EMERGING JAZZ SERIES

HUSH

BILL THOMAS

Hush is a simple lyrical composition in the style of a lullaby. It was inspired by the thought of that time of night when the lights are finally turned off and the house is quiet.

The modest technical demands of this ballad will allow your jazz ensemble to concentrate on the expressive components of their performance. The composition demands careful attention to details of balance from the players, especially when accompanying the numerous short solos, and it presents an excellent opportunity to refine the legato articulation style essential to an effective performance.

Instrumentation:

- *Alto Sax 1
- *Alto Sax 2
- *Tenor Sax 1
- Tenor Sax 2
- Baritone Sax
- *Trumpet 1
- *Trumpet 2
- Trumpet 3
- *Trombone 1
- Trombone 2
- Trombone 3
- Guitar
- *Piano
- Bass Guitar
- *Drum Set
- * required instrument



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The Writer

Bill Thomas taught music for twenty-three years at the elementary and high school levels in the York Region District School Board spending most of that time as the head of the music department at Markham District High School. He is a former Drum Corps International adjudicator and he has been an arranger for over forty marching bands and drum & bugle corps in Canada and the United States. Bill is currently an Assistant Professor of Music and the conductor of the Wind Symphony at York University in Toronto.

Please contact the composer if you require any further information about this piece or his availability for commissioning new works and appearances.

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Alternate Parts

Sometimes there may be players who wish to join the band who do not play a standard jazz band instrument (flute, clarinet, tuba, etc). Also, there may be situations when one of the listed required instruments is not present. On our website, under each piece, is a list of alternate and substitute parts that are available as a free download for use with the ensemble.

There are parts for: Flute, Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, F Horn, Baritone Treble Clef and Tuba.

There are substitute parts for:

Alto Sax - plays Trombone 1 part
Tenor Sax - plays Trombone 1 part

For more information on the EMERGING JAZZ SERIES - instrument ranges, lots of free downloadable alternate parts, copies of the guitar/drum sheet, full length MP3s and more, please visit www.enpmusic.com/jazz.

Getting Started

Starting a jazz band can seem like a huge task. You may or may not have any jazz playing experience and are not quite sure where to start. Here are some general things to think about:

- Try to have the minimum instrumentation covered, even if it means that you do not have the instrumentation of a 'traditional' jazz band (use alternate parts if necessary). In order to arrange a chart so that it is playable with minimum instrumentation, sometimes the range of the 3rd trumpet/trombone is higher than the 2nd. If you have a full band, have a stronger player on the 3rd part, rather than the 2nd.
- Look over the score and select a section in which all players play (especially a unison section). First, have the rhythm section lay down the groove. Next, have the horn sections sing their rhythms with articulations. Finally, have the horns play their parts along with the rhythm section. Try to get your band to play with the correct feel before trying to conquer the notes of the entire piece.
- Know your players. Select charts that your students will be able to play successfully but will also provide a challenge so they will not get bored easily and will learn something new. Include different styles of jazz music in your repertoire.

Rhythm Bass 2 1 3 4 Piano Drums Piano Guitar Tenor | Alto 2 | Alto 1 | Tenor 2 | Bari

Jazz Terms

break - A brief solo passage during a cessation of the accompaniment, usually only one or two bars in length.

call and response - The performance of musical items in alternation between two distinct groups of musicians or between a soloist and a group.

comping - to provide a chordal accompaniment for a soloist.

fall off - A gliss which falls from the end of a chord or note.

lay back. To play slightly behind the beat.

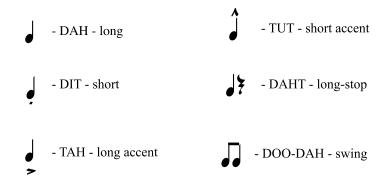
riff - A short melodic idea which is repeated as an accompaniment bound a soloist.

shout chorus - a climactic chorus of a band arrangement.

stop time - when the rhythm section stops playing for part of one or more bars, while the soloist continues unaccompanied.

swing eighths - a triplet subdivision feel where the first eighth note is held longer than the second (although written the same).

Suggested Articulations



Role of the Rhythm Section

The rhythm section (drums, bass, piano and optional guitar) is key. These players keep the time, provide the harmony and create the groove for each piece.

TIME - keeping the time steady; creating the pulse

GROOVE - providing the sub-division for the style; creating rhythmic interaction with the band

HARMONY - providing the harmonic progression for the melody or improvisation

Drums

- supply the stylistic foundation
- lock in the groove with the bass
- embellish the rhythm with the guitar and piano

Bass

- creates the groove with the drums
- provides the harmonic progression

Guitar

- creates a harmonic groove by providing the progression, while playing a rhythmic groove
- has a delicate relationship with the piant

Piano

- creates harmonic groove with the guitar, but the two should not conflict with each other
- uses comping rhythms

Jazz Styles

Swing

- characterized by a triplet subdivision and uses 'uneven' eighth notes
- subtle stress of beats 2 and 4

Rock

- relies on a solid backbeat (emphasis on beats 2 and 4)
- straight eighth subdivision
- repeated patterns

Shuffle

- a cross between swing and rock styles by stressing the backbeat and using the triplet subdivision
- groove primarily created by bass and drums

Mambo

- Afro-Cuban style with stress on the 'and of 2'
- straight-eighth subdivision

Samba

- a light, Brazilian-based style with stress is ON beat 3
- telies on straight-eighth subdivision and a partito alto (chordal) rhythm

Funk

- sixteenth note subdivision and syncopation, particularly in the bass
- beats 2 and 4 prominent in snare drum
- often complex, unison lines performed by horns

Ballad

- a slow tempo, jazz ballad flows seamlessly through various subdivisions (straight-eighth, triplet, or double time)
- needs space; laid back feel











