

# Up on the Housetop

BENJAMIN HANBY
Arranged by PETER BLAIR

## INSTRUMENTATION

Conductor

1st El Alto Saxophone

2nd El Alto Saxophone

1st Bl Tenor Saxophone

2nd Bl Tenor Saxophone

El Baritone Saxophone (Optional)

1st Bl Trumpet

2nd Bl Trumpet

3rd Bl Trumpet

4th Bl Trumpet (Optional)

1st Trombone
2nd Trombone
3rd Trombone (Optional)
4th 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)

1st Baritone Horn T.C./Bb Tenor Saxophone (Doubles 1st Trombone)
2nd Baritone Horn T.C./Bb Tenor Saxophone (Doubles 2nd Trombone)

#### **NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR**

The introduction to this chart (mm. 1–8), should be energetic, but only *mezzoforte*, leaving plenty of room for the band to build dynamically.

The brass section has the melodic lead beginning at m. 9. Strive to make sure the articulations are consistent between the trumpets and trombones. It will make the band sound tight, mature, and well-rehearsed if all articulations are uniform. The *marcato*, or rooftop, markings are detached and accented—think "daht." The *staccato* indications are short, but not too short or clipped. The saxes and rhythm section should sound full and blended.

The saxophones take over the melody at m. 25. Be sure the brass hits on the upbeats are tight and articulated together. During mm. 41–48, the ensemble should gradually build toward the modulation at m. 49. As in all ensemble music, continue to explain the need to prioritize relative dynamics among sections; in other words, the melody is always dynamically the strongest voice, and the countermelodies and background figures are secondary. Strive to make sure the band listens to the whole unit and knows the difference between these priorities. Keep the saxophones and trombones light and bright in the section at m. 49. The ending alto duet should be tight and dynamically *mezzoforte*.

The rhythm section parts are well-notated for drums, bass, and piano. The (optional) guitar part has a combination of rhythmic accents with chord symbols, chord slashes to comp, and written notes. The comping slashes should be played as swing quarter notes, as well as tight, clean, and muted to stay under the ensemble. The guitar comping should sync or lock with the bass line.

Enjoy!

—Peter Blair



#### Peter Blair

Peter Blair has an extensive and varied background in education and performance. He holds a BA in music education from Carroll University and an MA from the University of Wisconsin. He taught for twelve years at a variety of grade levels. Blair is currently an author and part of the advisory group for Lorenz Educational Press along with being an author and composer for Heritage Music Press. An accomplished composer and arranger, Blair has over 70 compositions and arrangements in print, as well as many commissions for college, high school and middle school groups throughout the United States.



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