

Blast from the Past

Joseph Compello

FPS86 INSTRUMENTATION

Flute
Oboe (opt. Flute 2)
Clarinet 1 in B_{\flat} 4
Clarinet 2 in B
Bass Clarinet in Bb2
Alto Saxophone in E_{P}
Tenor Saxophone in B_{\flat}
Baritone Saxophone in Eb2
$Irumpet 1 in B_{\flat} \dots \dots$
$Irumpet 2 in B > \dots \dots$
Horn in F
Irombone, Euphonium B.C., Bassoon6
Euphonium T.C. in B_{P}
Tuba
Mallet Percussion
Vibraphone, Opt.
Percussion 1
Snare Drum, Bass Drum
Percussion 22 Ride Cymbal, Floor Tom

Program Notes

Blast from the Past is written in the 1940s big band swing style. For those few who may not know, this style of music is made to swing by performing eighth notes in a long-short pattern identical to the quarter/eighth pattern in $\frac{12}{8}$ time.

Since most young bands do not have access to a drum set, this piece is scored for standard snare drum, bass drum and suspended cymbal, plus a floor tom. If possible, a percussionist on a drum set will give the best results. Vibraphone is optional.

Teach young players that the ride cymbal is lightly pinched when marked "+" and open when marked "o". As with all repetitive percussion parts in popular music, the part may be varied according to the ability and imagination of the players.

If snapping fingers is a problem for young students, try clapping instead. Also the snare drum can play the finger snap rhythm of the rim if the snapping is not loud enough or if the band has trouble keeping a steady beat.

Regarding endurance considerations for very young wind players, taking alternate rests every two measures on repeated figures will alleviate the problem. For instance, beginning at m. 52 the alto sax and tenor sax can alternate playing and resting every two measures. Likewise, the walking bass line beginning at m. 25 can be split by two players.

For a lengthier finale, the first ending at m. 62 may be taken several times with the following suggestions; 1st time: as given in the score; 2nd time: add snare drum, bass drum, cymbal; 3rd time: add woodwinds and vibraphone; 4th time: add trombones. Each repeat should be a little louder.

The plunger used by the trumpets beginning at m. 52 is nothing more than an ordinary plumber's helper found at the hardware store. Fancier and more costly models are available at music shops. The "+" sign means closed. The "o" sign means open. When executing the closed position, be certain that a small gap is left between the bell and the plunger. A tight seal will not give the proper effect. Try having trumpets stand at m. 52 so the audience can see the plunger effect. Also try having the trombones stand at the repeat to m. 52 when they begin their gliss. Swaying the slides from right to left is a standard big band visual effect. Audience members who remember the big bands of the forties will enjoy the display.

About the Composer

Joseph Compello, a native of Carbondale, Pennsylvania, holds degrees in music education from the Peabody Conservatory and Towson University. During his 31 year career as an instrumental music teacher in Maryland, he wrote numerous compositions for his students. In 1994, Carl Fischer began publishing many of these classroom-tested pieces including his debut publication *Cadets on Parade*, and the 1996 best-seller *Rock to the Max, Mr. Sax.* Compello's journey from school teacher to internationally published composer was recently chronicled in the Baltimore Sun. His music is now performed worldwide in venues ranging from school concerts to Carnegie Hall. Now retired from teaching with over 100 published works to his credit, Compello continues to draw on his extensive background in music education to compose new music exclusively for Carl Fischer's Performance Series.

Full Score

Blast from the Past



3









6



















14





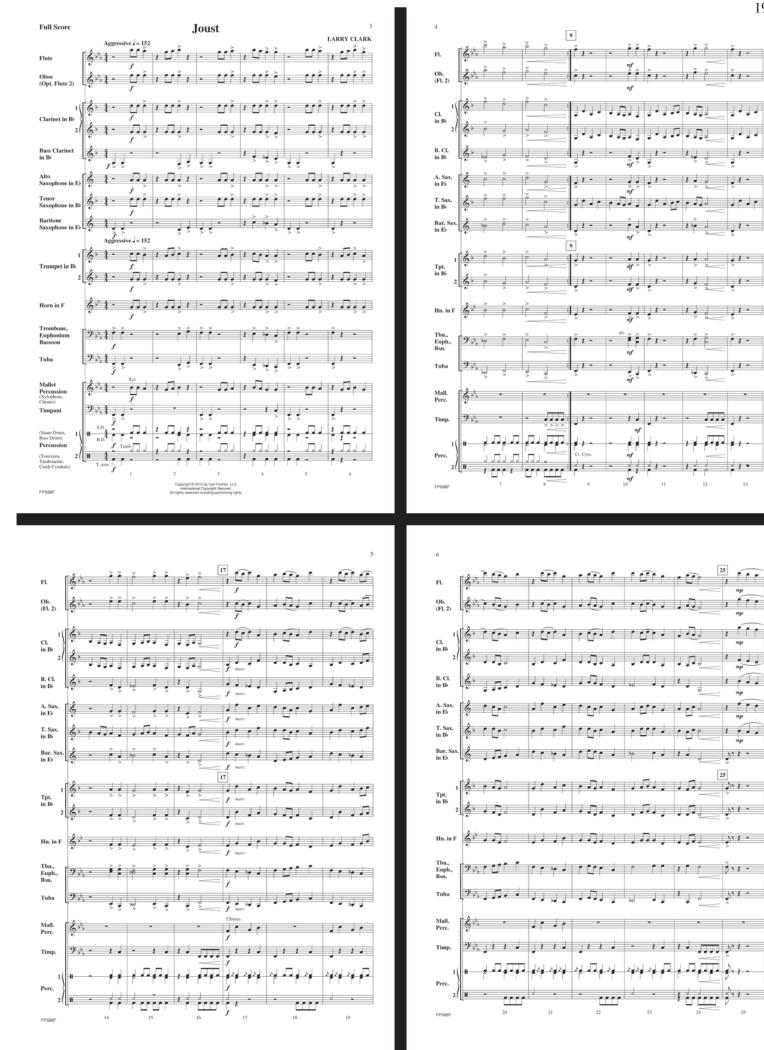




Much slower



18





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