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RG Post

LA ALMEJA PEQUEÑA

(The Little Clam)

GORDON GOODWIN

INSTRUMENTATION

Conductor
Soprano Saxophone
1st El Alto Saxophone (Optional)
2nd El Alto Saxophone
1st Bl Tenor Saxophone
2nd Bl Tenor Saxophone
El Baritone Saxophone
1st Bl Trumpet
2nd Bl Trumpet
3rd Bl Trumpet
4th Bl Trumpet

1st Trombone
2nd Trombone
3rd Trombone
4th Trombone
Guitar Chords
Guitar
Piano
Bass
Drums
1st Auxiliary Percussion
2nd Auxiliary Percussion



NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

This piece was commissioned by the USAF Band of the West, MSqt. Steve Watkins, director.

There's often a temptation to plunge headfirst into Latin charts, but if you start this chart with a quiet but percolating groove, you'll leave yourself some dynamic room to grow. With the exception of a few measures here and there (8, 10, 40, 76–77, and 91–92), this chart doesn't get all that loud, at least at the beginning. But even when you are playing at a softer dynamic level, the horns can still spit out those rhythmic figures with tightness and polish. Don't forget all of those little internal dynamic markings, like the crescendos in measures 96, 97, 100, and 104.

After the solo section, start a long vamp (measure 153) that needs to start soft and build as each independent horn part is layered on. If you have a good timbales player, you might let him or her solo throughout the entire vamp to really help build the excitement.

Keep an eye out for places where the melody is passed back and forth among the sections. One example is measures 199–204, where the melody jumps from the saxes to the trombones, back to the saxes, and then to the brass. Maintaining the proper balance in a passage like this one takes teamwork and an awareness of not only the individual parts but also of what's going on around each player. Of course, that comment could apply to every chart you play. You can hear the Big Phat Band's version of "La Almeja Pequeña" on our Silverline Records release *The Phat Pack*.

I hope that you have fun with this chart and that you avoid all clams, large and small.

—Gordon Goodwin



Gordon Goodwin

Gordon Goodwin is a three-time Emmy Award winner and GRAMMY° winner. His band's debut album Swingin' for the Fences (Silverline Records) received two GRAMMY° nominations and is the best-selling jazz item in the DVD° Audio 5.1 surround-sound format.































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