

JAZZ BAND SERIES



The Little Drummer Boy

Words and Music by KATHERINE DAVIS, HENRY ONORATI and HARRY SIMEONE

Arranged by ROB HOLMES

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 Little Drummer Boy" is a swinging arrangement of a classic holiday favorite based on the timeless big band chart "Cute," composed by Neal Hefti. This arrangement takes many cues from the Count Basie Orchestra's original recording of "Cute," which can be found on the 1958 album release called *Basie Plays Hefti*. Many Basie recordings demonstrate the traditional big band swing feel, available via YouTube.

Teaching students how to swing the eighth-note lines in this arrangement is critical to a successful performance. It is imperative that both the ensemble and rhythm section focus on the swing feel. You can check out the demo recording of this chart at alfred.com/downloads.

Ensemble eighth notes should maintain a triplet feel throughout the piece. More specifically, students should learn to divide each beat in common time into eighth-note triplets and tie the first two notes of each triplet together. Playing eighth-note lines with this specific triplet feel will make the first eighth note in a group of two eighth notes slightly longer than the second. This will create a swing feel at the indicated tempo. The faster the tempo with any swing tune, the less "swing" feel is needed. As your ensemble begins to swing the eighth-note passages consistently, make sure that your players maintain a *legato* feel, keeping it smooth and connected. This explanation based on triplets is the traditional swing concept that is taught universally. I should point out that an exaggerated and somewhat "corny"-sounding swing concept to be avoided is dotted eighths/sixteenths.

The guitar part is often a written line with the horn section. Therefore the guitarist should strive to blend at all times and provide a color to the lines rather than try to lead the ensemble. For the comping slashes, play with a medium-thick pick, which will give the sound a very bright, acoustic quality, and hold the pick loosely between the thumb and index finger. Strum straight quarter notes to cut off (mute) the sound of the chord right after striking the strings. Strum from the elbow to help *propel* the rhythm section. The guitarist's quarter note rhythm should perfectly mesh so that the guitar and bass merge into one big sound.

Since the chart features the drummer, play close attention to the drums in the demo recording. You'll hear the drum solo, which will provide many solo ideas, and the drumming behind the ensemble will showcase how to accompany a big band with brushes in a swing style.

Enjoy!

—Rob Holmes



**Rob
Holmes**

Rob Holmes attended the University of Miami School of Music, earning his bachelor's degree in jazz saxophone performance. Rob received his master's in music composition from Virginia Commonwealth University. He has performed with jazz artists Joe Williams, Bob Mintzer, Lew Soloff, Kenny Werner, Jon Faddis, Mulgrew Miller, Chris Potter, Eddie Daniels, and Branford Marsalis, to name a few.

Rob has recorded three of his own CDs. He performs regularly in the D.C./Baltimore area, and is a member and musical director of the US Navy Band Commodores jazz ensemble.

CONDUCTOR
43683S

THE LITTLE DRUMMER BOY

Words and Music by
Katherine Davis, Henry Onorati
and Harry Simeone
Arranged by Rob Holmes

SWING ♩ = 168-192

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

Legal Use Requires Purchase

SOLOS: SOLO - RE-ENTER WITH ENSEMBLE

SOLO FILL

SWING

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

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mp3
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performance recording!
alfred.com/downloads

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

19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26

SOLO FILL

SOLO FILL

Legal Use Only

Requires Purchase

Chord symbols: A^b6, E^b7(b9), F^b7, B^b/D, E^b, C⁷, F^b7, A^b6, E^b/G, F^b7, E^b, E^bMaj7, E^b9, E^b9, A^b, D^b7(b9)

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

BARI.

TPR. 1

TPR. 2

TPR. 3

TPR. 4

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

TBN. 3

BASS TBN.

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

39

- 5 -

THE LITTLE DRUMMER BOY

[illegible]

CONDUCTOR

- 6 -

THE LITTLE DRUMMER BOY

47

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

47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54

Legal Up30 Requires Purchase

CONDUCTOR

(55) TRUMPET SOLO

- 7 -

THE LITTLE DRUMMER BOY

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

SOLO

Legal Use Requires Purchase

55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62

CONDUCTOR

- 8 -

THE LITTLE DRUMMER BOY

63

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

BARI.

TPR. 1

TPR. 2

TPR. 3

TPR. 4

TEN. 1

TEN. 2

TEN. 3

BASS TEN.

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

64

65

66

67

68

69

70

Legal Use Requires Purchase

CONDUCTOR 79

- 10 -

THE LITTLE DRUMMER BOY

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

SARI.

TPT. 1

TPT. 2

TPT. 3

TPT. 4

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

TBN. 3

BASS TBN.

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86

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END SOLO

ENS. SOLI SHOUT CHORUS

F#m7 Gb7 Ebmaj7 C7(b9) F#m7 Gb7 Bbm7 Eb7(b9)

CONDUCTOR

- 11 -

THE LITTLE DRUMMER BOY

87

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

87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94

Legal Use Requires Purchase

95

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

BARI.

TPTR. 1

TPTR. 2

TPTR. 3

TPTR. 4

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

TBN. 3

BASS TBN.

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

95 96 97 98 99 100 101 102

Legal Use Required

SOLO FILL

Chord symbols: F#m7, Bb7, Ebm7, C7(b9), F#m7, Bb7, Bbm7, Eb7(b9)

103

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

103 104 105 106 107 108 109 110

Abmaj7 Abmaj6 Cm7(b9) G7(b9) Cm7 Fm7 Bb7 Eb6

SOLO-----1

BRUSHES

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

BARI.

TPR. 1

TPR. 2

TPR. 3

TPR. 4

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

TBN. 3

BASS TBN.

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

111 112 113 114 115 116 117 118

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

SOLO FILL

SOLO FILL

119 120 121 122 123 124 125 126

Chord symbols: A^b6, E^b7(b9), F^b7, B^b/D, E^b, C⁷, F^b7, A^b6, E^b/G, F^b7, E^b, E^b7(b9), E^b9, A^b, D^b7(b9)

CONDUCTOR

- 16 -

THE LITTLE DRUMMER BOY

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

127 128 129 130 131 132 133 134 135

137

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

(SOLO FILL)

136 137 138 139 140 141 142 143 144

Legal Use Requires Purchase

Chords: A^b7, A^b9, A^b10, E^b, D^b7(b9), G7(b9), C^b7, F#11, G^b7, A^b, B^b7, G^b13(b9)

145

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

145 146 147 148 149 150 151 152 153 154

436835

US \$11.00



0 38081 49605 4