

**FIRST
YEAR
CHARTS**
FOR JAZZ ENSEMBLE



The Thumb

By John L. (Wes) Montgomery
Arranged by Terry White

INSTRUMENTATION

Conductor
1st E \flat Alto Saxophone
2nd E \flat Alto Saxophone
1st B \flat Tenor Saxophone
2nd B \flat Tenor Saxophone (Optional)
E \flat Baritone Saxophone (Optional)
1st B \flat Trumpet
2nd B \flat Trumpet
3rd B \flat Trumpet (Optional)
1st Trombone
2nd Trombone (Optional)
3rd Trombone (Optional)
Guitar Chords
Guitar (Optional)
Piano
Bass
Drums

Optional/Alternate Parts

C Flute
B \flat Clarinet
Vibraphone
Tuba (Doubles Bass)
Horn in F (Doubles 1st Trombone)
Baritone Horn T.C./B \flat Tenor Saxophone (Doubles 1st Trombone)

NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

The legendary jazz guitarist John L. (Wes) Montgomery composed the blues head *The Thumb* for his 1966 album *Tequila*. Many of Wes's tunes work very well for young jazz ensembles and *The Thumb* is no exception. Following the introduction to the arrangement, the melody (head) is introduced by the trumpet and alto sax with the rhythm section playing in a "two feel." The feel changes to a "four feel" at m. 15. The "two feel" should be relaxed, but be careful that the tempo doesn't drag. When the feel changes to the "four feel," it may have the tendency to rush. I suggest pointing this out to your rhythm section players. The trumpets pick up the melody on the second chorus at m. 21. The melody has some nice licks that students can learn and perhaps utilize in their improvised solos later in the arrangement.

Measure 33 has interplay between the brass and saxes. The brass should try to articulate their upbeat hits with solid articulation. The marcato (♣), or rooftop accent, is detached and accented, think "Daht." Although the quarter notes in m. 41 are notated with a staccato articulation, the short quarter notes that are on beats 2 and 4 need to be slightly emphasized to allow the feel to swing and not get stiff.

There is ample opportunity for soloists in the chart. Please feel free to open up the solo section at m. 57 to allow for additional improvisers, if desired.

The ensemble shout section at m. 69 is taken directly from Wes's recording. The rhythms are the same for all winds, and the students should dig in and drive this section with the drummer kicking the figures and tastefully filling in the spaces.

The arrangement returns back to a final chorus of the head to take the tune out.

As I have come to be more familiar with the music of Wes Montgomery, I am appreciative of the simplicity of many of his melodies and the genius of his playing. Whether they are guitarists or not, it would provide a great learning experience for younger musicians to be exposed to the music of Wes Montgomery. I recommend checking out Wes's tracks on YouTube and the Alfred Music demo track at alfred.com.

Thanks for playing my chart!

—Terry White



**Terry
White**

Terry White is a retired music educator having taught instrumental music at all levels from beginning band to college jazz ensembles for over 34 years. He has been a composer, performer, and bandleader in the Portland, Maine area. Terry has written for many idioms including the Portland Symphony Orchestra, marching band, jazz ensemble, and concert band. His music has been performed at the Midwest clinic in Chicago, listed on the NYSSMA list, and widely published. Terry presently writes and performs with the Portland Jazz Orchestra and is an active adjudicator and festival conductor.

Visit: www.twhitemusic.com

FLUTE

CL.

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

BARI.

TPT. 1

TPT. 2

TPT. 3

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

TBN. 3

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16

Q¹⁵ F¹⁵ B⁹ A^m B⁷ A^m7 D7(b9) G^m7

Q¹⁵ F¹⁵ B⁹ A^m B⁷ A^m7 D7(b9) G^m7

"TWO" FEEL

"TWO" FEEL

WALK IN "FOUR"

IN "FOUR"

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CONDUCTOR

FLUTE

CL.

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

BARI.

TRP. 1

TRP. 2

TRP. 3

TEN. 1

TEN. 2

TEN. 3

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

21 (w/Trps.)

UNIS.

C7 F A^b15 G^b15 G^b15 F^b G^b15 F15 B^b9

C7 F A^b15 G^b15 G^b15 F^b G^b15 F15 B^b9

17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24

CONDUCTOR

THE THUMB

Musical score for CONDUCTOR, featuring parts for FLUTE, CL., ALTO 1, ALTO 2, TENOR 1, TENOR 2, BARI., TPT. 1, TPT. 2, TPT. 3, TBN. 1, TBN. 2, TBN. 3, GTR., PNO., BASS, and DRUMS. The score includes a large red watermark: "Preview Only - Legal Use Requires Purchase".

Chord progression for GTR. and PNO.:

- 25: A^{mi} B⁷ A^{mi7} D7(9)
- 26: A^{mi} B⁷ A^{mi7} D7(9)
- 27: A^{mi7} D7(9) G^{mi7}
- 28: G^{mi7} C7
- 29: C7 F A⁹ G⁹ C7(9)
- 30: F A⁹ G⁹ C7(9)
- 31: F A⁹ G⁹ C7(9)
- 32: F A⁹ G⁹ C7(9)

33

FLUTE

CL.

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

BARI.

TRP. 1

TRP. 2

TRP. 3

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

TBN. 3

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40

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CONDUCTOR

THE THUMB

- 6 -

43

Musical score for CONDUCTOR, featuring parts for FLUTE, CL., ALTO 1, ALTO 2, TENOR 1, TENOR 2, BARI., TPT. 1, TPT. 2, TPT. 3, TBN. 1, TBN. 2, TBN. 3, GTR., PNO., BASS, and DRUMS. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamics. A large red watermark reading "Preview Only" is overlaid diagonally across the page. A "SUGGESTED SOLO" section is marked for the Alto 1 part, and a "CROSS-STICK" instruction is present for the drums.

FLUTE

CL.

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

BARI.

TPT. 1

TPT. 2

TPT. 3

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

TBN. 3

Gtr.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

Chord symbols: G7, D7, B7, Em7, A7, D, A7, Bb7, F7, D7, G#m7, C7, F, C7

END SOLO

49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56



FLUTE

CL.

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

BARI.

TRP. 1

TRP. 2

TRP. 3

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

TBN. 3

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80

81

FLUTE

CL.

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

BARI.

TPT. 1

TPT. 2

TPT. 3

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

TBN. 3

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88

Q^b9

F^b11

B^b9

A^b7

D7(b9)

G^b7

A^b7

D7(b9)

G^b7

"TWO" FEEL

WALK IN "FOUR"

IN "FOUR"

W/ TPT.

W/ ALTO SAX

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FLUTE

CL.

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

BARI.

TRP. 1

TRP. 2

TRP. 3

TEN. 1

TEN. 2

TEN. 3

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96

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The image displays a page of a musical score for a piece titled "THE THUMB". The page is numbered "- 12 -" and is intended for a "CONDUCTOR". The score includes parts for Flute, Clarinet (CL.), Alto 1 and 2, Tenor 1 and 2, Baritone (BARI.), Trumpet 1, 2, and 3, Tenor 1, 2, and 3, Guitar (GTR.), Piano (PNO.), Bass, and Drums. The music is written in a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). A large, diagonal red watermark reading "Legal Use Requires Purchase" is overlaid across the entire page. The score shows measures 89 through 96, with a double bar line at the end of measure 94. The piano part includes chord symbols: C7, F, A13, G15, C7(#5), G#17, C7, F6, C7, and F#15. The drum part shows a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes.