## Sideways Walking Dog

ZACHARY SMITH

## **INSTRUMENTATION**

Conductor

1st El Alto Saxophone

2nd El Alto Saxophone

1st Bl Tenor Saxophone

2nd Bl Tenor Saxophone (Optional)

El Barrtone Saxophone (Optional)

1st Bl Trumpet

2nd Bl Trumpet

3rd Bb Trumpet (Optional)

1st Trombone
2nd Trombone (Optional)
3rd Trombone (Optional)
Guitar Chords
Guitar (Optional)
Piano
Bass

Drums

## **Optional/Alternate Parts**

C Flute

B♭ Clarinet

Vibraphone

Tuba (Doubles Bass)

Horn in F (Doubles 1st Trombone)

Baritone Horn T.C./Bb Tenor Saxophone (Doubles 1st Trombone)



FOR JAZZ ENSEMBLE

## **NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR**

One of the keys to making a rock or funk chart such as "Sideways Walking Dog" sound tight is to pay close attention to the articulation. The notes marked with a *staccato* need to be played short but not clipped; think "dit," with the tongue cutting off the end of the note. This articulation is essential to a tight-sounding jazz ensemble. Notes indicated with a *marcato* or rooftop accent (A) should be played detached and for their full values—think "daht." Again, players should end these notes with the tongue. Practice having the wind players say or sing these syllables to reinforce the articulation.

The first phrase in the chart is a clear example of the detached articulation. The quarter notes should be fat; think "daht, daht" with a clean release on these detached notes. In measure 11, direct the trumpets to play beats 3 and 4 as "doo–dit" (*legato–staccato*). This phrase is repeated often, so remind the students to be consistent. The trombones have the same thing in measure 27. The brass section's background figure behind the tenor solo at measure 69 should be played "doo–dit–dit." Say it aloud! Going back to measure 14, the saxes have a quarter note on beat 3 that is *staccato*: "dit." As you know, these articulation details are the difference between an average and an outstanding performance.

There are a number of places where the entire ensemble lines up and plays the same rhythm, as in measures 36–39. The band should strive to play each accented note, and then back off slightly and blow through to the next accented note. The elongated syncopation makes it easy for a young band to fall apart at this section because the players have to individually maintain the tempo or pulse and count internally. A helpful hint is to remind them to listen for the snare drum, which, by hitting beats 2 and 3 while the ensemble holds out the sustained notes, is the time keeper, or metronome, in this instance.

Speaking of the drumset player, make sure your drummer understands his or her responsibility to maintain solid time during the drum solo sections (measures 45–56 and 101–112). The written drum solos are fairly simple, and they will provide clear, consistent, and solid time to ensure that the ensemble is locked in with the pulse. If you have a standout drummer, he or she can embellish the solo fills, but in the style of the chart.

If the guitar player has some experience and suitable equipment, he or she can add a touch of "wah" with a wah-wah pedal while comping the indicated pattern. This could add a cool 1970s feel to the chart, if desired. Of course, if your guitarist is learning the chords and rhythm, the student should focus on the written music and not be concerned with effects.

Finally, the tempo of this chart can vary. For rehearsal purposes, I suggest beginning rehearsal at a slow enough tempo so your students can count in 4, around 144 BPM. As the ensemble becomes more confident with the notes and rhythms, gradually move toward the suggested tempo of 176–200. As the tempo increases, it may be easier to count the chart in cut time. Just keep it tight!

Enjoy!

—Zachary Smith







Zachary Smith is a noted composer, arranger, and professional trumpet player and has led the New Orleans music ensemble Dixie Power Trio for the past twenty-five years. He earned a BS in jazz performance at the University of North Texas and has maintained a busy performing, writing, and teaching schedule in the Washington, D.C. area. Zack has a garnered a large following as an arranger for his brass ensemble writing and won the 2012 Humboldt State University Brass Chamber Music competition.





































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