

As Performed by Gordon Goodwin's Little Phat Band

Cot in the Act

GORDON GOODWIN

INSTRUMENTATION

Conductor

Black Tenor Saxophone

B Trumpet

Trombone

Guitar

Piano

Bass (Electric)

Drums

Guitar Chords



NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

The groove to this chart is essentially a funky-pop feel. It should be played with a lively and forward-moving attitude. The latter is greatly enhanced by the "four on the floor" kick-drum pattern. (That's some old school jargon, kids.) The rhythm section parts for this, as in many pop-influenced grooves, fit together compositionally, and I would recommend that you play the parts as written until the solo section at m. 101. Listen carefully to one another so that everybody is locked on the eighth-note patterns, a comment that applies to the horns as well as the rhythm section. In this chart, there is no place for any laid-back big band phrasing.

By the same token, pay attention to the things that bring a nuance to a song like this, like the off-beat accents in M. 29, m. 73, and m. 74.

The figure in mm. 76–77 of the trombone part may catch your attention. Admittedly, the notes are pretty high for the trombone, but not impossible, as Andy Martin has shown. You can also take those measures down an octave to make them easier. But make sure that any licks you take down are unison licks and not harmonized, as in m. 156 because changing the register of a note in a voiced chord will not be effective. If you can play those licks in the upper register, the horns will have a thick, strong, and powerful sound. There's nothing like a horn section nailing the pitch and phrasing in a prime unison!

And there's nothing like a fun groove like this, especially when you commit to it. While this tune is nothing new and exotic, sometimes it's okay to let your hair down and party a little . . . as long as the party includes deep-pocket grooving, tight-horn phrasing, and inspired soloing!

Unfortunately, decorum prevents me from revealing the circumstances that lead to the title of this song, so you'll just have to use your imagination!

Have fun with "Cot in the Act"!

—Gordon Goodwin





Gordon Goodwin started composing at the age of three. No masterpieces at that time, but he kept at it and wrote his first big band chart at age 13. It was good enough to convince him that he could possibly keep doing this. Flash cut 20 years later and Gordon is working in Hollywood, writing for television and film, playing sessions on keyboards and woodwinds, and working with artists like Ray Charles, Christina Aguilera, Johnny Mathis, Toni Braxton, John Williams, Natalie Cole, David Foster, Sarah Vaughan, Mel Torme, Brian McKnight, and Quincy Jones, to name a few. Goodwin's cinematic scoring and orchestration craft can be heard on such films as The Sorcerer's Apprentice, Escape to Witch Mountain, Get Smart, Glory Road, National Treasure, The Incredibles, Remember the Titans, Armageddon, The Majestic, Con Air, Gone In 60 Seconds, Enemy of the State, Star Trek Nemesis, and even the classic cult film Attack of the Killer Tomatoes.

In 2000, Goodwin formed The Big Phat Band, an eighteen piece jazz ensemble, which quickly gained a reputation as one of the most exciting large jazz ensembles on the planet. To date, the BPB has released five records, Swingin' For The Fences (2000), XXL (2003), The Phat Pack (2006), Act Your Age (2008), and That's How We Roll (2011). The albums have featured state-of-the-art guest artists like Arturo Sandoval, Eddie Daniels, Take 6, Brian McKnight, Johnny Mathis, Michael Brecker, Dianne Reeves, David Sanborn, Chick Corea, Dave Grusin, Lee Ritenour, Patti Austin, Art Tatum, Dave Koz, Gerald Albright, and Marcus Miller.

Goodwin's work has garnered him three Emmy Awards and eleven Grammy® nominations, with three Grammy wins for his work on the Pixar film *The Incredibles* (2006) and his arrangements of "Rhapsody in Blue" (2012) and "On Green Dolphin Street" (2014). His charts are played all over the world, and along with his method books and CDs, have been a robust source of inspiration and learning for thousands of young musicians.

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COT IN THE ACT



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