

# JAZZ BEGINNINGS SERIES

**Belwin™ JAZZ**  
a division of Alfred

# Polar Vortex

VICTOR LÓPEZ

## INSTRUMENTATION

Conductor	1st Trombone
1st E $\flat$ Alto Saxophone	2nd Trombone (Optional)
2nd E $\flat$ Alto Saxophone	Guitar Chords
1st B $\flat$ Tenor Saxophone	Guitar (Optional)
2nd B $\flat$ Tenor Saxophone (Optional)	Piano
1st B $\flat$ Trumpet	Bass
2nd B $\flat$ Trumpet (Optional)	Drums

## Optional/Alternate Parts

1st C Flute  
2nd C Flute  
1st B $\flat$  Clarinet  
2nd B $\flat$  Clarinet  
E $\flat$  Baritone Saxophone  
Vibraphone  
Auxiliary Percussion (Cowbell, Tambourine)  
Tuba (Doubles Bass)  
Horn in F (Doubles 1st Trombone)  
Baritone Horn T.C./B $\flat$  Tenor Saxophone (Doubles 1st Trombone)  
iPad/Cell Phone Sound Effect (Download)

## NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

Some fun facts: A “polar vortex” is a large pocket of very cold air, typically the coldest, that sits over the arctic region of North America during the winter. The polar vortex is not a new phenomenon, as scientists have been studying it for many decades. What really happens is that every now and then, areas of high pressure displace this mass of cold air over the Pacific, pushing the colder air south over Canada and into the upper regions of the United States.

Now to the music. The introduction sets the mood for the siren-like sound at m. 5, followed by a thematic funk bass unison motive, played by the bass, guitar, and piano, that leads to the unison melody at m. 13. Up to that point, the music anticipates the arrival of something—the “polar vortex.”

At m. 21, the mood changes, as the melodic line is now harmonized in fourths to give the harmony an edgy, cool sound. Then the siren-like effect returns, and musical intensity begins to develop as the unison melody returns.

At m. 42, the solo section includes a written alto sax solo. The soloist can play as written or embellish some improvisational ideas. If desired, other soloists could play in this solo section.

When programming this work, adding an actual siren/alarm sound effect will certainly enhance the dramatic effectiveness of the piece. You are encouraged to experiment with the following idea.

Have a couple of students research the Internet for a siren/alarm-like sound effect application (app).

Download the app to a Smart Phone or Tablet.

Once the download is completed, play the siren/alarm sound through a sound system or small amplifier so that it is heard, but make certain the sound is not distorted and does not drown out the ensemble. With a little practice, this approach should come off smoothly and effectively.

To make this activity even more fun, get the audience involved by inviting the school principal, a parent, or a community leader to play the sound effect. This person would not have to read music; just cue the sound effect as needed.

Have fun!

—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.

CONDUCTOR  
43661 S

# POLAR VORTEX

By Victor López (ASCAP)

Rock  $\text{♩} = 126$

1st C FLUTE (OPTIONAL)

2ND C FLUTE (OPTIONAL)

1st B♭ CLARINET (OPTIONAL)

2ND B♭ CLARINET (OPTIONAL)

1st E♭ ALTO SAXOPHONE

2ND E♭ ALTO SAXOPHONE

1st B♭ TENOR SAXOPHONE

2ND B♭ TENOR SAXOPHONE (OPTIONAL)

1st B♭ TRUMPET

2ND B♭ TRUMPET (OPTIONAL)

1st TROMBONE

2ND TROMBONE (OPTIONAL)

GIUITAR (OPTIONAL)

PIANO

BASS

DRUMS

CONDUCTOR

POLAR VORTEX

Musical score for CONDUCTOR, featuring parts for FLUTE 1, FLUTE 2, CLAR. 1, CLAR. 2, ALTO 1, ALTO 2, TENOR 1, TENOR 2, TRP. 1, TRP. 2, TBN. 1, TBN. 2, GTR., PNO., BASS, and DRUMS. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings (e.g., *mf*, *sfz*).

7 8 9 10 11 12

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CONDUCTOR

FLUTE 1

FLUTE 2

CLAR. 1

CLAR. 2

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

TRP. 1

TRP. 2

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

GRE.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

H.H. CLOSED

The image shows a page of a musical score for a conductor. It contains 14 staves of music, each labeled with an instrument: Flute 1, Flute 2, Clarinet 1, Clarinet 2, Alto 1, Alto 2, Tenor 1, Tenor 2, Trumpet 1, Trumpet 2, Trombone 1, Trombone 2, Grand Piano, Piano, Bass, and Drums. The music is written in a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a common time signature. A large, diagonal red watermark reading 'Preview Only' is overlaid across the center of the page. The page number '- 3 -' is centered at the top, and the title 'POLAR VORTEX' is in the top right corner. The conductor's part is indicated by the 'CONDUCTOR' label in the top left. The drum part includes the instruction 'H.H. CLOSED' and a series of rhythmic patterns. The page is numbered 13 through 18 at the bottom.

CONDUCTOR

FLUTE 1

FLUTE 2

CLAR. 1

CLAR. 2

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

TRP. 1

TRP. 2

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

19 20 21 22 23 24

CONDUCTOR

FLUTE 1

FLUTE 2

CLAR. 1

CLAR. 2

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

TRP. 1

TRP. 2

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

To CODA

25 26 27 28 29 30

The image shows a page of a musical score for a conductor, titled "POLAR VORTEX". The page is numbered "- 5 -" and contains staves for various instruments: Flute 1 and 2, Clarinet 1 and 2, Alto 1 and 2, Tenor 1 and 2, Trumpet 1 and 2, Trombone 1 and 2, Guitar, Piano, Bass, and Drums. The score includes musical notation such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings. A large red watermark "Preview Only" is overlaid diagonally across the page, with the text "Legal Use Requires Purchase" written below it. The page ends with a "To CODA" instruction and a measure rest symbol. The bottom of the page is numbered with measures 25 through 30.

CONDUCTOR

FLUTE 1

FLUTE 2

CLAR. 1

CLAR. 2

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

TRP. 1

TRP. 2

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

33

31

32

33

34

35

36

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CONDUCTOR

Musical score for POLAR VORTEX, page 7. The score includes parts for Flute 1 & 2, Clarinet 1 & 2, Alto 1 & 2, Tenor 1 & 2, Trumpet 1 & 2, Trombone 1 & 2, Guitar, Piano, Bass, and Drums. A large red watermark 'Preview Only - Legal Use Requires Purchase' is overlaid diagonally across the page. The score shows measures 37 through 41 with various musical notations including notes, rests, and dynamic markings like 'mf' and 'cresc.'

CONDUCTOR

42 (OPT. OPEN FOR SOLOS)  
PLAY END TIME ONLY OR ON CUE

FLUTE 1

FLUTE 2

CLAR. 1

CLAR. 2

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

TRP. 1

TRP. 2

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

42 43 44 45 46 47 48



50

FLUTE 1

FLUTE 2

CLAR. 1

CLAR. 2

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

TRP. 1

TRP. 2

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

49 50 51 52 53 54

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CONDUCTOR

Musical score for CONDUCTOR, featuring parts for FLUTE 1, FLUTE 2, CLAR. 1, CLAR. 2, ALTO 1, ALTO 2, TENOR 1, TENOR 2, TPT. 1, TPT. 2, TRB. 1, TRB. 2, GTR., PNO., BASS, and DRUMS. The score includes measures 55 through 61, with a rehearsal mark at measure 58. A large red watermark 'Preview Only! Legal Use Requires Purchase' is overlaid on the page.

CONDUCTOR

♩ CODA

Musical score for CONDUCTOR, featuring parts for FLUTE 1, FLUTE 2, CLAR. 1, CLAR. 2, ALTO 1, ALTO 2, TENOR 1, TENOR 2, TPT. 1, TPT. 2, TBN. 1, TBN. 2, GTR., PNO., BASS, and DRUMS. The score includes a large red watermark: "Legal Use Requires Purchase".

The score is divided into measures 62 through 69. Measure 62 includes a CODA symbol. The instrumentation includes Flute 1 and 2, Clarinet 1 and 2, Alto 1 and 2, Tenor 1 and 2, Trumpet 1 and 2, Trombone 1 and 2, Guitar, Piano, Bass, and Drums. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings.

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