(118)

ALTO 1
ALTO 2
TENOR 1
TENOR 2
BASS
TPT. 1
TPT. 2
TPT. 3
TPT. 4
TBN. 1
TBN. 2
TBN. 3
TBN. 4
GTR.
PNO.
BASS
DRUMS

118 119 120 121 122 123

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CONDUCTOR

- 16 -

MY FRIEND THE COUCH

ALTO 1
FLUTE
ALTO 2
TENOR 1
TENOR 2
BASS
TPT. 1
TPT. 2
TPT. 3
TPT. 4
TBN. 1
TBN. 2
TBN. 3
TBN. 4
GTR.
PNO.
BASS
DRUMS

124 125 126 127 128 129 130

(127)

8.0.

N.C.

PLAY SINGLE NOTE LINE WITH 2 FINGERS, LH - RH

N.C.

8TH NOTES ON H.H.

ENSEMBLE

CONDUCTOR

- 17 -

MY FRIEND THE COUCH

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

BASS

TPT. 1

TPT. 2

TPT. 3

TPT. 4

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

TBN. 3

TBN. 4

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

131

132

133

134

135

136

137

138

CONDUCTOR

- 18 -

MY FRIEND THE COUCH

(139)

ALTO 1
ALTO 2
TENOR 1
TENOR 2
BASS
TPT. 1
TPT. 2
TPT. 3
TPT. 4
TBN. 1
TBN. 2
TBN. 3
TBN. 4
GTR.
PNO.
BASS
DRUMS

139 140 141 142 143 144 145 146

CONDUCTOR

- 19 -

MY FRIEND THE COUCH

ALTO 1
ALTO 2
TENOR 1
TENOR 2
BASS
TPT. 1
TPT. 2
TPT. 3
TPT. 4
TBN. 1
TBN. 2
TBN. 3
TBN. 4
GTR.
PNO.
BASS
DRUMS

147 148 149 150 151 152 153 154 155

Abmaj9 C9(alt) Abmaj9 Gb9 F#m7 C15 Dbmaj9 C7(9)
Abmaj9/C C9(alt)/Bb Abmaj9 Gb9 F#m7 C15/E Dbmaj9 C7(9)
Abmaj9/C C9(alt)/Bb Abmaj9 Gb9 F#m7 C15/E Dbmaj9 C7(9)
8TH NOTES ON H.H.
"CALORIES"