

Commissioned by the Nu Chapter of Phi Beta Mu

# Such Sweet Thunder

By Duke Ellington and Billy Strayhorn  
*Arranged by Mike Kamuf*

## INSTRUMENTATION

Conductor	1st Trombone
1st E $\flat$ Alto Saxophone	2nd Trombone
2nd E $\flat$ Alto Saxophone	3rd Trombone
1st B $\flat$ Tenor Saxophone	Bass Trombone
2nd B $\flat$ Tenor Saxophone	Guitar Chords
E $\flat$ Baritone Saxophone	Guitar
1st B $\flat$ Trumpet	Piano
2nd B $\flat$ Trumpet	Bass
3rd B $\flat$ Trumpet	Drums
4th B $\flat$ Trumpet	

## Optional/Alternate Parts

C Flute  
Vibraphone  
Tuba (Doubles Bass)  
Horn in F (Doubles 1st Trombone)  
1st Baritone Horn T.C./B $\flat$  Tenor Saxophone (Doubles 1st Trombone)  
2nd Baritone Horn T.C./B $\flat$  Tenor Saxophone (Doubles 2nd Trombone)  
3rd Baritone Horn T.C./B $\flat$  Tenor Saxophone (Doubles 3rd Trombone)

**JAZZ  
BAND  
SERIES**

## NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

*Such Sweet Thunder* was co-written by Duke Ellington and Billy Strayhorn and is one of twelve pieces Ellington recorded in a suite of music inspired by the writings of William Shakespeare. This arrangement was commissioned by the Nu Chapter of Phi Beta Mu. While the original recording of this tune is played at 92 BPM, Ellington did play it faster in live performances. My arrangement works best between 120–132 BPM.

This arrangement opens with a straight-ahead swing feel. The bass and drums should propel the band through the introduction but not overpower the ensemble. The unison ensemble statement at m. 10, and again at m. 119, is a quote from Ellington's "Pie Eye's Blues" from his *Blues in Orbit* recording. The background figures at m. 98 also quote this theme. At m. 14, the tune's wonderful and distinctive "hook" bass line is stated over a half-time shuffle feel in the drums. The drums continue this feel throughout the arrangement wherever the hook bass line occurs. At m. 26, alto saxophones and trumpets in plungers state the melody. Care will need to be taken to make sure all players are bending the correct pitches and that trumpets approach the plunger technique in a similar fashion. I would suggest that trumpet students check out the plunger techniques of the masters via online videos of the Ellington orchestra as well as trumpet legends Clark Terry, Cootie Williams, and Snooky Young.

The first solo section begins at m. 38 and has written-out guide, or suggested, solos and chords for 1st trombone to solo the first time and 1st alto sax the second time. The repeat in this section and the second solo section at m. 86 could be omitted or extended to feature fewer or more soloists. The backgrounds at m. 50 should support but not overshadow the soloists.

Measure 62 signals the start of the saxophone section soli. As with any soli section, players should strive to observe all of the notated articulation and agree on the dynamic level.

The second solo section begins at m. 86 and features 2nd trumpet the first time and 1st tenor sax the second time. Again, the repeat in this could be omitted or extended as you see fit.

The "shout" section begins at m. 111. Here the band should be playing at a  $\frac{1}{2}$  dynamic level, striving for clean articulation, and playing in a similar manner to the introduction. The drums solo through the twelve-measure passage section beginning at m. 123. In this section the drums should play the kicks with the ensemble as notated in the bass drum and play solo fills in between these hits. The *D.S.* takes the ensemble back to the theme at m. 26 with a transition to the Coda at the end of m. 37. The Coda should gradually get softer and build back up for the final two notes.

I hope you and your students enjoy the arrangement—best wishes for a wonderful performance!

—Mike Kamuf



**Mike  
Kamuf**

Mike Kamuf holds Bachelor of Music degrees in both jazz performance and music education from Youngstown State University and a Master of Arts degree in instrumental conducting from George Mason University. Mike's compositions and arrangements have been performed by numerous jazz artists and ensembles including the Woody Herman, Glenn Miller and Tommy Dorsey Orchestras, the USAF Airmen of Note, the USAF Notables, the Navy Commodores, James Moody, Eddie Daniels, Terell Stafford, Bill Watrous, and Nick Brignola. Mike has performed with the Woody Herman and Tommy Dorsey Orchestras and the Alan Baylock Jazz Orchestra. He served as assistant principal trumpet of the Youngstown Symphony Orchestra from 1990–92. Currently, Mike leads his own jazz octet in the Washington D.C. area.

Mike is the director of instrumental music and music department chairperson at John T. Baker Middle School (Damascus, MD). Under his direction, the groups consistently receive high ratings at music festivals, have commissioned four works for concert band, and have performed at MENC regional conferences. Mike has been selected to direct the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) Senior Honors Jazz Band and the MCPS Junior Honors Concert Band.

Please visit Mike's website at: [www.mikekamuf.com](http://www.mikekamuf.com)

CONDUCTOR  
47030S

Commissioned by the Nu Chapter of Phi Beta Mu  
**SUCH SWEET THUNDER**

By Duke Ellington and Billy Strayhorn  
Arranged by Mike Kamuf

HEAVY SWING ♩ = 120-132

1ST Eb ALTO SAXOPHONE  
2ND Eb ALTO SAXOPHONE  
1ST Bb TENOR SAXOPHONE  
2ND Bb TENOR SAXOPHONE  
Eb BARITONE SAXOPHONE  
1ST Bb TRUMPET  
2ND Bb TRUMPET  
3RD Bb TRUMPET  
4TH Bb TRUMPET  
1ST TROMBONE  
2ND TROMBONE  
3RD TROMBONE  
BASS TROMBONE  
GUITAR  
PIANO  
BASS  
DRUMS

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ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

BARI.

TRP. 1

TRP. 2

TRP. 3

TRP. 4

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

TBN. 3

BASS TBN.

GR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16

SOLO FILL 3

FILL 5

1/2 TIME SHUFFLE FEEL CLOSED H.H.

TO PLUNGER

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14

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

BARI.

TRP. 1

TRP. 2

TRP. 3

TRP. 4

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

TBN. 3

BASS TBN.

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25

Musical score for 'Such Sweet Thunder' featuring various instruments and vocal parts. The score includes parts for Alto 1, Alto 2, Tenor 1, Tenor 2, Baritone, Trumpet 1-4, Trombone 1-3, Bass Trombone, Guitar, Piano, Bass, and Drums. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 4/4. The score spans measures 26 to 33. A large red watermark 'Preview - Legal Use Requires Purchase' is overlaid on the score.

**ALTO 1**  
**ALTO 2**  
**TENOR 1**  
**TENOR 2**  
**BAR.**  
**TRP. 1** (PLUNGE) WAH WAH  
**TRP. 2** (PLUNGE) WAH WAH  
**TRP. 3** (PLUNGE) WAH WAH  
**TRP. 4** (PLUNGE) WAH WAH  
**TBN. 1**  
**TBN. 2**  
**TBN. 3**  
**BASS TBN.**  
**GTR.**  
**PNO.** (15MA) --- (15MA) ---  
**BASS**  
**DRUMS**

26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33





CONDUCTOR

SUCH SWEET THUNDER

- 6 -

ALTO 1 <sup>Ahi</sup> <sup>Ewi</sup> <sup>B7ALT</sup> <sup>Ewi</sup>

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

BARI.

TRP. 1

TRP. 2

TRP. 3

TRP. 4

TBN. 1 <sup>Cui</sup> <sup>Gwi</sup> <sup>D7ALT</sup> <sup>Gwi</sup>

TBN. 2

TBN. 3

BASS TBN.

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49

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CONDUCTOR

SUCH SWEET THUNDER

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

(SFXRDS.) END TIME ONLY

me

SWING

E15 A9 E15 Bmi9 E15 A9 E15 G#m7(b5) C#7(b9)

G15 C9 G15 Dmi9 G15 C9 G15 Bmi7(b5) E7(b9)

G15 C9 G15 Dmi9 G15 C9 G15 Bmi7(b5) E7(b9)



CONDUCTOR

SUCH SWEET THUNDER

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

BARI.

TRP. 1

TRP. 2

TRP. 3

TRP. 4

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

TBN. 3

BASS TBN.

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

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Chords: F#m7, B7(b9), E15, F#m7, B7, SOLI, me, OPEN, Ami7, D7(b9), G15, Ami7, D7, G15, C9, G15, Dmi9, G15

SNARE CROSS STICK

58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

BARI.

TRP. 1

TRP. 2

TRP. 3

TRP. 4

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

TBN. 3

BASS TBN.

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73

Chords: G9, G15, Bm7(b9), E7(b9), Am7, D7(b9), E7(b9), A7(b9), D7(b9), Ab15, G15

74

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. (G15) A15 G15 D7(b9) C9 G15 Bm7(b9) E7(b9)

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

74

75

76

77

78

79

80

81

CONDUCTOR

SUCH SWEET THUNDER

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

BARI.

TRP. 1

TRP. 2

TRP. 3

TRP. 4

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

TBN. 3

BASS TBN.

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

SOLO 2ND TIME

SOLO 1ST TIME

A15

D9

E mi9

A15

A mi9

A15

A mi9

D7(#9)

A15

G15

A mi7

F15

F#7(b9)

G15

C9

G15

D mi9

G15

82

83

84

85

86

87

88

89



ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

BARI.

TRP. 1

TRP. 2

TRP. 3

TRP. 4

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

TBN. 3

BASS TBN.

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

Chord symbols: D9, A15, C#m7(b9), F#7(b9), Bm7, E7(b9), A15, Bm7, E7

90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97



98

ALTO 1 (Skareds.) END TIME ONLY

ALTO 2 (Skareds.) END TIME ONLY

TENOR 1 A15 D9 A15 EMI9 A15 D9 A15 C#m7(b9) F#7(b9)

TENOR 2 (Skareds.) END TIME ONLY

BARI. (Skareds.) END TIME ONLY

TRP. 1 (Skareds.)

TRP. 2 A15 D9 A15 EMI9 A15 D9 A15 C#m7(b9) F#7(b9)

TRP. 3 (Skareds.)

TRP. 4 (Skareds.)

TBN. 1 (Skareds.) END TIME ONLY

TBN. 2 (Skareds.) END TIME ONLY

TBN. 3 (Skareds.) END TIME ONLY

BASS TBN. (Skareds.) END TIME ONLY

GTR. G15 C9 G15 DMI9 G15 C9 G15 Bm7(b9) E7(b9)

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

98

99

100

101

102

103

104

105



1. 2. (111)

ALTO 1  
ALTO 2  
TENOR 1  
TENOR 2  
BARI.  
TRP. 1  
TRP. 2  
TRP. 3  
TRP. 4  
TBN. 1  
TBN. 2  
TBN. 3  
BASS TBN.  
GTR.  
PNO.  
BASS  
DRUMS

Am7 E7(b9) A13 Bm7 E7

Am7 D7(b9) G13 Am7 D7

PLAY

106 107 108 109 110 111 112 113

FILL

This musical score is for the piece "Such Sweet Thunder" and is intended for a conductor. It spans measures 114 to 120. The score includes parts for:

- Vocalists: Alto 1, Alto 2, Tenor 1, Tenor 2, Baritone, and Bass.
- Instrumentalists: Trumpets 1-4, Trombones 1-3, Bass Trombone, Guitar, Piano, Bass, and Drums.

The score is written in a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a common time signature (C). A large, diagonal red watermark reading "Preview Only Requires Purchase" is overlaid across the entire page. The conductor's part is located at the top of the page, with the vocal and instrumental parts arranged below it.

123

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

BARI.

TRP. 1

TRP. 2

TRP. 3

TRP. 4

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

TBN. 3

BASS TBN.

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

TO PLUNGER

TO PLUNGER

TO PLUNGER

TO PLUNGER

SOLO FILL

FILL

SOLO BETWEEN FIGURES

121 122 123 124 125 126 127



ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

BARI.

TRP. 1

TRP. 2

TRP. 3

TRP. 4

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

TBN. 3

BASS TBN.

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

128

129

130

131

132

133

134

TO 1/2 TIME SHUFFLE FEEL

END SOLO

Ⓢ CODA

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

BARI.

TRP. 1

TRP. 2

TRP. 3

TRP. 4

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

TBN. 3

BASS TBN.

GRV.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

135

136

137

138

139

140

141

142

143

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