# Attack of the Killer Tomatoes

**JOHN DeBELLO**  
Arranged by GORDON GOODWIN

## INSTRUMENTATION

| Conductor | 1st E♭ Alto Saxophone  (Soprano Saxophone) | 2nd E♭ Alto Saxophone  (Optional Flute, Piccolo) | 1st B♭ Tenor Saxophone | 2nd B♭ Tenor Saxophone | E♭ Baritone Saxophone | 1st B♭ Trumpet | 2nd B♭ Trumpet | 3rd B♭ Trumpet | 4th B♭ Trumpet | 1st Trombone | 2nd Trombone | 3rd Trombone | 4th Trombone | Guitar Chords | Guitar | Piano | Vibraphone (Optional) | Bass | Drums |
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NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

Attack of the Killer Tomatoes was the first film I ever worked on. Did you see this movie? The whole thing? Liar! No way you sat through that entire movie, but you probably heard the main title before you fell asleep. This chart starts out with everything but the main theme, although fragments of it creep in during the introduction. We make the audience wait until measure 40 to hear the bass trombone play the melody. This chart should be played tongue-in-cheek, as if you are winking at the audience at what a silly tune it is (which, by the way, is why the introduction is so complex: in order to contrast with that simple tune).

Three different tempos are in this chart: a medium swing for the intro; a faster swing for the body of the chart (measure 40); and a fanfare tempo near the end.

The solo section at measure 92 can be opened up for any of your soloists, after which a drum fill leads into the development section at measure 138. Don’t worry: the chart doesn’t stay in B minor for long, because at measure 156 it settles comfortably into D minor for the traditional big-band shout. The bass trombone leads the band back to the original tempo to reprise the intro; then it eventually works its way to a somewhat dissonant fanfare version of the theme at measure 221. The bass trombone picks up the bass line at measure 227, and it should really ritard at measure 230. Milk that ritard! Then the piccolo (or optional flute, or transposed alto if necessary) leads to the final trumpet WOPL (plungers are a must) followed by an effect probably not taught by most classical trombone instructors: the gobble. It is essentially a flutter-tongue with a plunger mute; however, your bass trombonist makes the sound. Tell him or her to think of a big, ripe tomato hitting you in the face. SPLAT!

Some of this chart is difficult—some of it is somewhat easier—but all of it is fun. You can hear the Big Phat Band’s version on the Silverline Records release The Phat Pack.

Have fun with “Attack of the Killer Tomatoes”!

—Gordon Goodwin