



Kalmus Signature Edition

GEORGE

GERSHWIN

RHAPSODY IN BLUE

for Orchestra

Arranged by TOM MYRON

FULL SCORE

EDWIN F. KALMUS, CO.

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INSTRUMENTATION

Piccolo
2 Flutes
2 Oboes
2 Clarinets in B flat
Bass Clarinet in B flat
2 Bassoons

4 Horns in F
3 Trumpets in C or B flat
2 Trombones
Bass Trombone
Tuba

Timpani
4 Percussion

Piano/ Celesta
Harp

Strings
(9.8.7.6.5)

PROGRAM NOTES

This symphonic version of *Rhapsody in Blue* was written by American composer and arranger Tom Myron. It is based on Gershwin's original two piano arrangement of the piece. In this version, both the original solo piano part and the accompanying second piano part have been reimagined to exploit the full color and energy of a 21st century symphony orchestra.

Gershwin's exact musical form and harmonic language are 100% preserved in this new version of the work. The virtuoso solo piano part has been adapted to highlight the different sections of the orchestra, both individually and in combination. This new arrangement strongly evokes the symphonic worlds of pre-War Broadway and Golden Age Hollywood, as well as the colorful styles of the late Romantic and early 20th century classical composers that Gershwin loved. The result is a virtuoso *Rhapsody in Blue for Orchestra*, full of exciting and challenging music that is true to George Gershwin's vision, and as much fun to play as it is to hear.

The original *Rhapsody in Blue* was composed by George Gershwin in 1924 for solo piano and jazz band. It also exists in versions arranged by Gershwin for solo piano and two pianos. The piece combines aspects of the classical and Romantic piano concerto with jazz-influenced musical elements and instrumentation.

Commissioned by bandleader Paul Whiteman, the work premiered in a concert titled "An Experiment in Modern Music" on February 12, 1924, in Aeolian Hall, New York City. Whiteman's band performed the rhapsody with Gershwin playing the piano. Whiteman's arranger Ferde Grofé orchestrated the rhapsody several times, including the 1924 original scoring for jazz band, the 1926 pit orchestra scoring, and the well known 1942 symphonic scoring. The rhapsody is one of Gershwin's most recognizable creations and a key composition that defined a new era in America's musical history. It established Gershwin's reputation as an eminent composer, and eventually became one of the most popular American concert works of the 20th century.

To the memory of my friend, Lauren Keiser

RHAPSODY IN BLUE

for Orchestra

GEORGE GERSHWIN (1924)
Arranged by TOM MYRON

♩ = 52 *accel.* *Molto moderato* ♩ = 80

The score is arranged for a full orchestra. The woodwind section includes Piccolo, Flute, Oboe, Clarinet in Bb, Bass Clarinet in Bb, and Bassoon. The brass section includes Horn in F, Trumpet in C, Trombone, Bass Trombone, and Tuba. The percussion section includes Triangle, Glockenspiel, Xylophone, and Celesta. The string section includes Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Violoncello, and Contrabass. The Harp part features a glissando. The score includes dynamic markings such as *mf* and *f*, and performance instructions like *pizz. div.* and *gliss. ad lib.*

6

Picc. *mf* *f*

Fl. *f*

Ob.

Cl. *f*

B. Cl.

Bsn.

Hn. *fp* *fp*

Hn. *fp*

C Tpt. *mf*

C Tpt.

Tbn.

B. Tbn.

Tba.

Timp.

Tri. *mf* *mf*

Glock. *mf* *mf*

Xyl.

Cel. *mf* *mf*

Hp. *mf* *mf*

Vln. Solo

Vln. 1 *mf* *mf* *p* *f espr.* *mp*

Vln. 2 *mf* *mf* *p* *f espr.* *mp*

Vla. *mf* *mf* *p* *f espr.* *mp*

Vc. *mf* *mf* *p* *f espr.* *mp*

Cb. *(f)* *f* *mp*

harmon mute

To B. D.

unis.

12 *Piu mosso* ♩ = 120 *molto rit.* 17 *A tempo* ♩ = 84

Instrumentation and Dynamics:

- Picc.**: *p*, *f*, *p*
- Fl.**: *p*, *f*, *p*
- Ob.**: *ff*
- Cl.**: *ff*, *mf*, *pp*
- B. Cl.**: *mf*
- Bsn.**: *mf*
- Hn.**: *ff*, *fp*
- C. Tpt.**: *f*
- Tbn.**: *fp*, *f*, *p*
- B. Tbn.**: *pp*, *f*, *p*
- Tba.**: *pp*, *f*, *p*
- Timp.**: *pp*, *f*, *p*
- Glock.**: *p*
- Cel.**: *p*, *mf*
- Hp.**: *p*
- Vln. Solo**: *mf*, *f*
- Vln. 1**: *p*, *mf*, *p*, *mp*, *pizz. div.*, *unis.*
- Vln. 2**: *p*, *f*, *mf*, *p*, *mp*, *pizz.*
- Vla.**: *p*, *f*, *mf*, *p*, *mp*, *pizz. div.*, *unis.*
- Vc.**: *p*, *f*, *mf*, *p*, *mp*, *pizz.*
- Cb.**: *p*, *f*, *mf*, *p*, *mp*