

Christmas Tree Ride

TRADITIONAL Arranged by VICTOR LÓPEZ

INSTRUMENTATION

Conductor1st Trombone1st E♭ Alto Saxophone2nd Trombone (Optional)2nd E♭ Alto SaxophoneGuitar Chords1st B♭ Tenor SaxophoneGuitar (Optional)2nd B♭ Tenor Saxophone (Optional)Piano1st B♭ TrumpetBass

Drums

Optional/Alternate Parts

1st C Flute
2nd C Flute
1st B♭ Clarinet
2nd B♭ Clarinet
E♭ Baritone Saxophone
Auxiliary Percussion (Shaker, Sleigh Bells)
Vibraphone
Tuba (Doubles Bass)
Horn in F (Doubles 1st Trombone)

2nd Bb Trumpet (Optional)

Baritone Horn T.C./Bb Tenor Saxophone (Doubles 1st Trombone)

NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

Christmas trees are harvested and transported to various destinations, often many miles away from their growing fields. Many times the trees are transported via helicopter—hence the title "Christmas Tree Ride." The arrangement is based on the traditional carol "O Christmas Tree," or "O Tannenbaum."

This chart is written in a bossa nova style throughout except for mm. 29–36, which is written in a $\frac{3}{4}$ jazz waltz style. A simple explanation of these two styles may be necessary if the ensemble is fairly young. You could direct students to research the two meters and styles for further discussion.

Measures 1–12 serve as an extended introduction that sets up the relaxed bossa nova groove.

If time permits, consider rehearsing the rhythm section first to establish the bossa feel, and then add the winds. Make certain the dynamic markings are followed carefully and that all players begin and finish the *crescendos* and diminuendos together.

The jazz waltz feel at m. 29 should have a relaxed flow. Hopefully the meter change to $\frac{3}{4}$ will not cause any conceptual difficulties, as it flows well. Regarding articulation, *staccato* notes should not be played too short; avoid clipping or chopping the notes. The *marcato*, or rooftop, accents are detached and accented with full value—think "daht."

At m. 47, during the alto saxophone solo, keep the backgrounds dynamically under the soloist. Although improvisation is always encouraged, a suggested solo has been written for the inexperienced player.

The *tutti/unison* section follows the alto solo and starts at m. 63. The ensemble should focus on blend and balance, and each player should strive to listen to his or her section and the entire ensemble.

Ride on!

—Victor López



Victor López

Victor López is a highly acclaimed educator, composer, arranger, and adjudicator. He holds music degrees from the University of Florida and Florida International University, with an Ed.D. in Educational Administration and Supervision. He has served as director of bands at the middle and senior high school levels and as an administrator in the Miami-Dade County Public Schools. He has recorded and performed with various artists and has appeared in numerous music videos. He has over 450 compositions/arrangements published as an exclusive composer, arranger and clinician for Alfred Music.

















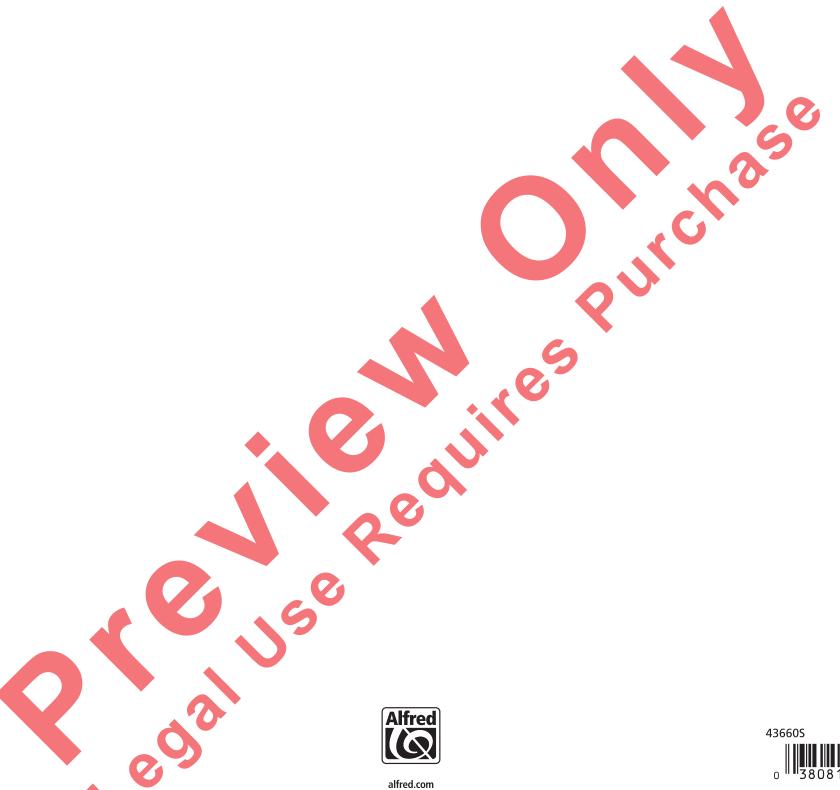












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