

Bluin' the Blues Trombone Quartet Score Parts: A Comprehensive Guide for Jazz Musicians

The Bluin' the Blues Trombone Quartet Score Parts is a renowned collection of jazz trombone quartet arrangements that has captivated musicians and audiences alike for decades. Composed by the legendary jazz trombonist Bill Watrous, these arrangements are known for their infectious grooves, intricate harmonies, and challenging technical passages. This article will delve into the history, structure, and performance aspects of the Bluin' the Blues Trombone Quartet Score Parts, providing a comprehensive guide for jazz trombonists and enthusiasts.

The History of Bluin' the Blues

Bill Watrous wrote the Bluin' the Blues Trombone Quartet Score Parts in 1968 while working with the Buddy Rich Big Band. Inspired by the bluesy and soulful sounds of traditional jazz, Watrous sought to create a set of arrangements that would both showcase the unique qualities of the trombone and provide a challenging musical experience for players. The original quartet, consisting of Watrous, Bobby Burgess, Steve Turre, and Jiggs Whigham, premiered the arrangements at the Monterey Jazz Festival in 1968.



Bluin' The Blues - Trombone Quartet Score & Parts

by Kamel Sadi

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

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Print length : 56 pages



The Bluin' the Blues Trombone Quartet Score Parts quickly gained recognition within the jazz community and soon became a staple of jazz trombone quartets. The arrangements have been performed by countless groups worldwide, including the Canadian Brass, the New York Trombone Quartet, and the Empire Brass Quintet. The score parts have also been published and are widely used as teaching materials in music schools and conservatories.

The Structure of the Bluin' the Blues Trombone Quartet Score Parts

The Bluin' the Blues Trombone Quartet Score Parts consists of nine arrangements, each showcasing a different blues style and featuring unique harmonic and rhythmic elements. The arrangements range in difficulty from intermediate to advanced and are designed to challenge the technical and musical abilities of the players.

The score parts are written in concert pitch and include parts for four trombones (lead, first, second, and bass). The arrangements typically follow a traditional jazz quartet format, with the lead trombone playing the melody, the first trombone playing harmony, the second trombone playing rhythm, and the bass trombone providing the foundation. However, Watrous also incorporates elements of big band writing, such as unison passages, counter melodies, and complex harmonies.

Performance Considerations

Performing the Bluin' the Blues Trombone Quartet Score Parts requires a high level of technical proficiency, musical understanding, and ensemble coordination. Here are some essential considerations for musicians:

- **Technical Proficiency:** The arrangements contain challenging technical passages that require players to have a solid foundation in trombone technique. This includes a strong embouchure, clear articulation, and the ability to play with accuracy and precision.
- **Musical Understanding:** The Bluin' the Blues arrangements are harmonically complex and often feature unexpected chord changes. Players need to have a deep understanding of jazz harmony and theory to navigate these passages effectively.
- **Ensemble Coordination:** The success of the Bluin' the Blues Trombone Quartet Score Parts relies heavily on the coordination and interaction between the players. The quartet must be able to lock in rhythmically, blend their sound, and respond to each other's musical cues.
- **Improvisation:** While the Bluin' the Blues arrangements are written out, there is ample room for improvisation. Players are encouraged to explore their own improvisational ideas while staying true to the overall style and structure of the compositions.

The Bluin' the Blues Trombone Quartet Score Parts by Bill Watrous is a seminal work in the world of jazz trombone quartet literature. Its infectious grooves, intricate harmonies, and challenging technical passages have made it a favorite among musicians and audiences for over five decades. By understanding the history, structure, and performance considerations of these arrangements, trombonists and jazz enthusiasts can unlock the full

potential of Bluin' the Blues and experience the joy and excitement of playing this timeless music.

Image Alt Attributes



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BLUIN' THE BLUES

- SYDNEY D. MITCHELL/H.W. RAGAS

INTRO

Chords: B^b, F⁷, F^{o7}, F⁷

Chords: B^{b7}

Chords: E^{b7}, E^{o7}, B^b/F, G⁷

Chords: C⁷, F⁷, B^b

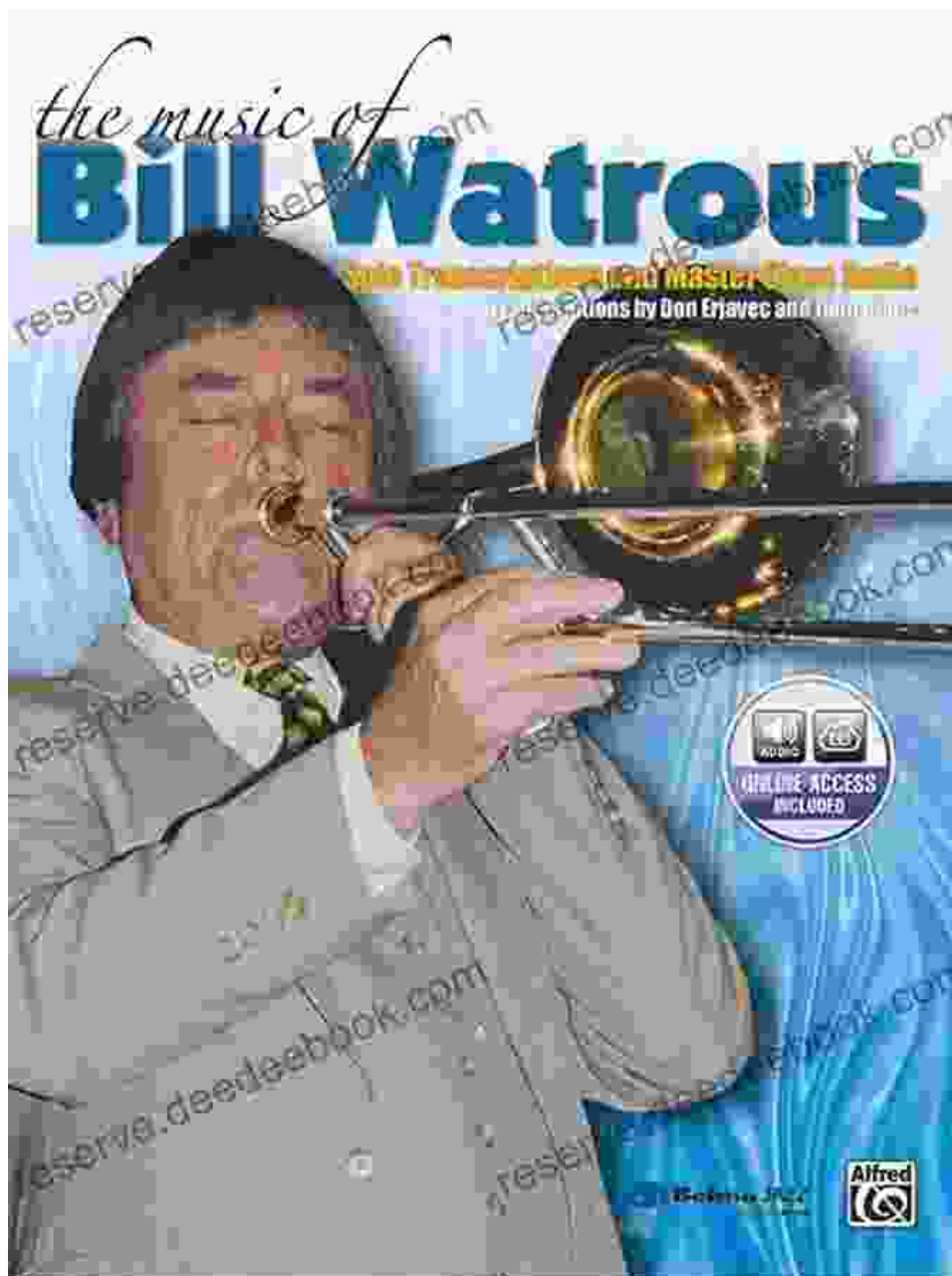
RHYTHM INSTRUMENT, HORN, HOLD LONG NOTES

Chords: B^b, B^{b7}

Chords: E^{b7}, E^{o7}, B^b/F, G⁷

Chords: C⁷, F⁷, B^b

Chords: B^b, G^{b7}, B^b, B^{b7}



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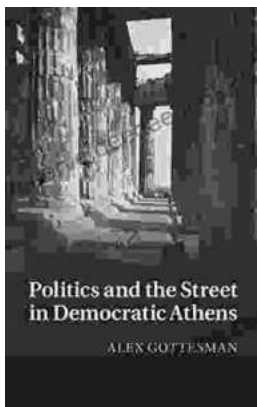
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