

Jazz at Lincoln Center Library

Rumpus in Richmond

Music by DUKE ELLINGTON

Transcribed by David Berger for Jazz at Lincoln Center

FULL SCORE

This transcription was made especially for *Essentially Ellington 2001*:
the Sixth Annual Jazz at Lincoln Center High School Jazz Band Competition & Festival.

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Annual High School Jazz Band Competition & Festival



Jazz at Lincoln Center

NOTES ON PLAYING ELLINGTON

At least 95% of modern-day large ensemble jazz playing comes out of three traditions: Count Basie's band, Duke Ellington's band, and the orchestrations of small groups. Those young players interested in jazz will be drawn to small groups for the opportunity to improvise and for practical reasons (it is much easier to organize four or five people than it is 15). Schools have taken over the task (formerly performed by dance bands) of training musicians to be ensemble players. Due to the Basie Band's popularity and its simplicity of style and emphasis on blues and swing, the better educators have almost exclusively adopted this tradition for teaching jazz ensemble playing. As wonderful as Count Basie's style is, it doesn't address many of the important styles developed under the great musical umbrella we call jazz. Duke Ellington's comprehensive and eclectic approach to music offers an alternative.

The stylistic richness of Ellington's music presents a great challenge to educators and performers alike. In Basie's music, the conventions are very nearly consistent. In Ellington's, there are many more exceptions to the rules. This calls for greater knowledge of the language of jazz. Clark Terry, who left Count Basie's band to join Duke Ellington, said, "Count Basie was college, but Duke Ellington was graduate school." Knowledge of Ellington's music prepares you to play any big band music.

The following is a list of performance conventions for the great majority of Ellington's music. Any deviations or additions will be spelled out in the individual performance notes that follow.

1. Listen carefully many times to the Ellington recording of these pieces. There are many subtleties that will elude even the most sophisticated listener at first. Although it was never Ellington's wish to have his recordings imitated, knowledge of these definitive versions will lead musicians to make more educated choices when creating new performances. Ellington's music, though written for specific individuals, is designed to inspire all musicians to express themselves. In addition, you will hear slight note differences in the recording and the transcriptions. This is intentional because there are mistakes and alterations from the original intent of the music in the recording. You should have your players play what's in the score.
2. General use of swing phrasing: The triplet feel prevails except for ballads or where notations such as even eighths or Latin appear. In these cases, eighth notes are given equal value.
3. There is a chain of command in ensemble playing. The lead players in each section determine the phrasing and volume for their own section, and their section-mates must conform to the lead. When the saxes and/or trombones play with the trumpets, the lead trumpet is the boss. The lead alto and trombone must listen to the first trumpet and follow her. In turn, the other saxes and trombones must follow their lead players. When the clarinet leads the brass section, the brass should not overblow him. That means that the first trumpet is actually playing "second." If this is done effectively, there will be very little balancing work left for the conductor.
4. In Ellington's music, each player should express the individuality of his own line. He must find a musical balance of supporting and following the section leader and bringing out the character of the underpart. Each player should be encouraged to express his or her personality through the music. In this music, the underparts are played at the same volume and with the same conviction as the lead.
5. Blues inflection should permeate all parts at all times, not just when these opportunities occur in the lead.
6. Vibrato is used quite a bit to warm up the sound. Saxes (who most frequently represent the sensual side of things) usually employ a heavy vibrato on harmonized passages and a slight vibrato on unisons. Trumpets (who very often are used for heat and power) use a little vibrato on harmonized passages and no vibrato on unisons. Trombones (who are usually noble) do not use slide vibrato. A little lip vibrato is good at times. Try to match the speed of vibrato. Unisons are played with no vibrato.
7. Crescendo as you ascend and diminuendo as you descend. The upper notes of phrases receive a natural accent, and the lower notes are ghosted. Alto and tenor saxophones need to use subtone in the lower part of their range in order to blend properly with the rest of the section. This music was originally written with no dynamics. It pretty much follows the natural tendencies of the instruments; play loudly in the loud part of the instrument and softly in the soft part of the instrument. For instance, a high C for a trumpet will be loud, and a low C will be soft.
8. Quarter notes are generally played short unless otherwise notated. Long marks above or below a pitch indicate full value: not just long, but full value. Eighth notes are played full value except when followed by a rest or otherwise notated. All notes longer than a quarter note are played full value, which means if it is followed by a rest, release the note where the rest appears. For example, a half note occurring on beat 1 of a measure would be released on beat 3.
9. Unless they are part of a legato background figure, long notes should be played somewhat *fp*, accent and then diminish the volume. This is important so that the moving parts can be heard over the sustained notes. Don't just hold out the long notes, but give them life and personality: that is, vibrato, inflection, crescendo, or diminuendo. There is a great deal of inflection in this music, and much of this is highly interpretive. Straight or curved lines imply non-pitched glisses, and wavy lines mean scalar (chromatic or diatonic) glisses. In general, all rhythmic figures need to be accented. Accents give the music life and swing. This is very important.
10. Ellington's music is about individuality: one person per part—do not double up because you have extra players or need more strength. More than one on a part makes it sound more like a concert band and less like a jazz band.
11. This is acoustic music. Keep amplification to an absolute minimum; in the best halls, almost no amplification should be necessary. Everyone needs to develop a big sound. It is the conductor's job to balance the band. When a guitar is used, it should be a hollow-body, unamplified rhythm guitar. Simple three-note voicings should be used throughout. An acoustic string bass is a must. In mediocre or poorly designed halls, the bass and piano may need a bit of a boost. I recommend miking them and putting them through the house sound system. This should provide a much better tone than an amplifier. Keep in mind that the rhythm section's primary function is to accompany. The bass should not be as loud as a trumpet. That is unnatural and leads to overamplification, bad tone, and limited dynamics. Stay away from monitors. They provide a false sense of balance.
12. Solos and rhythm section parts without chord changes should be played as is or with a little embellishment. Solos and rhythm section parts with chord changes should be improvised. However, written passages should be learned because they are an important part of our jazz heritage and help the player understand the function of his particular solo or accompaniment. Soloists should learn the chord changes. Solos should not be approached as opportunities to show off technique, range, or volume, but should be looked at as a great opportunity to further develop the interesting thematic material that Ellington has provided.
13. The notation of plungers for the brass means a rubber toilet plunger bought in a hardware store. Kirkhill is a very good brand (especially if you can find one of their old rubber ones, like the one I loaned Wynton and he lost). Trumpets use 5" diameter and trombones use 6" diameter. Where Plunger/Mute is notated, insert a pixie mute in the bell and use the plunger over the mute. Pixies are available from Humes & Berg in Chicago. Tricky Sam Nanton and his successors in the Ellington plunger trombone chair did not use pixies. Rather, each of them employed a Nonpareil (that's the brand name) trumpet straight mute. Nonpareil has gone out of business, but the Tom Crown Nonpareil trumpet straight mute is very close to the same thing. These mutes create a wonderful sound (very close to the human voice), but they also create some intonation problems that must be corrected by the lip only. It would be easier to move the tuning slide, but part of the sound is in the struggle to correct the pitch. If this proves too much, stick with the pixie—it's pretty close.

14. The drummer is the de facto leader of the band. He establishes the beat and controls the volume of the ensemble. For big band playing, the drummer needs to use a larger bass drum than he would for small group drumming. A 22" is preferred. The bass drum is played softly (nearly inaudible) on each beat. This is called feathering the bass drum. It provides a very important bottom to the band. The bass drum sound is not a boom and not a thud—it's in between. The larger size drum is necessary for the kicks; a smaller drum just won't be heard. The key to this style is just to keep time. A rim knock on two and four (chopping wood) is used to lock in the swing. When it comes to playing fills, the fewer, the better.
15. The horn players should stand for their solos and solis. Brass players should come down front for moderate to long solos, surrounding rests permitting. The same applies to the pep section (two trumpets and one trombone in plunger/mutes).
16. Horns should pay close attention to attacks and releases. Everyone should hit together and end together.
17. Brass must be very precise when playing short notes. Notes must be stopped with the tongue, à la Louis Armstrong!
18. Above all, everyone's focus should remain at all times on the swing. As the great bassist Chuck Israels says, "The three most important things in jazz are rhythm, rhythm, and rhythm, in that order." Or as Bubber Miley (Ellington's first star trumpeter) said, "It don't mean a thing if it ain't got that swing."

GLOSSARY

The following are terms that describe conventions of jazz performance, from traditional New Orleans to the present avant garde.

- Break** — within the context of an ongoing time feel, the rhythm section stops for one, two, or four bars. Very often a soloist will improvise during a break.
- Call-and-response** — repetitive pattern of contrasting exchanges (derived from the church procedure of the minister making a statement and the congregation answering with "amen"). Call-and-response patterns usually pit one group of instruments against another. Sometimes we call this "trading fours," "trading twos," etc., especially when it involves improvisation. The numbers denote the amount of measures each soloist or group plays. Another term frequently used is "swapping fours."
- Coda** — also known as the "outro." "Tags" or "tag endings" are outgrowths of vaudeville bows that are frequently used as codas. They most often use deceptive cadences that finally resolve to the tonic, or they go from the tonic to the sub-dominant and cycle back to the tonic: I V/IV IV #IV I (second inversion) V/II V/V V I.
- Comp** — improvise accompaniment (for piano or guitar).
- Groove** — the composite rhythm. This generally refers to the combined repetitive rhythmic patterns of the drums, bass, piano, and guitar but may also include repetitive patterns in the horns. Some grooves are standard (i.e., swing, bossa nova, samba) while others are manufactured (original combinations of rhythms).
- Head** — melody chorus.
- Interlude** — a different form (of relatively short length) sandwiched between two chorus forms. Interludes that set up a key change are simply called modulations.
- Intro** — short for introduction.
- Ride pattern** — the most common repetitive figure played by the drummer's right hand on the ride cymbal or hi-hat.



- Riff** — a repeated melodic figure. Very often, riffs repeat verbatim or with slight alterations while the harmonies change underneath them.
- Shout chorus** — also known as the "out chorus," the "sock chorus," or sometimes shortened to just "the shout." It is the final ensemble passage of most big band charts and where the climax most often happens.
- Soli** — a harmonized passage for two or more instruments playing the same rhythm. It is customary for horn players to stand up or even move in front of the band when playing these passages. This is done so that the audience can hear them better and to provide the audience with some visual interest. A soli sound particular to Ellington's music combines two trumpets and a trombone in plungers/mutes in triadic harmony. This is called the pep section.
- Stop time** — a regular pattern of short breaks (usually filled in by a soloist).
- Swing** — the perfect confluence of rhythmic tension and relaxation in music creating a feeling of euphoria and characterized by accented weak beats (a democratization of the beat) and eighth notes that are played as the first and third eighth notes of an eighth-note triplet. Duke Ellington's definition of swing: when the music feels like it is getting faster, but it isn't.
- Vamp** — a repeated two- or four-bar chord progression. Very often, there may be a riff or riffs played on the vamp.
- Voicing** — the specific spacing, inversion, and choice of notes that make up a chord. For instance, two voicings for G7 could be:



Note that the first voicing includes a 9th and the second voicing includes a b9 and a 13. The addition of 9ths, 11ths, 13ths, and alterations are up to the discretion of the pianist and soloist.

THE FOUR ELEMENTS OF MUSIC

The following are placed in their order of importance in jazz. We should never lose perspective on this order of priority.

- RHYTHM** — meter, tempo, groove, and form, including both melodic rhythm and harmonic rhythm (the speed and regularity of the chord changes).
- MELODY** — what players play: a tune or series of notes.
- HARMONY** — chords and voicings.
- ORCHESTRATION** — instrumentation and tone colors.

— David Berger

Special thanks to Andrew Homzy for editing.

Rumpus in Richmond

Instrumentation:

Reed 1 Alto Sax	Trombone 1
Reed 2 Alto Sax	Trombone 2
Reed 3 Clarinet	Trombone 3 (opt. Valve)
Reed 4 Tenor Sax	Guitar
Reed 5 Baritone Sax	Piano
Trumpet 1	Bass
Trumpet 2	Drums
Trumpet 3 (opt. Cornet)	

Original Recording Information:

Rumpus in Richmond, Music by Duke Ellington (2:31)

Recorded 7/22/40, New York City

The Blanton-Webster Band, RCA/Ariola International, and *The Duke Ellington Centennial Edition*, The Complete RCA Victor Recordings (1927–1973), 24-CD Set 09026-63386-2 (originally Victor 054609-1)

Otto Hardwick, Johnny Hodges, Barney Bigard, Ben Webster, Harry Carney, reeds; Wallace Jones, Cootie Williams, trumpets; Rex Stewart, cornet; Lawrence Brown, Joe "Tricky Sam" Nanton, trombones; Juan Tizol, valve trombone; Freddy Guy, guitar; Duke Ellington, piano; Jimmy Blanton, bass; Sonny Greer, drums.

Rehearsal Notes:

- This solid swinger from Ellington's most celebrated period has a fairly straightforward form. Following a double introduction (eight bars trumpet plus four bars ensemble), we hear two choruses of AABA in C major, a repeat of the ensemble intro (this time cadencing in E♭ major), AA in E♭ major, four bars modulation back to C major, the second four bars of the bridge, the last A from the first chorus, and finally the intro cadencing in E♭ major and then quickly moving to C major. The chromatically ascending chord progression of the A sections was certainly revolutionary for its time. Another unusual touch is the A section cadencing on the mediant (Em and Gm).
- The opening trumpet solo is a call to arms. It should be played in the most declaratory manner possible. The trumpet sets up the tempo in bar 5. Remember that this piece was originally performed at dances. The tempo is crucial: quarter note = 174 (pretty much the same as Glenn Miller's *In the Mood*).
- Dynamics are very important throughout this chart. In the intro, the subito piano, big crescendo, and mezzo forte pick-up into the A sections help to define the form. The swells at A1 and A3 are typical.

- Note that the eighth notes in the bar before H are short, accented, and even followed by short and choppy dotted eighth/sixteenths.
- Speaking of accents, this is a great chart to work on lightening up the swing feel and playing with lots of accent. If the band plays at a low volume with as much accent as possible, this piece will roar.
- The biggest difference between great bands and mediocre bands is the amount of accent that all the horns play with. It is almost impossible to play with too much accent. Rhythm is the most important element in playing jazz, and the accents help to define the rhythm. A large portion of rehearsal time should be devoted to getting the most accent on every accented note and to the placement of those notes in the swing eighth-note feel. When a player plays with accent, he or she must be decisive as to where the note starts.
- Once the band learns how to play with accent, it will become a habit on every chart, but in the beginning it is going to take a lot of careful critique and repetition; it's well worth the time. Nothing sounds more professional than a band that hits hard together. Accents make the hits hard without feeling heavy. Try it for four measures. Work on those four measures for five or ten minutes until everyone in the band is using as much accent as they can possibly play without cracking the note. You'll want to play every swinging passage like this. This is the number-one secret to jazz ensemble playing.

—David Berger

Wynton Marsalis on Playing Ellington:

Duke Ellington's music is about finding a groove and swinging, and it has in it what the real meaning of hipness is. When you play his music, it makes you hip. It starts to feel good to you because it's very optimistic and rich. There's so much room in his music for you to play. His music does not have fear in it.

Swinging is about coordination: attaining an equilibrium of forces that many times don't go together. Someone who loves to swing is a great facilitator, and Duke Ellington is the very greatest of the great facilitators because he played every style of rhythm we know. He had his rhythm section with Sam Woodyard on the drums and Jimmy Woode on the bass and the rhythm section with Sonny Greer on the drums and Jimmy Blanton playing the bass. And they don't swing in one style. They had the shuffle swing; slow, slow, deep-in-the-pocket groove swing; church grooves; the Afro-Cuban pieces; ballads with the brushes; and exotic grooves on an album like *Afro-Bossa*.

When you come into contact with Duke Ellington, you're interacting with the very substance and essence of what American life is about. It takes a while to really understand what it is, but it's worth that. It's worth that extra effort it takes because once you understand it, it transforms your life and opens you up to a world of beauty that perhaps you didn't know existed.

CONDUCTOR

RUMPUS IN RICHMOND

Music by Duke Ellington
Transcribed by David Berger

Ad lib.

A tempo medium swing (♩ = 174)

Reeds 1 Alto Sax

2 Alto Sax

3 Clarinet

4 Tenor Sax

5 Bari Sax

Trumpets 1

2 Solo

3

Trombones 1

2

3

Guitar

Piano

Bass

Drums

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JLCM007C

JLCM007C

B

This image shows a page of a musical score for a jazz ensemble. The score is written for the following instruments: Alto, Clarinet, Tenor, Bari, Tpts. 1, 2, 3, Tbn. 1, 2, 3, Gtr., Pno., Bass, and Drs. The music is in 4/4 time and features a complex harmonic structure with various chords and melodic lines. A large red watermark "Preview Requires Purchase" is overlaid diagonally across the page.

Rumpus In Richmond

Alto

Alto

Clar.

Tenor

Bari

Tpts. 1

2

3

Tbns. 1

2

3

Gtr.

Pno.

Bass

Drs.

[C]

mf

Solo - Plunger w/pixie

ff

f

f

f

A7 Bb7 C° Em E7 A7 D7 G#°

Sizzle

The musical score is for a piece titled "Rumpus In Richmond". It is page 4 of the score. The instruments listed are Alto (two staves), Clarinet, Tenor, Bari, Tpts. 1, 2, 3, Tbns. 1, 2, 3, Gtr., Pno., Bass, and Drs. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#). The time signature is 4/4. A large red watermark "Preview Only - Requires Purchase" is overlaid diagonally across the page. A rehearsal mark [C] is placed above the first Alto staff. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings like *mf*, *ff*, and *f*. The guitar part has a chord progression: A7, Bb7, C°, Em, E7, A7, D7, G#°. The drums part includes a "Sizzle" effect. The bass part has a "Solo - Plunger w/pixie" section marked with *ff*.

Rumpus In Richmond

5

D

Alto

Alto

Clar.

Tenor

Bari

Tpts. 1

2

3

Tbns. 1

2

3

Gtr.

Pno.

Bass

Drs.

Open

mf *f* *mf* *f* *mf*

mf *f* *mf* *f* *mf*

mf *f* *mf* *f* *mf*

Em C7+5 F Fm C G7 C C[°] G7 A^b7

Rumpus In Richmond

E

Alto

Alto

Clar.

Tenor

Bari

Tpts. 1

2

3

Tbns. 1

2

3

Gtr.

Pno.

Bass

Drs.

Solo

f

A7

Bb7

A7

Bb7

C°

C

Fm

C

C#°

G7

A#7

Crash

H.H.

This musical score is for the piece 'Rumpus In Richmond'. It is written for a large ensemble including two Alto saxophones, Clarinet, Tenor saxophone, Baritone saxophone, three Trumpets, three Trombones, Guitar, Piano, Bass, and Drums. The score is in 4/4 time and features a key signature of one sharp (F#). A large red watermark 'Preview Requires Purchase' is overlaid diagonally across the page. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings like 'Solo' and '*f*'. Chord symbols are provided for the guitar and piano parts, including A7, Bb7, C°, C, Fm, C, C#°, G7, and A#7. The drums part includes notation for Crash and Hi-Hat (H.H.).

F

Alto

Alto

Clar.

Tenor

Bari

Tpts. 1

2

3

Tbns. 1

2

3

Gtr.

Pno.

Bass

Drs.

B7

C7

C#7-9

F#m

D#°

A7

Bb7

A7

Bb7

C°

Em

C#°

G7

Ab7

B7

°

°

°

+

+

+

+

Rumpus In Richmond

[G]

Alto

Alto

Clar.

Tenor

Bari

Tpts. 1

2

3

Tbns. 1

2

3

Gtr.

Pno.

Bass

Drs.

B7 C7 C#7-9 F#m

f

f

f

f

f

Solo *ff* Em E7 A7 D7 G#°

A7 Bb7 C° Em E7 A7 D7 G#°

Crash H.H.

f

Rumpus In Richmond

This image shows a page of a musical score for a jazz ensemble. The score includes staves for Alto, Clarinet, Tenor, Bari, Tpts. 1, 2, 3, Tbn. 1, 2, 3, Gtr., Pno., Bass, and Drs. The music is in 4/4 time and features complex harmonic structures with many accidentals and dynamic markings. A large red watermark "Preview Requires Purchase" is overlaid diagonally across the page.

JLCM007C

Rumpus In Richmond

11

J

Alto *p*

Alto *p*

Clar.

Tenor *p*

Bari *p*

Tpts. 1

2

3

Tbns. 1

2

3

Gtr. *Bb7* *B7* *C7* *C#7* *D7* *Gm* *E°*

Pno.

Bass

Drs. *Ride* *Crash* *Ride* *H.H.* *o+* *o+* *o+*

The musical score is for a piece titled 'Rumpus In Richmond'. It features a variety of instruments: two Alto parts, Clarinet, Tenor, Bari, three Trumpets (Tpts.), three Trombones (Tbns.), Guitar (Gtr.), Piano (Pno.), Bass, and Drums (Drs.). The score is marked with a 'J' in a box at the beginning. The Alto parts and Tenor/Bari parts have a piano (*p*) dynamic marking. The Trumpet parts have specific chord markings: C7, D#7, D7, E#7, E7, Am, and F#°. The Guitar part has a series of chords: Bb7, B7, C7, C#7, D7, Gm, and E°. The Piano part has a complex harmonic structure. The Bass part has a steady rhythm. The Drums part includes Ride, Crash, and H.H. (Hi-Hat) patterns. A large red watermark 'Preview Requires Purchase' is overlaid on the score.

Rumpus In Richmond

JLCM007C

Rumpus In Richmond

13

[L]

Alto

Alto

Clar.

Tenor

Bari

Tpts. 1

2

3

Tbns. 1

2

3

Gtr.

Pno.

Bass

Drs.

Solo

ff

Open - Solo

mf

mf

mf

mf

G7 C7 F7 Bb7 Eb7 Ab7 G7+5 Em C7+5 F Fm C G7 C C#°

Ride Crash Ride Crash Ride Crash Ride Crash

Rumpus In Richmond

M

Alto

mp

Alto

mp

Clar.

Tenor

mp

Bari

Tpts. 1

2

3

Tbns. 1

2

3

Gtr.

G7

A7

A7

B7

C°

Pno.

Bass

H.H.

Drs.

mf

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This musical score is for the piece 'Rumpus In Richmond'. It is a 14-measure excerpt. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#), and the time signature is 4/4. The score includes parts for Alto (two staves), Clarinet, Tenor, Bari, Trumpets (three staves), Trombones (three staves), Guitar, Piano, Bass, and Drums. The vocal parts (Alto, Tenor, Bari) are marked with a mezzo-piano (mp) dynamic and feature melodic lines with some grace notes. The instrumental parts include a complex rhythmic pattern for the drums, a steady bass line, and various harmonic support from the other instruments. Dynamics range from mezzo-piano (mp) to fortissimo (f). A large red watermark 'Legal Use Requires Purchase' is overlaid diagonally across the score.

Rumpus In Richmond

15

Rampas in Richmond

Alto

Alto

Clar.

Tenor

Bari

Tpts. 1

2

3

Tbns. 1

2

3

Gtr.

Pno.

Bass

Drs.

JLCM007C

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