

# JAZZ BAND SERIES



## The Opener II

CARL STROMMEN

### INSTRUMENTATION

|                        |               |
|------------------------|---------------|
| Conductor              | 1st Trombone  |
| 1st E♭ Alto Saxophone  | 2nd Trombone  |
| 2nd E♭ Alto Saxophone  | 3rd Trombone  |
| 1st B♭ Tenor Saxophone | Bass Trombone |
| 2nd B♭ Tenor Saxophone | Guitar Chords |
| E♭ Baritone Saxophone  | Guitar        |
| 1st B♭ Trumpet         | Piano         |
| 2nd B♭ Trumpet         | Bass          |
| 3rd B♭ Trumpet         | Drums         |
| 4th B♭ Trumpet         |               |

### Optional/Alternate Parts

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

## NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

*The Opener II* is a classic bright swing chart that will work at various tempos. Particularly for young players, it is essential to find the right tempo pocket so that the rhythm section locks in. The intro is an 8-bar drum solo on hi-hat and ride cymbal that can be extended, if desired. To maintain the bright, fast tempo, the walking bass line and the drummer's ride cymbal are key. The bass player and drummer should spend some quality time simply playing the pulse or "time," first at different tempos and then at the tempo that the ensemble is comfortable performing.

The piano and guitar parts are guides that support the ensemble with comping, indicated by slash marks. Comping can be described as improvising rhythmically to provide the harmonic structure of the chart. To prevent comping clutter, caution the guitar and piano player not to play too much. Have the players either take turns in various sections of the chart, or position themselves so they can easily hear each other and tastefully share comping responsibilities. I suggest that the chords be played lightly behind ensemble sections and a bit stronger during the solos so the soloist can hear the chord changes.

Regarding ensemble articulation, *marcato*, or rooftop (▲), markings are played detached and accented. Regarding releases, notes should be held for their full value, and each section should release together. Clean releases will make any band sound more mature.

For an ensemble, at a bright tempo, dragging can tend to be an easy occurrence. Simply direct the band to not play too loud, as playing loudly can bog the band down and make them lose energy. Keep it light with focused energy throughout—easier said than done!

Suggested solos are provided, but I encourage soloists to improvise and create their own solo. Soloists can begin by embellishing the written solos. Another step to begin to improvise is to listen for the chord changes, hear the chord root, and know when it moves to another chord. Focus! Listen for and know the form, too. For additional solos, repeat the solo section. Backgrounds should stay dynamically under solos.

Speaking of dynamics, at m. 89, the entire ensemble should come way down to a whisper and gradually builds as indicated.

Have fun playing jazz!

—Carl Strommen



**Carl  
Strommen**

Carl Strommen teaches orchestration and composition at the C. W. Post Campus of Long Island University (NY) and was Director of Bands at Mamaroneck High School in Mamaroneck, New York. An ASCAP award winner, he continues to maintain an active commission, clinic, and writing schedule. Mr. Strommen is a graduate of Long Island University (NY) and The City College of New York.

CONDUCTOR  
41131S

# THE OPENER II

By Carl Strommen (ASCAP)

SWING ♩ = 208

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

GIUITAR

PIANO

BASS

DRUMS

SOLO H.H. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

CRASH

RIDE CYM.

FILL

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

BARI.

TPT. 1

TPT. 2

TPT. 3

TPT. 4

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

TBN. 3

BASS TBN.

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16

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ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

BARI.

TPT. 1

TPT. 2

TPT. 3

TPT. 4

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

TBN. 3

BASS TBN.

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

BAR.

TPT. 1

TPT. 2

TPT. 3

TPT. 4

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

TBN. 3

BASS TBN.

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32



ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

BARI.

TPT. 1

TPT. 2

TPT. 3

TPT. 4

TEN. 1

TEN. 2

TEN. 3

BASS TEN.

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40

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ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

BARI.

TPT. 1

TPT. 2

TPT. 3

TPT. 4

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

TBN. 3

BASS TBN.

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

45

PLAY BACKGDS. BOTH TIMES

SOLO BREAK

SOLO END TIME

CHORDS: Cmaj7, A18, Dmi7, 87(b9)

41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48



ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

BARI.

TPT. 1

TPT. 2

TPT. 3

TPT. 4

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

TBN. 3

BASS TBN.

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56

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## CONDUCTOR

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61

## THE OPENER II

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

BARI.

TPT. 1

TPT. 2

TPT. 3

TPT. 4

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

TBN. 3

BASS TBN.

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64

Chord symbols: A13, D13, Dmi7, G13, G13(b9), Cmaj9, A13, Dmi7, 87, F13, F13(b9), Bbmaj9, G13, Cmi7, A7.

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

BARI.

TPC. 1

TPC. 2

TPC. 3

TPC. 4

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

TBN. 3

BASS TBN.

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72

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1.

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

BARI.

TPT. 1

TPT. 2

TPT. 3

TPT. 4

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

TBN. 3

BASS TBN.

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

END SOLO

SOLO BREAK

CH17

CH17/f

(AS WRITTEN)

73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

BARI.

TPT. 1

TPT. 2

TPT. 3

TPT. 4

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

TBN. 3

BASS TBN.

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

2.

END SOLO

81

82

83

84

85

86

87

88

89

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

BARI.

TPT. 1

TPT. 2

TPT. 3

TPT. 4

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

TBN. 3

BASS TBN.

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

GRAD. CRESC.

SOLO

CHORDS: Cm9, A7, Dm7, F#m7, B7, Em7, Cm9, C6, Em7, A7

FILL

89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

BARI.

TPT. 1

TPT. 2

TPT. 3

TPT. 4

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

TBN. 3

BASS TBN.

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

UNISON SOLI

m2

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97 98 99 100 101 102 103 104



105 112

ALTO 1  
ALTO 2  
TENOR 1  
TENOR 2  
BARI.

GRAD. CRESC.

TPT. 1  
TPT. 2  
TPT. 3  
TPT. 4

TBN. 1  
TBN. 2  
TBN. 3  
BASS TBN.

GTR.  
PNO.  
BASS  
DRUMS

SAX. SOLI  
SAXES  
FILL  
END

105 106 107 108 109 110 111 112

CHORDS: Cmaj7, A7(b9)/C#, Dmi7, F#mi7, B7, Emi7, Cmaj9, C6, Emi7, A9, A7

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

BARI.

TP. 1

TP. 2

TP. 3

TP. 4

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

TBN. 3

BASS TBN.

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

113 114 115 116 117 118 119 120

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## CONDUCTOR

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THE OPENER II

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

BARI.

TP. 1

TP. 2

TP. 3

TP. 4

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

TBN. 3

BASS TBN.

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

121 122 123 124 125 126 127 128

SOLO

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