

JAZZ LINES PUBLICATIONS

Presents

WILLOWCREST

ARRANGED BY BOB FLORENCE

PREPARED FOR PUBLICATION BY DYLAN CANTERBURY, ROB DUBOFF, AND JEFFREY SULTANOF

FULL SCORE

JLP-50318

MUSIC BY BOB FLORENCE

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BOB FLORENCE SERIES

WILLOWCREST (1967/1987)

Background:

One of the most in-demand arrangers on the West Coast throughout his career, Bob Florence's writing and bandleading made him one of the most ubiquitous presences on the Los Angeles jazz scene for over 40 years. Born in LA in 1932, Florence was already studying piano before entering grade school. While studying at Los Angeles City College, he put together his first big band that featured several classmates who would go on to notable careers of their own. The band's reputation spread rapidly, eventually counting several of LA's top jazzmen amongst its ranks. Work as a freelance arranger eventually brought Florence to the attention of Liberty Records, who signed him on as a staff arranger. His work for Liberty during this time period was incredibly diverse, scoring sessions for jazz and pop stars alike. It was also during this time period that he released his first album as a leader, 1964's *Here and Now!*

Despite continued success in the field of commercial music, Florence always longed to return to the world of jazz. He finally got the opportunity to do so in 1978, when he released an album of his original big band arrangements titled *Live at Concerts by the Sea*. Invigorated by the success of this release, Florence formed the *Limited Edition* in 1982. This band would be comprised of some of the top players on the LA studio scene as well as several of the West Coast's top jazz soloists. The band's greatest success would come with 2000's *Serendipity 18* winning a Grammy for Best Jazz Performance by a Large Ensemble. Florence passed away in 2008. He leaves behind an extensive catalogue of some of the finest post-bop big band arrangements ever put to paper, as well as a number of highly enjoyable recordings.

The Music:

Originally written for and recorded by the Buddy Rich Orchestra, this version of Bob Florence's *Willowcrest* is an updated arrangement that was recorded by Florence's Limited Edition on their 1987 album *Trash Can City*. Its brisk pace and dramatic intensity make for a challenging but highly enjoyable experience for players and listeners alike.

Notes to the Conductor:

An ominous bass ostinato nicely sets the tone for the arrival of a moody melody in the alto and tenor saxophones at measure 17. The tune's A section is a G minor blues, while the bridge is an open-ended vamp that alternates between C minor and major. Each section sees another layer of ensemble complexity (and volume) added in, reaching a fake-out climax at measure 83. The first ensemble shout chorus begins here, with the volume suddenly dropping off. Although the full ensemble is present at first, the saxes take center stage at measure 107, giving the brass a chance to rest up for the rest of the performance. The sax soli is largely motivic in nature, with lots of repetitive figures, but will still provide a technical challenge due to the brisk pace.

The arrangement's middle section is focused on two full choruses of improvised solos - the first chorus a trombone solo, the second an alto sax solo. The backgrounds are, for the most part, not overly intrusive, but provide enough of a galvanizing effect to spur on each soloist. A substantially re-harmonized version of the melody appears at measure 299, with the full ensemble playing at warm, rich unison atop the continuously churning rhythm section. Things slowly build to a boiling point before a drum solo sets up a full-blast shout chorus at measure 335. Keep an eye out for the 5/4 bars that are strewn in at a few different spots. The rhythm section winds things down for one last quick melody statement at measure 339, before building up once more at measure 423 for an appropriately exciting conclusion.

This publication was prepared using the original set of parts from Bob Florence's library - this is not a transcription.

Acknowledgements:

We would like to thank Bob Florence's daughter, Robbi LaLonde, for granting us permission to publish this and other arrangements from her dad's library.

Dylan Canterbury and Rob DuBoff

September 2023



WILLOWCREST

SCORE

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FAST WALTZ $\text{♩} = 90$

(ALTO SAX)

The score is arranged in a standard orchestral format. The woodwind section includes six parts: Alto Sax/Soprano Sax, Alto Sax, Tenor Sax, Tenor Sax, Baritone Sax, and Baritone Sax. The brass section includes five trumpets and four trombones. The piano part is marked *mp* and features a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The bass and drum set parts are also present, with the drum set part showing a simple rhythmic pattern.

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

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Musical score for Willowcrest, page 2, measures 9-16. The score is arranged for five instruments: Wm. 1 (A. Sax), Wm. 3 (T. Sax), Piano (PNO.), Bass (BS.), and Drums (DR.).

- Wm. 1 (A. Sax):** Rests in measures 9-15, then plays a melodic phrase in measure 16 starting on G4, marked *mp*.
- Wm. 3 (T. Sax):** Rests in measures 9-15, then plays a melodic phrase in measure 16 starting on E3, marked *mp*.
- PNO.:** Provides harmonic accompaniment with chords and arpeggios. Includes dynamic markings *mp* and *sim.* (sustained).
- BS.:** Plays a walking bass line with eighth notes and quarter notes, marked *mp*.
- DR.:** Plays a steady drum pattern with eighth notes, marked *mp*. Includes dynamic markings *sim.*, *(4)*, and *(8)*.

Measures 9-16 are indicated at the bottom of the page.

17

W1 (A. Sax)
W3 (T. Sax)
W5 (B. Sax)
W6 (B. Sax)
T1
T2
T3
T4
PNO.
Bs.
Dr.

PLAY 2ND X ONLY
w/ B.S. TEN.
mp

PLAY 2ND X ONLY
mp

PLAY 2ND X ONLY
mp

PLAY 2ND X ONLY
mp

PLAY 2ND X ONLY
w/B. Sax.
mp

(4) (8)

17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24