

# Rhythm Is Gonna Get You

Words and Music by Gloria Estefan and Enrique Garcia

Arranged by Victor López

## INSTRUMENTATION

Conductor

1st E♭ Alto Saxophone

2nd E♭ Alto Saxophone

1st B Tenor Saxophone

2nd Bb Tenor Saxophone

Eb Baritone Saxophone (Optional)

1st Bb Trumpet

2nd B Trumpet

3rd Bb Trumpet

4th By Trumpet (Optional)

1st Trombone

2nd Trombone

3rd Trombone (Optional)

4th Trombone (Optional)

**Guitar Chords** 

Guitar (Optional)

Electric Piano

**Electric Bass** 

Drums

**Auxiliary Percussion I** 

(Large Cowbell, Shaker and/or Cabasa)

**Auxiliary Percussion II** 

(Timbales/Small Cowbell/Woodblock,

Conga 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**

Recorded in 1987 by Gloria Estefan and the Miami Sound Machine, "Rhythm Is Gonna Get You" is one of the songs featured in *On Your Feet*, a new Broadway musical that will chronicle the biography of the Estefans. Both Gloria and Emilio emigrated from Cuba to Miami in the early 1960s and have achieved international stardom with hits like "Conga," "Rhythm Is Gonna Get You" and "1-2-3." I have a certain familiar relationship with this music, as I am a former lead trumpeter of the Miami Sound Machine.

The effectiveness of this arrangement is critical on having a tight rhythm section. Besides the traditional guitar, piano, bass, and drumset parts, two additional percussion parts have been written for this arrangement. Percussion I requires two players—one on cowbell and the other one on shaker. Percussion II requires two players also—one on timbales and another one on conga drums.

All parts are intertwined, but each player should learn and memorize his or her part so that it feels natural and not have to depend on reading the music. One rehearsal technique is to rehearse each part separately and then add the other part(s) one at a time. Listening to the demo recording of this arrangement, which is provided on alfred.com/downloads, is another suggestion, and it will also help to master the groove of the piece. The chart will sound fine with the traditional rhythm section, but the added percussion will add an important flair to the chart.

Concerning articulation, some notes have a staccato articulation and others a *marcato* (A) or a rooftop accent; the difference being that staccato markings indicate that notes are to be played detached and lightly, while notes with *marcato* accents are to be played detached with a moderate accent.

Rehearsing the rhythm section first will be ideal and definitely will set the groove for the wind players. At the beginning, take time to rehearse mm. 1 and 3 with the winds. That rhythm may be a little tricky and will occur later at mm. 12, 20, and 38 for those instruments playing the melody.

Throughout the chart, there are several percussion features and breaks that can be found in mm. 5, 13–14, 21–22, 29–32, 39–40, 47, 49–56, and 64. Make certain to thoroughly rehearse these sections specifically when the percussion is exposed.

#### **Teaching Rhythm Patterns**

I suggest teaching the rhythms in a sequence of patterns; not as individual notes. Teach the rhythm pattern aurally at first and then show students the pattern afterwards—the students will remember them better. Introduce the rhythms in layers. For example, the rhythm pattern shown in Ex. 2 appears in mm. 1–2 and 3–4 of the introduction. Begin with Ex. 1 followed by Ex. 2, then work on Ex. 3 and put it all together in Ex. 4, a three-measure pattern that appears in mm. 12–14, 19–21, and 37–39.

#### Beginning with Ex. 1:

- 1) Tap a steady pulse (beat) with your foot; at first, it should be slower than the tempo indicated on the music. Use a metronome!
- 2) While tapping the pulse, clap the rhythm pattern.
- 3) Use rhythm syllables if you like.
- 4) Play the pattern on an instrument using one pitch.
- 5) Go to Ex. 2 and repeat steps 1-4.
- 6) Indicate where the rhythm pattern appears in the music.

Once finished with Ex. 1 and 2, repeat the same routine beginning with Ex. 3 this time.



Apply this same process when teaching the percussion parts. They will be a bit easier to learn and teach because of the repetitive nature of the patterns.

This piece is certainly exciting and it is loaded with rhythmic intricacies that will be fun and challenging to learn and teach.

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.



















