





# CONTENTS

Tunes included in VOLUME 121 are:

<u>Song Title</u>	<u>Track #</u>	<u>Song Title</u>	<u>Track #</u>
1. Drifting	1	8. Samba Dubois	8
2. Eddie's Blues	2	9. Waltz For A Lovely Wife	9
3. House Of Chan	3	10. Without You	10
4. Johnny Hodges	4	11. Sugan	11
5. Lady J	5	12. Lew Blew	12
6. The Stanley Stomper	6	13. Cool Aid	13
7. The Squire's Parlor	7	14. Dutch Morning	14
		--- Tuning Notes	15


Introduction.....	ii
Summary of Tunes.....	iii
Selected Discography.....	iii

 CONCERT KEY SONGS & CHORD/SCALE PROGRESSIONS.....	1
 Bb INSTRUMENT SONGS & CHORD/SCALE PROGRESSIONS.....	19
 Eb INSTRUMENT SONGS & CHORD/SCALE PROGRESSIONS.....	37
 BASS CLEF INSTRUMENT SONGS & CHORD/SCALE PROGRESSIONS.....	55

Soloing by Jamey Aebersold.....	73
Nomenclature.....	74
Introduction to the Scale Syllabus.....	75
Scale Syllabus.....	76
Aebersold Play-A-Long Listing by Category.....	77

Any codas (♯) that appear will be played only once on the recording at the end of the last recorded chorus.

<p><b><u>PLAY-A-LONG CD INFORMATION</u></b></p> <p>STEREO SEPARATION: RIGHT CHANNEL=Piano &amp; Drums; LEFT CHANNEL=Bass &amp; Drums TUNING NOTES: Concert Bb &amp; A (A=440)</p> <p><b><u>PERSONNEL ON PLAY-A-LONG RECORDING</u></b></p> <p>STEVE ALLEE - Piano; BILL MORING - Bass; TIM HORNER - Drums</p>
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 Published by  
**JAMEY AEBERSOLD JAZZ®**  
 P.O. Box 1244  
 New Albany, IN 47151-1244  
[www.jazzbooks.com](http://www.jazzbooks.com)

**Cover Photo**  
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**Engraving**  
 DAVID SILBERMAN  
  
**Cover Design & Layout**  
 JASON A. LINDSEY

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## INTRODUCTION

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One of the greatest and certainly the most versatile altoist of his (or anyone else's) generation, Phil Woods is one of the instrument's most extraordinary Jazz practitioners since Charlie Parker's reinvention of the saxophone. Along with Cannonball Adderly, Sonny Stitt and Jackie McClean, Phil Woods formed the cadre of Charlie Parker's first generation of "apostles." Each employed the bebop language of Charlie Parker and Dizzy Gillespie to craft individual musical personalities and advance his art with fresh personal statements.

Woods is unique, however, in that addition to being a great improviser, he is also the premier lead and studio session altoist of the 20th century. He has over 500 album credits with the very top Jazz and Pop artists since the mid 1950's. Recordings from Oliver Nelson and Quincy Jones to Billy Joel and Paul Simon have benefited from his artistry.

Woods' first alto was left to him by an uncle and he started playing seriously when he was 12. He studied locally until 1948 when he moved to New York. Woods studied with Lennie Tristano at the Manhattan School of Music and at Julliard where he majored in clarinet. He worked with Charlie Barnet (1954), Jimmy Raney (1955), George Wallington, The Dizzy Gillespie Orchestra, Buddy Rich (1958-1959), Quincy Jones (1959-1961) and Benny Goodman (for Benny's famous tour of the Soviet Union), but has mostly headed his own groups since 1955 including co-leadership of a combo with fellow altoist Gene Quill in the '50's logically known as "Phil & Quill."

In the 1960's, Woods turned up on Benny Carter's classic *Further Definitions* recording, touring Europe with the short-lived Thelonious Monk Nonet and appearing on studio dates like the sound-tracks to *The Hustler* and *Blow Up*.

Always interested in jazz education (although he believes there is no better way to learn Jazz than to gig and travel constantly), Woods taught at an arts camp in Pennsylvania in the summers of 1964-1967. Discouraged with the jazz scene in the U.S., he moved to France in 1968. For the next few years, Woods led a very advanced group, *The European Rhythm Machine*, which leaned toward the avant-garde.

In 1973, Woods formed a quintet with pianist Mike Melillo, bassist Steve Gilmore, drummer Bill Goodwin, and guitarist Harry Leahey that had much greater success. Their recording *Live at The Showboat* officially launched the band which today, after personnel changes, still tours the world. After Leahey left in 1978, it was known as the Phil Woods Quartet until trumpeter Tom Harrell (1983-1989) joined; his spot has since been assumed by trombonist Hal Crook (1989-1992) and trumpeter Brian Lynch. Pianist Mike Melillo went out on his own in 1980 and his successors have been Hal Galper (1980-1990), Jim McNeely (1990-1995), and Bill Charlap; Gilmore and Goodwin have been with Woods since the group's start. Not just a bebop repertory band, Woods' ensembles have developed their own repertoire, taken plenty of chances and have stretched themselves while sticking to his straight-ahead path.

Woods knows melody and harmony and has been writing songs for years, often with lyrics. Phil picked the songs on this Play-A-Long set and there is much variety in his choices.

**Mike Shannon**



## SUMMARY OF TUNES

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1. **Drifting** - This was the perfect tune to begin this collection. It is a medium tempo tune with changes that will get you playing in the style of Phil Woods.
2. **Eddie's Blues** - This tune is dedicated to the late vocalese performer, Eddie Jefferson.
3. **House of Chan** - Written for Phil's wife, Chan Richardson, this tune has a "Dear Old Stockholm" feel.
4. **Johnny Hodges** - This is Woods' tribute to the alto archetype and longtime lead player for Duke Ellington. This is a medium, up tempo bebop tune.
5. **Lady J** - Another tune written for Phil's wife, this tune is full of warmth and romance.
6. **The Stanley Stomper** - For those of you who didn't know, Phil's father was a fire fighter. This tune is reflective of Stanley Joseph Woods, Fire Chief of Springfield, MA.
7. **The Squire's Parlor** - This tune is dedicated to the justice of the peace who performed the marriage ceremony of Phil and Chan Richardson Parker.
8. **Samba Dubois** - A higher energy example of the usually more sedate Latin Dance, this tune is evidence of Phil's evolution as a composer.
9. **Waltz For A Lovely Wife** - It should come as no surprise that Phil has dedicated yet another tune to his wife. This one features a lovely melody and interesting changes.
10. **Without You** - One of Phil's most beautiful tunes, this Bossa Nova is both pensive and longing.
11. **Sugan** - Have fun with this one! This tune is a swinger in F minor and provides a very interesting chord progression.
12. **Lew Blew** - Not for the weak! This tune is a burnin' blues in F. Showcase this one once you get the head under your fingers.
13. **Cool Aid** - Here is the one you need for a great minor bebop workout.
14. **Dutch Morning** - Perhaps the most harmonically challenging piece in this collection, this is truly a wonderful ballad written in 3.

## SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

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Woodlore (Prestige 7018; OJC 52)  
Phil Talks To Quill (Epic BN554)  
Birdland Stars On Tour (RCA LPM-1328)  
Bird Feathers (Prestige OJC 1735)  
Four Altos (Prestige 7116)  
Alto Summit (MB20675)  
Getting In On (J15 1102)  
Jazz Mission To Moscow (SCP433)  
The New Phil Woods Album (RCA BGL-1-1191)  
Round Trip (Verve V6-8791; POL 559804)  
European Rhythm Machine (Embryo SD530)  
Rights Of Swing - Barnaby (KZ 31036)  
Phil & Quill (Prestige 7115; OJC 215)  
Warm Woods (Epic LN 3436) Contains "Squire's Parlor" and Waltz For A Lovely Wife."  
Pairing Off (Prestige 7046; OJC 92) Contains "Cool Aid" and "The Stanley Stomper."  
Musigne DuBois (Muse MR 5037; TTR 32016) Contains "Samba Dubois."  
Full Nelson (Verve V8508)  
Thelonious Monk At Town Hall (Town Hall OJC 135)  
More Blues And The Abstract Truth (Impulse; GRP 212)  
Delightfulee - Lee Morgan (Blue Note; CAP 92770)  
The Young Bloods (Prestige 7080; OJC 1732) Contains "House Of Chan."  
Sugan (New Jazz 8304; OJC 1841) Contains "Sugan."