



Why We Can't Have Nice Things

By Gordon Goodwin

INSTRUMENTATION

Conductor
B \flat Tenor Saxophone
B \flat Trumpet
Trombone
Guitar
Piano
Bass (Acoustic)
Drums
Auxiliary Percussion (Congas)
Guitar Chords

NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

The Big Phat Band recorded this song on our Grammy-winning record *Life in the Bubble*, but in actuality, this song started out as a chart for the Phat Band's musical cousin, the Little Phat Band. Those of us that are used to playing the full big band version will need to become accustomed to covering the same basic material with only three horns. But once you get these licks under your fingers, I promise you, it's a lot of fun!

There are a number of different combinations and voicings of the three horns in this chart, so make sure you are tuned in to the orchestration throughout. The tenor sax may be unison with the trumpet at one moment, and a measure later it's playing with the trombone. You will notice that these licks get passed back and forth from horn to horn, so be aware of how that works and be ready to take the handoff from each other in a clean and tight manner. Commit to these licks and play them with confidence and, as always, a good sense of time. You can listen to and learn from the Little Phat Band recording of this song on our record, *An Elusive Man*. You will notice that the three horns all play with a strong air stream at all times, which makes the licks really pop. Using proper breath support (as we all have been told many times) also helps intonation and will make the ensemble sound a lot bigger than it is.

Improvising on this song is a lot of fun. Harmonically, it is a series of dominant 7th chords. Like in any jazz improvisation, every player will have to learn the structure/form of the song, but once you do, there is lots of room for interesting possibilities.

The LPB likes to play this song at a pretty fast tempo, but there is one horn lick which will likely determine your tempo for this one. Picking the correct tempo for this chart (or any chart) is important, and the lick in measures 243–244 is probably your determining factor. How fast can you execute that sucker? There's your tempo!

There's nothing like an exciting flag-waver chart to start your set off with a bang or give your concert an exciting conclusion, and "Why We Can't Have Nice Things" works every time!

I hope you have fun playing this chart!

—Gordon Goodwin



Gordon Goodwin

Gordon Goodwin started composing at the age of three. No masterpieces at that time, but he kept at it and wrote his first big band chart at age 13. It was good enough to convince him that he could possibly keep doing this. Flash cut 20 years later and Gordon is working in Hollywood, writing for television and film, playing sessions on keyboards and woodwinds, and working with artists like Ray Charles, Christina Aguilera, Johnny Mathis, Toni Braxton, John Williams, Natalie Cole, David Foster, Sarah Vaughan, Mel Tormé, Brian McKnight, and Quincy Jones, to name a few. Goodwin's cinematic scoring and orchestration craft can be heard on such films as *The Sorcerer's Apprentice*, *Escape to Witch Mountain*, *Get Smart*, *Glory Road*, *National Treasure*, *The Incredibles*, *Remember the Titans*, *Armageddon*, *The Majestic*, *Con Air*, *Gone In 60 Seconds*, *Enemy of the State*, *Star Trek Nemesis*, and even the classic cult film *Attack of the Killer Tomatoes*.

In 2000, Goodwin formed The Big Phat Band, an eighteen-piece jazz ensemble, which quickly gained a reputation as one of the most exciting large jazz ensembles on the planet. To date, the BPB has released five records, *Swingin' for the Fences* (2000), *XXL* (2003), *The Phat Pack* (2006), *Act Your Age* (2008), and *That's How We Roll* (2011). The albums have featured state-of-the-art guest artists like Arturo Sandoval, Eddie Daniels, Take 6, Brian McKnight, Johnny Mathis, Michael Brecker, Dianne Reeves, David Sanborn, Chick Corea, Dave Grusin, Lee Ritenour, Patti Austin, Art Tatum, Dave Koz, Gerald Albright, and Marcus Miller.

Goodwin's work has garnered him three Emmy Awards and eleven Grammy® nominations, with three Grammy wins for his work on the Pixar film *The Incredibles* (2006) and his arrangements of "Rhapsody in Blue" (2012) and "On Green Dolphin Street" (2014). His charts are played all over the world, and along with his method books and CDs, have been a robust source of inspiration and learning for thousands of young musicians.

CONDUCTOR
46172S

As Recorded by Gordon Goodwin's Little Phat Band
WHY WE CAN'T HAVE NICE THINGS

By GORDON GOODWIN

FAST SWING $\text{♩} = 250$

B♭ TENOR SAXOPHONE

B♭ TRUMPET

TRUMPONE

CHORD CHANGES SHOWN IN PART.
GUITAR

PIANO

BASS
(ACOUSTIC)

DRUMS

AUXILIARY
PERCUSSION
(CONGAS)

TENOR

TRP.

TBN.

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

AUX. PECC.

The image displays a musical score for the song "Why We Can't Have Nice Things" by Gordon Goodwin. The score is arranged for a conductor and includes parts for various instruments: B♭ Tenor Saxophone, B♭ Trumpet, Trumpone, Guitar, Piano, Bass (Acoustic), Drums, Auxiliary Percussion (Congas), Tenor, Trp., Tbn., Gtr., Pno., Bass, Drums, and Aux. Pecc. The score is divided into two systems, with measures 1-8 in the first system and measures 9-16 in the second. A large, diagonal red watermark reading "Preview Only" is overlaid across the entire score, with the text "Legal Use Requires Purchase" written below it. The score includes chord changes and a tempo marking of "FAST SWING ♩ = 250".

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17

TENOR

TRP.

TBN.

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

AUX. PERC.

17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24

TENOR

TRP.

TBN.

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

AUX. PERC.

25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32



CONDUCTOR

WHY WE CAN'T HAVE NICE THINGS

Musical score for measures 33-40. Includes parts for TENOR, TRP., TEN., GTR., PNO., BASS, DRUMS, and AUX. PERC. with various musical notations and a large red watermark.

Measures: 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40

Instrument parts: TENOR, TRP., TEN., GTR., PNO., BASS, DRUMS, AUX. PERC.

Chord markings: D9(b9), G15, C15(b9), F15

Tempo/Performance markings: *rit.*

Musical score for measures 41-48. Includes parts for TENOR, TRP., TEN., GTR., PNO., BASS, DRUMS, and AUX. PERC. with various musical notations and a large red watermark.

Measures: 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48

Instrument parts: TENOR, TRP., TEN., GTR., PNO., BASS, DRUMS, AUX. PERC.

Chord markings: E15(b9), C15(b9)

Tempo/Performance markings: *rit.*

Musical score for measures 49-56. Includes parts for TENOR, TRP., TEN., GTR., PNO., BASS, DRUMS, and AUX. PERC. with various musical notations and a large red watermark.

Musical score for measures 57-64. Includes parts for TENOR, TRP., TEN., GTR., PNO., BASS, DRUMS, and AUX. PERC. with various musical notations and a large red watermark.

Musical score for CONDUCTOR, featuring parts for TENOR, TRP., TEN., GTR., PNO., BASS, DRUMS, and AUX. PERC. The score includes measures 65 through 78. A large red watermark "Preview Only" is overlaid diagonally across the page, with the text "Legal Use Requires Purchase" written below it.

Measures 65-71: Tenor part begins with a melodic line. Chord symbols for guitar include G9(b9), A9(b9), G9(b9), G9(b9), G9(b9), A9(b9), G9, and F7(#9). Chord symbols for piano include G9(b9).

Measures 72-78: Tenor part continues with melodic lines. Chord symbols for guitar include A9(b9) and F7(b9). Chord symbols for piano include A9(b9) and F7(b9). The word "cresc." is written above the piano part in measures 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, and 78.

Musical score for measures 79-85. Includes staves for TENOR, TRP., TBN., GTR., PNO., BASS, DRUMS, and AUX. PERC. with various musical notations and a large red watermark.

Musical score for measures 86-95. Includes staves for TENOR, TRP., TBN., GTR., PNO., BASS, DRUMS, and AUX. PERC. with various musical notations and a large red watermark.

Musical score for measures 94-101. Includes parts for TENOR, TRP., TEN., GTR., PNO., BASS, DRUMS, and AUX. PERC. A large red watermark "Preview Only" is overlaid diagonally across the page.

Musical score for measures 102-109. Includes parts for TENOR, TRP., TEN., GTR., PNO., BASS, DRUMS, and AUX. PERC. A large red watermark "Preview Only" is overlaid diagonally across the page.

CONDUCTOR

WHY WE CAN'T HAVE NICE THINGS

SOLOS
1ST TIME ONLY

Musical score for measures 110-117. Includes staves for TENOR, TRP., TBN., GTR., PNO., BASS, DRUMS, and AUX. PERC. with various musical notations and chord symbols.

Measures 110-117 are marked with measure numbers below the staff.

Musical score for measures 118-125. Includes staves for TENOR, TRP., TBN., GTR., PNO., BASS, DRUMS, and AUX. PERC. with various musical notations and chord symbols.

Measures 118-125 are marked with measure numbers below the staff.



Musical score for measures 126-133. Instruments include TENOR, TRP., TBN., GTR., PNO., BASS, DRUMS, and AUX. PERC. Chord symbols are provided above the staves.

Measure	TENOR	TRP.	TBN.	GTR.	PNO.	BASS
126	E9	E9	D9			D9
127	E9	E9	D9			D9
128	E9	E9	D9			D9
129	E9	E9	D9			D9
130	E7	E7	D7			D7
131	A15	A15	G15			G15
132	D7	D7	C7			C7
133	G15	G15	F15			F15

Musical score for measures 134-141. Instruments include TENOR, TRP., TBN., GTR., PNO., BASS, DRUMS, and AUX. PERC. Chord symbols are provided above the staves.

Measure	TENOR	TRP.	TBN.	GTR.	PNO.	BASS
134	F#15	F#15	E15			E15
135	D7	D7	C7			C7
136	G9	G9	F9			F9
137	D9(b9)	D9(b9)	B7(b9)			B7(b9)
138	D9(b9)	D9(b9)	B7(b9)			B7(b9)
139	D9(b9)	D9(b9)	B7(b9)			B7(b9)
140	D9(b9)	D9(b9)	B7(b9)			B7(b9)
141	D9(b9)	D9(b9)	B7(b9)			B7(b9)



142

TENOR C⁹ D⁹ C⁹ G^{b13} C⁹

TRP. C⁹ D⁹ C⁹ G^{b13} C⁹

TEN. B^{b9} B⁷ B^{b9} A^{b13} B^{b9}

GTR. B^{b9} B⁷ B^{b9} A^{b13} B^{b9}

PNO. B^{b9} B⁷ B^{b9} A^{b13} B^{b9}

BASS B^{b9} B⁷ B^{b9} A^{b13} B^{b9}

DRUMS

AUX. PERC.

142 143 144 145 146 147 148 149 150 151

TENOR G^{b7} A^{b9}

TRP. G^{b7} A^{b9}

TEN. A^{b7} G^{b9}

GTR. A^{b7} G^{b9}

PNO. A^{b7} G^{b9}

BASS A^{b7} G^{b9}

DRUMS

AUX. PERC.

152 153 154 155 156 157 158 159 160 161



162 ON CUE AFTER SOLOS

Musical score for measures 162-169. Includes staves for TENOR, TRUMPET (Tpt.), TENOR BASS (Tbn.), GUITAR (Gtr.), PIANO (Pno.), BASS, DRUMS, and AUXILIARY PERCUSSION (AUX. PEER.).

Measure numbers: 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169.

Chord symbols: $B^9(b9)$, B^9 , $B^9(b9)$, D^9/A , E^9/A , E^9/A .

Musical score for measures 170-177. Includes staves for TENOR, TRUMPET (Tpt.), TENOR BASS (Tbn.), GUITAR (Gtr.), PIANO (Pno.), BASS, DRUMS, and AUXILIARY PERCUSSION (AUX. PEER.).

Measure numbers: 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177.

Chord symbols: $B^9(b9)$, B^9 , $A7(\#9)$, A^9 , G^9 , D^9 , C^9 , $F7(\#9)$.



178

Musical score for measures 178-185. Includes parts for TENOR, TRP., TEN., GTR., PNO., BASS, DRUMS, and AUX. PERC. with measure numbers 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, and 185.

Musical score for measures 186-194. Includes parts for TENOR, TRP., TEN., GTR., PNO., BASS, DRUMS, and AUX. PERC. with measure numbers 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, and 194.



194

TENOR

TRP.

TEN.

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

AUX. PERC.

194 195 196 197 198 199 200 201

TENOR

TRP.

TEN.

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

AUX. PERC.

202 203 204 205 206 207 208



CONDUCTOR

WHY WE CAN'T HAVE NICE THINGS

Musical score for measures 209-216. Instruments: TENOR, TRP., TEN., GTR., PNO., BASS, DRUMS, AUX. PERC. Includes a rehearsal mark 212.

Musical score for measures 217-223. Instruments: TENOR, TRP., TEN., GTR., PNO., BASS, DRUMS, AUX. PERC. Includes rehearsal marks 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223.



This musical score is for the piece "Why We Can't Have Nice Things". It is a conductor's score, meaning it contains parts for all instruments and the vocal soloist. The score is divided into two systems of music. The first system covers measures 224 through 230, and the second system covers measures 231 through 237. The instruments included are Tenor (TENOR), Trumpet (TRP.), Trombone (TBN.), Guitar (GTR.), Piano (PNO.), Bass (BASS), Drums (DRUMS), and Auxiliary Percussion (AUX. PERC.). The vocal part is written for a Tenor. The piano part includes specific voicings such as D9(b9) and C7(b9). The guitar part features a melodic line with a D9(b9) voicing. The bass part provides a steady accompaniment. The drums and auxiliary percussion parts provide a rhythmic foundation. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, dynamics (e.g., *mezzo-forte*), and articulation marks. A large red watermark reading "Preview Only" is overlaid diagonally across the entire page, and "Legal Use Requires Purchase" is written below it.

Musical score for measures 238-244. Includes staves for TENOR, TRUMPET, TENOR, GTR., PNO., BASS, DRUMS, and AUX. PERC. Chord symbols include Eb13, D9(b9), F13, Eb13, A7(b9), A7(b9), G7(b9), and D13. A large red watermark 'Preview Only' is overlaid diagonally across the page.

Musical score for measures 245-250. Includes staves for TENOR, TRUMPET, TENOR, GTR., PNO., BASS, DRUMS, and AUX. PERC. Chord symbols include F13(b9), Eb13(b9), and F13(b9). Performance markings include 'SOLO' for the bass and guitar, and 'SOLO FILL' for the drums. A large red watermark 'Preview Only' is overlaid diagonally across the page.

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