

FIRST YEAR CHARTS

FOR JAZZ ENSEMBLE



The First Noel

TRADITIONAL

Arranged by PETER BLAIR

INSTRUMENTATION

Conductor
1st E♭ Alto Saxophone
2nd E♭ Alto Saxophone
1st B♭ Tenor Saxophone
2nd B♭ Tenor Saxophone (Optional)
E♭ Baritone Saxophone (Optional)
1st B♭ Trumpet
2nd B♭ Trumpet
3rd B♭ Trumpet (Optional)

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

Optional/Alternate Parts

C Flute
B♭ Clarinet
Vibraphone
Tuba (Doubles Bass)
Horn in F (Doubles 1st Trombone)
Baritone Horn T.C./B♭ Tenor Saxophone (Doubles 1st Trombone)

NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

The opening figure is repeated several times throughout the arrangement. Direct the ensemble to play this figure crisp, light, and with accurate articulation. The *staccato* markings are short, but not too short or clipped. Notes with *tenuto* markings should get their full values. As a “pop ballad,” the entire performance should be tasty, sensitive, and well controlled dynamically—understated is best. If you have a percussionist in addition to your drummer, bell tree and wind chimes can be added. This adds a nice timbre to the ensemble, but make sure any percussion embellishment is subtle and not overpowering.

The first chorus, beginning at measure 10, shifts the melody among all the sections. The drums should be playing eighths on a closed hi-hat with rim knocks on beat 3 for a contemporary pop/rock feel. The flute, clarinet, and vibes parts are optional, but they will add nice color if used.

At measure 34, the opening figure returns, and the drummer should play the part on different parts of the cymbals as indicated (light domes, not crashes). Alto saxophone has the solo melody at measure 43, and the piano part should be played as written in this section.

The high point in the chart is at measure 62. Be sure the chord is full and well balanced, without being over-played. The rhythmic variation in measures 66–67 might need to be conducted, as will the slight *rallentando* that ends the chart.

The rhythm section parts are written out. Guitar comping should be light and understated. For the best sound, ask the guitarist to use medium-thick picks, held loosely between the thumb and index finger. This will give the sound an acoustic quality. The guitarist’s quarter-note rhythm should perfectly mesh with the bass so that they merge into one big sound.

Enjoy!

—Peter Blair



Peter Blair

Peter Blair has an extensive and varied background in education and performance. He holds a BA in music education from Carroll University and an MA from the University of Wisconsin. He taught for twelve years at a variety of grade levels. Blair is currently an author and part of the advisory group for Lorenz Educational Press along with being an author and composer for Heritage Music Press. An accomplished composer and arranger, Blair has over 70 compositions and arrangements in print, as well as many commissions for college, high school and middle school groups throughout the United States.

CONDUCTOR
41109S

THE FIRST NOEL

Traditional
Arranged by Peter Blair

BALLAD ♩ = 96

2 FLUTE (OPTIONAL)

B♭ CLARINET (OPTIONAL)

1ST E♭ ALTO SAXOPHONE

2ND E♭ ALTO SAXOPHONE

1ST B♭ TENOR SAXOPHONE

2ND B♭ TENOR SAXOPHONE (OPTIONAL)

E♭ BARITONE SAXOPHONE (OPTIONAL)

1ST B♭ TRUMPET

2ND B♭ TRUMPET

3RD B♭ TRUMPET (OPTIONAL)

1ST TROMBONE

2ND TROMBONE (OPTIONAL)

3RD TROMBONE (OPTIONAL)

GUITAR (OPTIONAL)

PIANO

BASS

DRUMS

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

SOLO

mp3

Legal Use Requires Purchase

© 2014 BELWIN-MILLS PUBLISHING CORP.,
a division of ALFRED MUSIC
All Rights Reserved including Public Performance

Purchase a full-length
performance recording!
alfred.com/downloads

CONDUCTOR

- 2 -

THE FIRST NOEL

10

FLUTE

CLAR.

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

BARI.

TPT. 1

TPT. 2

TPT. 3

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

TBN. 3

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18

Legal Use Requires Purchase

Chord symbols: Bbmaj7, Cm9, Bb/D, Gm7, Cm7, F9, Bbmaj9, Cm7, Cm7, Ebmaj7, Ab7(11)

Drum notation: FILL

CONDUCTOR

- 3 -

THE FIRST NOEL

19

FLUTE

CLAR.

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

BARI.

TPT. 1

TPT. 2

TPT. 3

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

TBN. 3

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26

Legal Use Requires Purchase Only

Chord symbols: Gmi7, D/F#, Gmi/f, Ebmaj7, Bb/f, Bbmaj9, Bbmaj9/A, Gmi7, C13, Cmi7, Ebmi/f, Bbmaj7

CONDUCTOR

27

FLUTE

CLAR.

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

BAR.

TPT. 1

TPT. 2

TPT. 3

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

TBN. 3

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35

Preview Only Requires Purchase

LIGHT DOWNS, AD LIB.

CONDUCTOR

- 5 -

THE FIRST NOEL

FLUTE

CLAR.

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

BARI.

TPT. 1

TPT. 2

TPT. 3

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

TBN. 3

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44

Legal Use Requires Purchase

SOLO

45

Chords: Gmi9, Cmi7/F, Bbm7, Abm9, Gmi9, E/F, Bbm7, Cmi9, B/D, Gmi7, AS WEITEN

Drum notation: FILL, FILL

CONDUCTOR

- 6 -

THE FIRST NOEL

FLUTE

CLAR.

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

BARI.

TPT. 1

TPT. 2

TPT. 3

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

TBN. 3

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54

Legal Use Requires Purchase

CONDUCTOR

- 7 -

THE FIRST NOEL

FLUTE

CLAR.

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

BARI.

TPT. 1

TPT. 2

TPT. 3

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

TBN. 3

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63

CHM. ROLL

LIGHT FILL

Legal Use Requires Purchase

CONDUCTOR

- 8 -

THE FIRST NOEL

FLUTE

CLAR.

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

BARI.

TPT. 1

TPT. 2

TPT. 3

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

TBN. 3

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73

SLIGHT RALL.

LEGAL USE PREVIEW

Requires Purchase

Light Comes, Ad Lib.

Ped.

Bb Maj7

Abmaj9

Gbm9

Cbm7/F

Preview Only
Legal Use Requires Purchase

Preview Only
Legal Use Requires Purchase



alfred.com

