

Night Cruiser ...

INSTRUMENTATION

Conductor 1st E♭ Alto Saxophone 2nd E Alto Saxophone 1st Bb Tenor Saxophone 2nd By Tenor Saxophone (Optional) Baritone Saxophone (Optional) 1st Bb Trumpet 2nd B♭ Trumpet 3rd Bb 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./Bb Tenor Saxophone (Doubles 1st Trombone)

NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

Night Cruiser is set in a bright swing style. Various optional parts are included for flexibility: flute, clarinet, F hombaritone T.C./tenor sax, tuba, and vibraphone.

The 1st trombone has a solo that is completely written out; however, simple chord symbols are included to encourage some improvisation if desired.

As in all jazz music, especially swing, correct observance of all articulations is extremely important for the overall success of the performance. In particular, the rooftop or *marcato* markings (A) are played detached and accented, with full value. *Staccato* markings are short but not too short or clipped. The ensemble should also focus on releases; accurate and consistent releases will make a band sound polished and more mature. A dotted half note is typically released on beat 4. A half note is released on beat 2, and so on.

For much of the chart, the piano part should be played as written. However, in the section from mm. 33–46, encourage your pianist to experiment with some simple and varied comping. To get the general concept of comping, the pianist can incorporate rhythms that are written elsewhere in the arrangement. The guitar part has slashes with rhythms, slashes only, and a few written notes. The rhythm slashes indicate the chord name and the rhythm to be played, typically with the piano. For slashes-only comping in this swing style, the guitarist should strive to produce a traditional sound that replicates an acoustic guitar—one that is light and understated. For the best sound, ask the guitarist to use medium-thick picks, which will give the sound an acoustic quality, and to hold the pick loosely between the thumb and index finger. The guitarist's quarter-note rhythm should perfectly mesh so that the guitar and walking bass merge into one big sound.

I hope that you and your ensemble find Night Cruiser to be a fun and exciting musical experience!

Enjoy!

—Mike Story



Mike Story

Mike Story has written extensively for junior high, high school, and college school groups as well as for professional groups including the Houston Pops Orchestra. He is a solid and dynamic writer with more than 750 compositions to his name. He holds bachelor's and master's degrees in music education from the University of Houston (TX).



















