

Presents

JAZZ LINES PUBLICATIONS

FLIGHT OF THE FOO BIRDS

RECORDED BY COUNT BASIE

ARRANGED BY NEAL HEFTI

PREPARED BY DYLAN CANTERBURY, ROB DUBOFF, AND JEFFREY SULTANOF

FULL SCORE

JLP-8012

MUSIC BY NEAL HEFTI

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THE JAZZ LINES FOUNDATION INC.

PO BOX 1236

SARATOGA SPRINGS NY 12866 USA

COUNT BASIE SERIES

FLIGHT OF THE FOO BIRDS (1957)

Background:

The 1950s were a particularly productive era for William “Count” Basie. After a period of musical and financial uncertainty in the late 1940s, his reformed big band (known informally as the New Testament band) put out a number of recordings that would achieve tremendous levels of critical and commercial acclaim. This version of the band contained not just a stable of legendary instrumental soloists, but also a book of charts from what may be the best catalog of arrangers in jazz history. Even amidst the band’s high standards, Neal Hefti’s *Flight Of The Foo Birds* has emerged over time as one of the most popular and well-loved of the Basie band’s prolific output due to its infectious melody, memorable solo performances, and brilliantly exciting shout chorus.

The Music:

The melody is initially stated in unison by a trademark Hefti sound: two trumpets in cup mutes, two trumpets in harmon mutes with stems in. The saxophones and trombones take over melody duties for the bridge at measure 11 before the trumpets make the final statement. The melody is irresistibly catchy, and should be approached with a cloying cuteness that borders on over-the-top without actually going overboard.

A C-to-C# pedal in the trombones and rhythm section underlies a cascading saxophone line before the full ensemble plays one mighty blast to set up a half of a chorus of a Frank Wess alto saxophone solo at measure 35. Some punchy trombone backgrounds lead into a brief ensemble riff to set up a slightly-less-than half chorus of Joe Newman’s trumpet at measure 49. The pedal sendoff is re-applied at measure 61 to lead into a brilliant full chorus of Eddie “Lockjaw” Davis’ fiery tenor saxophone, with the ensemble riff being recycled as the only background at measure 79.

The pedal sendoff is re-used once again, only this time a 2 bar Sonny Payne drum break sets up what is one of the most brilliantly written and executed shout choruses in jazz history at measure 103. The full power of the Basie band is on display with the corkscrewing main line being played by the band in full initially, then by solely the saxophones with a singing brass chorale fleshing out the harmony. A variation on the ensemble riff during the solo section serves as an interlude at measure 113 before the initial shout line returns for the grand finale at measure 121. The band continues to build toward the arrangement’s climax, increasing the intensity without losing control. A brief Basie piano break sets up the band’s final fanfare to bring the arrangement to an appropriately wonderful conclusion.

Dylan Canterbury

May 2017



FLIGHT OF THE FOO BIRDS

SCORE

RECORDED BY COUNT BASIE

(MUSIC BY NEAL HEFTI)

ARRANGED BY NEAL HEFTI

PREPARED BY DYLAN CANTERBURY, ROB DUBOFF AND JEFFREY SULTANOF

BRIGHT SWING ♩ = 200

The musical score is arranged for a big band. The top section includes five saxophones (Alto Sax 1 & 2, Tenor Sax 1 & 2, Baritone Sax) and four trumpets. The middle section includes four trombones. The bottom section includes guitar, piano, bass, and a drum set. The score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The tempo is marked as BRIGHT SWING ♩ = 200. The score is divided into measures, with measure numbers 2 through 10 indicated at the bottom. The saxophones and trumpets play a melodic line with various dynamics (pp, mf, f) and articulations (accents, slurs). The trombones play a rhythmic pattern. The guitar, piano, and bass provide harmonic support with chords and bass lines. The drum set provides a steady beat.

Instrument parts include:

- Alto Sax 1
- Alto Sax 2
- Tenor Sax 1
- Tenor Sax 2
- Baritone Sax
- Trumpet 1
- Trumpet 2
- Trumpet 3
- Trumpet 4
- Trombone 1
- Trombone 2
- Trombone 3
- Trombone 4
- Guitar
- Piano
- Bass
- Drum Set

Measure numbers: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10

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11

A. Sax. 1

A. Sax. 2

T. Sax. 1

T. Sax. 2

B. Sax.

Trpt. 1

Trpt. 2

Trpt. 3

Trpt. 4

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

Tbn. 4

Euph.

Pno.

Bs.

Dr.

11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18

Subtone

Subtone

Subtone

Subtone

Subtone

mf

mf

mf

mf

Am9 Bb7 Bm7 E7(b9) C#m7 F#m7 Dm7 F7 Em7 Am7 Dm7 G7(b9) C7 F#7 F#m7

Am9 Bb7 Bm7 E7(b9) C#m7 F#m7 Dm7 F7 Em7 Am7 Dm7 G7(b9) C7 F#7 F#m7

Am9 Bb7 Bm7 E7(b9) C#m7 F#m7 Dm7 F7 Em7 Am7 Dm7 G7(b9) C7 F#7 F#m7

(4)

(5)

FLIGHT OF THE FOO BIRDS

SCORE - PAGE 3

19

A. Sax. 1

A. Sax. 2

T. Sax. 1

T. Sax. 2

B. Sax.

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Tpt. 3

Tpt. 4

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

Tbn. 4

Gtr.

Pno.

Bs.

Dr.

19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26

(4) (6) (To Strides) (7)

f

Chord progression: Gm^9 $C7^{(9)}$ Am^7 Dm^7 Gm^7 A^7 Dm^7 F^{13} B^b_6 $B^{\circ 7}$ F^6/C D^9 A^b_9 G^9 Gm^7 C^9sus F^6

27

A7 A°7

Solo Break

A. Sax 1

A. Sax 2

T. Sax 1

T. Sax 2

B. Sax

TPT. 1

TPT. 2

TPT. 3

TPT. 4

TBA. 1

TBA. 2

TBA. 3

TBA. 4

Gtr.

PNO.

Bs.

Dr.

27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34

Dm7 G13 C7

Dm7 G13 C7

Dm7 G13 C7

FLIGHT OF THE FOO BIRDS

JAZZ LINES PUBLICATIONS

SCORE - PAGE 5

35 E $\flat$ m7 A13 Dma9 C $\sharp$ m7(b9) F $\sharp$ 7(b9) Bm7 D9 Gma7 A $\flat$ 7 D6 B7 1 E9 A9 D $\sharp$ 7 2 E9 A9 D6 C $\sharp$ 7 (END SOLO)

AL Sax. 1

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

Tbn. 4

GTR.

PNO.

BS.

DR.

mf

mf

mf

mf

mf

mf

(4)

(8)

(16)

35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44

[illegible]

FLIGHT OF THE FOO BIRDS

SCORE - PAGE 7

(53)

A. Sax. 1

A. Sax. 2

T. Sax. 1

T. Sax. 2

B. Sax.

TRPT. 3

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

TBN. 3

TBN. 4

GR. E.

PNO.

B.S.

DR.

Am⁷ D⁷ Bm⁷ Em⁷ F[#]m⁷(b9) B⁷ Em⁷ G¹³ C⁶ C[#]7 G⁶/D E⁹ A⁷ D¹³ G⁶ (END SOLO)

Gm⁷ C⁷ Am⁷ Dm⁷ Em⁷(b9) A⁷ Dm⁷ F¹³ B^b6 B⁷ F⁶/C D⁹ G⁷ C¹³ F⁶

Gm⁷ C⁷ Am⁷ Dm⁷ Em⁷(b9) A⁷ Dm⁷ F¹³ B^b6 B⁷ F⁶/C D⁹ G⁷ C¹³ F⁶

(4) (6) (7)

53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60

FLIGHT OF THE FOO BIRDS

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SCORE - PAGE 9

69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78

Am7 D9 G6 F#m7(b9) B7(b9) Em7 G9 C6 C#7 G6/D E7 A9 D9 G#7 A9 D9 G6 F#7 (END SOLO)

Gm7 C9 F6 Em7(b9) A7(b9) Dm7 F9 Bb6 B7 F6/C D7 G9 C9 F#7 G9 C9 F6 E7

Gm7 C9 F6 Em7(b9) A7(b9) Dm7 F9 Bb6 B7 F6/C D7 G9 C9 F#7 G9 C9 F6 E7

Gm7 C9 F6 Em7(b9) A7(b9) Dm7 F9 Bb6 B7 F6/C D7 G9 C9 F#7 G9 C9 F6 E7

(4) (8) (16)

FLIGHT OF THE FOO BIRDS

SCORE - PAGE 10

79

A. Sk. 1

A. Sk. 2

T. Sk. 1

T. Sk. 2

B. Sk.

Trpt. 1

Trpt. 2

Trpt. 3

Trpt. 4

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

Tbn. 4

Grp.

PNO.

Bs.

Dr.

79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86

FLIGHT OF THE FOO BIRDS

SCORE - PAGE 12

95

A. Sax 1

A. Sax 2

T. Sax 1

T. Sax 2

B. Sax

Trpt. 1

Trpt. 2

Trpt. 3

Trpt. 4

Tbn 1

Tbn 2

Tbn 3

Tbn 4

Gtr.

Pno.

Bb.

Dr.

95 96 97 98 99 100 101 102

103

A. Sax. 1

A. Sax. 2

T. Sax. 1

T. Sax. 2

B. Sax.

TPtr. 1

TPtr. 2

TPtr. 3

TPtr. 4

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

Tbn. 4

Gtr.

Pno.

B.S.

Dr.

103 104 105 106 107 108 109 110 111 112

Chord progression for measures 103-112:

103: Gm7, Bbm9, Am7, D7(b9), Gm7, A7(b9), Dm7, F9, Bb6, Bb7, F6/C, D7(b9), G9

104: C9, F#7, C13, C9(b6), F6, E7

105: Gm7, Bbm9, Am7, D7(b9), Gm7, A7(b9), Dm7, F9, Bb6, Bb7, F6/C, D7(b9), G9

106: C9, F#7, C13, C9(b6), F6, E7

107: Gm7, Bbm9, Am7, D7(b9), Gm7, A7(b9), Dm7, F9, Bb6, Bb7, F6/C, D7(b9), G9

108: C9, F#7, C13, C9(b6), F6, E7

109: Gm7, Bbm9, Am7, D7(b9), Gm7, A7(b9), Dm7, F9, Bb6, Bb7, F6/C, D7(b9), G9

110: C9, F#7, C13, C9(b6), F6, E7

111: Gm7, Bbm9, Am7, D7(b9), Gm7, A7(b9), Dm7, F9, Bb6, Bb7, F6/C, D7(b9), G9

112: C9, F#7, C13, C9(b6), F6, E7

113

A. Sax. 1
A. Sax. 2
T. Sax. 1
T. Sax. 2
B. Sax.
Tpt. 1
Tpt. 2
Tpt. 3
Tpt. 4
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
Tbn. 3
Tbn. 4
Gtr.
Pno.
B.S.
Dr.

113 114 115 116 117 118 119 120

A6 E7 A6 Dm7 Ebm7 Em7 Am7 Dm7(b9) G7(b9) C7 F#o7

A6 E7 A6 Dm7 Ebm7 Em7 Am7 Dm7(b9) G7(b9) C7 F#o7

A6 E7 A6 Dm7 Ebm7 Em7 Am7 Dm7(b9) G7(b9) C7 F#o7

(5) (8)

(121)

Fl. Sax. 1
Fl. Sax. 2
T. Sax. 1
T. Sax. 2
B. Sax.
Tpt. 1
Tpt. 2
Tpt. 3
Tpt. 4
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
Tbn. 3
Tbn. 4
Gtr.
Pno.
Bs.
Dr.

Chord changes for measures 121-126:

Measure	Chord
121	Gm7
122	Bbm9
123	Am7
124	D7(b9)
125	Gm7
126	A7(b9)
127	Dm7
128	F9
129	Bb6
130	B°7
131	F6/C
132	D7(b9)
133	G9

Drum notation: FILL - - - - -

127 128 129 130 131 132 133 134