

JAZZ BEGINNINGS SERIES

Belwin JAZZ
a division of Alfred

Blue Skies

Words and Music by Irving Berlin

Arranged by Victor López

INSTRUMENTATION

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

Optional/Alternate Parts

1st C Flute
2nd C Flute
1st B \flat Clarinet
2nd B \flat Clarinet
E \flat Baritone Saxophone
Vibraphone
Tuba (Doubles Bass)
Horn in F (Doubles 1st Trombone)
Baritone Horn T.C./B \flat Tenor Saxophone (Doubles 1st Trombone)
Auxiliary Percussion
(Claves, Guiro, Congas)

NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

Blue Skies was composed in 1926 by Irving Berlin. The song was an instant success with audiences and countless versions have been recorded by top jazz and pop artists.

The main emphasis of Latin music is the rhythm. Although this piece may be played with only a drumset, I suggest having another drummer/percussionist play the optional Auxiliary Percussion part for an authentic Latin feel. Most important is the two-measure clave pattern, 2–3 son clave, where the first measure gets two beats, and the second measure gets three beats. Note that the auxiliary part includes the guiro and the conga drums. It is highly recommended that players who have little experience with these instruments research on the internet for tutorials on how to properly play them.

Note that at the beginning of the piece, the drumset has an indication an *Abanico*. The term “abanico” means hand fan in Spanish, and it is a technique often used in Latin music. It consists of a drum roll, followed by a rim shot usually played on timbales to introduce a new section or, in this case, to begin the piece.

I suggest referencing Youtube or other online instructional and/or educational sources for additional information on these techniques and styles.

Make certain the wind players are articulating properly. Use the syllable “dah” when a note has a tenuto mark to play the note full value; “dit” for staccato, playing the note short but clipped; and “daht” for the marcato or rooftop accent (▲), which is played accented and detached.

If time permits, I suggest rehearsing the rhythm section first, making certain all players are comfortable playing their parts. Then add the winds and work on balance and a relaxed groove. Remember that the cha-cha-cha is basically a dance style. As for the tempo, the indicated ♩ = 116 BPM is about right.

Ultimately, encourage students to listen to different kinds of music genres; specifically, Latin music and professional percussionists such as Tito Puente, Chano Pozo, Mongo Santamaria, and Ray Barreto, to mention a few. The listening activity will expand their horizons, and, at the same time, they will discover new things about the instrument they play.

—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.

BLUE SKIES

Words and Music by Irving Berlin
Arranged by Victor López (ASCAP)

CHA-CHA-CHA ♩ = 116

1st C FLUTE (OPTIONAL)

2ND C FLUTE (OPTIONAL)

1st B♭ CLARINET (OPTIONAL)

2ND B♭ CLARINET (OPTIONAL)

1st E♭ ALTO SAXOPHONE

2ND E♭ ALTO SAXOPHONE

1st B♭ TENOR SAXOPHONE

2ND B♭ TENOR SAXOPHONE (OPTIONAL)

1st B♭ TRUMPET

2ND B♭ TRUMPET (OPTIONAL)

1st TROMBONE

2ND TROMBONE (OPTIONAL)

GIUITAR (OPTIONAL)

PIANO

BASS

DRUMS

CHORD CHANGES SHOWN IN PART. N.C.

SNARE DRUM

BASS DRUM

RIM SHOT

ASABICO

RIM CLICK

SM. CONSOLE (MUFFLED)

MED. TOM

5



CONDUCTOR

11

This musical score is for the piece "Blue Skies" and is intended for a conductor. The score is written for a large ensemble of instruments, including two flutes, two clarinets, two alto saxophones, two tenor saxophones, two trumpet parts, two trombone parts, guitar, piano, bass, and drums. The music is in 4/4 time and features a key signature of one sharp (F#). The score is divided into measures, with measure numbers 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11 indicated at the bottom. A large red watermark reading "Preview Only" is overlaid diagonally across the page. A red circle with the number "11" is placed above the eleventh measure of the Flute 1 part. The guitar part includes chord diagrams for G#m, F, G#m, B7, A7(#5), and Dm. The piano part includes a "FILL" section in measure 10. The drum part includes a "Toms" section in measure 10.

This musical score is for the piece "Blue Skies" and is intended for a conductor. It spans measures 12 to 18. The score includes parts for Flute 1 and 2, Clarinet 1 and 2, Alto 1 and 2, Tenor 1 and 2, Trumpet 1 and 2, Trombone 1 and 2, Guitar, Piano, Bass, and Drums. A large red watermark "Preview Only - Legal Use Requires Purchase" is overlaid diagonally across the page. The conductor part is written in a grand staff with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a common time signature (C). The guitar part includes chord diagrams and labels: Dmi/C#, Dmi/C, G9, Bbm6, F6, D7(#9), Gmi7, C7, F6, Dmi7, Bb7, and A7(#9). The piano part features a complex harmonic accompaniment with many accidentals. The drums part shows a simple rhythmic pattern with a "FILL" section indicated by a dashed line at the end of measure 18.

19

FLUTE 1

FLUTE 2

CL. 1

CL. 2

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

TRP. 1

TRP. 2

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26

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DMI

DMI/C#

DMI/C

DMI/B

F/C

TOMS

FILL

FLUTE 1

FLUTE 2

CL. 1

CL. 2

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

TRP. 1

TRP. 2

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34

DIFFERENT CYMBALS LIGHTLY

H.H. CLOSED

FLOOR TOM

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35

FLUTE 1

FLUTE 2

CL. 1

CL. 2

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

TRP. 1

TRP. 2

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42

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Chords: Dmi, Dmi/C#, Dmi/C, G9, Bbm6, F6, D7(F#), Gm7, C7, F6, Dm7, Bb7, A7(F#)

Drums: C6, FILL

43

Musical score for 'Blue Skies' featuring various instruments and a conductor part. The score includes parts for Flute 1, Flute 2, Clarinet 1, Clarinet 2, Alto 1, Alto 2, Tenor 1, Tenor 2, Trumpet 1, Trumpet 2, Trombone 1, Trombone 2, Guitar, Piano, Bass, and Drums. The conductor part is at the top. The score is marked with 'N.C.' (No Chords) for the guitar and piano parts. The drum part includes a 'FILL' at the end of the piece. The score is numbered 43 through 50 at the bottom.

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

51

FLUTE 1

FLUTE 2

CL. 1

CL. 2

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

TRP. 1

TRP. 2

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

DIFFERENT CYMBALS LIGHTLY

H.H. CLOSED

FILL

51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58

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59

FLUTE 1

FLUTE 2

CL. 1

CL. 2

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

TRP. 1

TRP. 2

TEN. 1

TEN. 2

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

59 60 61 62 63 64 65

Chords: Dmi, Dmi/C#, Dmi/C, G9, Bmi6, F6, D7(F#), Gmi7, C7, F6, Dmi7

Drums: cb.

Musical score for CONDUCTOR, featuring parts for FLUTE 1, FLUTE 2, CL. 1, CL. 2, ALTO 1, ALTO 2, TENOR 1, TENOR 2, TRP. 1, TRP. 2, TEN. 1, TEN. 2, GTR., PNO., BASS, and DRUMS. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamics. A large red watermark reading "Legal Use Requires Purchase" is overlaid diagonally across the page.

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