

a division of Alfred

# AZURE

**DUKE ELLINGTON and IRVING MILI** Arranged by MIKE LEWIS

### INSTRUMENTATION

Conductor

Ist E Alto Saxophone 2nd E Alto Saxophone Ist By Tenor Saxophone

2nd B Tenor Saxophone (Optional)

E Baritone Saxophone (Optional)

st B Trumpet

2nd By Trumpet

3rd B Trumpet (Optional)

Ist Trombone

2nd Trombone (Optional) 3rd Trombone (Optional)

Guitar (Optional)

Piano Bass

Drums

**Optional Alternate Parts** 

C Flute Tuba

Horn in F (Doubles **Ist Trombone**)

**Baritone T.C. (Doubles** 

**Ist Trombone**)



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#### NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

Duke Ellington always featured himself on the piano when he and his band would play this beautiful ballad. This chart begins with piano and drums on brushes. Keep it relaxed and mellow.

The melody at measure 5 should have a very slight swing feel—not much but just enough to accent the second eighth note gently. Remind the students to hold the notes out to their full value and release together. Although releases are often overlooked, especially in ballads, a clean release will make a band sound mature.

Ask the piano player to play the octaves starting in measure 5 nice and easy to start the band off with a relaxed, comfortable feeling. In measure 13, direct the students to play the natural dynamics by following the contour of the lead part. At measure 28, the piano solo is written out just as it should be played as opposed to any embellishment. Phrase it lyrically and connected. Behind the piano solo, the guitar can play unison but should be kept under the piano in volume—this goes for the entire chart.

Blend is critical throughout this arrangement; remind the students to listen to themselves, their section blend, and the entire ensemble. You should always be able to hear the melody in the texture.

Regarding the brushes on the drum part, the brush technique is to glide the left-hand brush clockwise in a circle in half notes on the snare drum—not jerky motions, but a smooth and connected circle. As that technique is mastered, the drummer can also gently tap the right-hand brush on beats 2 and 4 to reinforce the time pattern. I suggest that the students hear the demo recording to provide a listening model. The bass should also play as smoothly and connected as possible. If using an electric bass, strive for as much of an acoustic sound as possible. Start by adjusting all tone settings at the midpoint and go from there to achieve an acoustic sound.

Please enjoy. —Mike Lewis



















