



HORN OF PUENTE

GORDON GOODWIN



Conductor

Ist E Alto Saxophone (Flute/ Soprano Saxophone)

Optional 1st E Alto Saxophone (Flute)

2nd E♭ Alto Saxophone 1st B♭ Tenor Saxophone 2nd B♭ Tenor Saxophone E♭ Baritone Saxophone

1st B Trumpet

2nd B Trumpet (Solo)

3rd B Trumpet

1st Trombone

2nd Trombone

3rd Trombone

4th Trombone

Guitar

Piano Bass

Drums

Percussion I (Congas,

Cowbell, Timbales)

Percussion II (Shaker, Guiro,

Cowbell)

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NOTES TO CONDUCTOR

I wrote this chart for the great Los Angeles trumpet player Wayne Bergeron in memory of legendary percussionist Tito Puente. The first half of it is a cha-cha feel, where the trumpet soloist plays an extended soli with the saxes. This group needs to concentrate on phrasing together as consistently as they can and work to incorporate a lot of nuance in the soli, for example, things like accents in measures 67, 70, and 72; crescendos in measures 42 and 43; and laid-back passages in measures 54 and 55.

Part 2, which is slower but somehow feels faster, is a montuno feel and should be played with more energy and intensity. The proper phrasing of the piano ostinato at measure 84 is a bit tricky, and you need to listen to a lot of good Latin pianists to get the feel of it. It's rhythmically tight, yet it floats over the time in a relaxed way. I think I did a pretty representative job when I played it on our CD *Off the Beaten Path* (Immergent Records). The ensemble needs to play the figure in measure 100 and elsewhere in the chart in the same manner—tight yet relaxed.

The bass player plays an important part in defining the proper feel in this music. The part in measures 88–91 is an example of this—the second measure of the phrase does not start on the downbeat but is tied over from the previous measure. This may take some getting used to, but it is a vital part of this style. The guitar player will need to be careful not to overplay in this chart; most of the rhythmic action goes to the piano, bass, and percussion in this idiom.

During the trumpet solo at measure 127, do not overblow the soloist with the background parts. He or she is working hard enough as it is. Now, the soloist does not have to be blasting high notes the whole time during the solo. If he or she has the chops to play them, high notes will always work great in a chart like this, but well-constructed musical lines will also work. Above all, the soloist must ride the energy of the rhythm section and convey the spirit of this kind of music. Wayne Bergeron is a once-in-a-generation kind of player, and what he does on our recording is remarkable, but there are many ways to approach an improvised solo. Try to develop the approach for your trumpet soloist. Of course, after the soloist is finished playing his or her heart out on the improvised solo, he or she gets to play all of those sixteenth notes at measure 152 with the saxes. Okay, it's definitely a blow, but what's the point of playing music without making an emotional commitment and pushing the boundaries a little? Go for it! If the band can't make it through the first time you try, keep at it and build up strength. I promise you, there's no greater reward than working to accomplish something that looked beyond your reach at first grasp. The last note, the double A-flat, is optional. But think how cool it'll be when the trumpet player hits it!

Please enjoy.



















































