From THE POLAR EXPRESS Hot Chocolate Recorded by JOSH GROBAN on Warner Sunset/Reprise Records

Words and Music by GLEN BALLARD and ALAN SILVESTRI Arranged by MIKE LEWIS

INSTRUMENTATION

Conductor 1st EJ- Alto Saxophone 2nd EJ- Alto Saxophone 1st BJ- Tenor Saxophone 2nd BJ- Tenor Saxophone (Optional) EJ- Baritone Saxophone (Optional) 1st BJ- Trumpet 2nd BJ- Trumpet 3rd BJ- Trumpet (Optional)

1st Trombone 2nd Trombone (Optional) 3rd Trombone (Optional) Guitar Chords Guitar (Optional) Piano Bass Drums

Optional Alternate Parts

C Flute Tuba Horn in F (Doubles 1st Trombone) 1st Baritone T.C. (Doubles 1st Trombone)

FIRST YEAR CHARTS FOR JAZZ ENSEMBLE



NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

The hi-hat starts things off. If the tempo is not secure, direct your drummer to practice with a metronome to learn maintaining a steady tempo. The bass jumps in with a walking line, which is also critical to the style. As a general rule, I suggest that all rhythm section members consistently practice with a metronome.

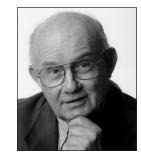
This arrangement mirrors the original *Polar Express* recording; the parts are now instrumental and usually played by the saxes. The articulation throughout must be clean and precise. Note that the rooftop accent (**A**) should be played detached but not staccato—think "daht." In general, always play the last eighth note short in a group. In measure 23, be sure that the saxes release at the same time on the half notes—I suggest a release on beat 3. The sax section scoop has a minor stylistic technique, a slight bend into the note should do it—more importantly, don't overdo it. These types of inflections are more important for the upper sax voices; therefore, the lower saxes can play it without a scoop. Save some dynamic volume for the modulation—it will increase the energy of the chart.

The drummer can embellish during the brief drum solos, but always keep the swing style. The rhythm section parts should be clear, but I suggest a listening example using the demo recording. The guitar player should play in the style of guitarist Freddie Green. Here are a few Freddie Green style ideas: slash marks indicate to comp using three-or four-note chords in a quarter-note pattern. For the best sound, ask the guitarist to use medium thickness picks which will give the sound a very bright, acoustic quality and hold the pick loosely between the thumb and index finger. Strum straight quarter notes trying to cut off (mute) the sound of the chord right after striking the strings. Strum from the elbow, giving a bright, swinging sound that propels the rhythm forward. Don't strum from the wrist or fingers, as playing from the wrist or fingers tends to sound very forced and also tends to drag instead of propel the rhythm. The guitarist's quarter note rhythm should perfectly mesh so that the guitar and bass merge into one big sound.

This chart has two endings. One will work great at holiday time with the "Jingle Bells" quote from the original recording. The other ending is without "Jingle Bells"—your choice must be clear with the ending direction to all band members!

Please enjoy!

-Mike Lewis



Mike Lewis has been a freelance arranger/composer for many years. Starting with the "Jackie Gleason TV Variety Show" as a staff arranger, he became heavily involved in the pop music field, arranging hit records for some of the top pop artists today. He has also been commissioned to write charts for the Glenn Miller Orchestra, and the Lionel Hampton and Jimmy Dorsey orchestras.

Mike

Lewis

