

YOUNG JAZZ ENSEMBLE

Gonna Fly Now

(Theme from *Rocky*)

Words and Music by BILL CONTI, AYN ROBBINS, and CAROL CONNORS

Arranged by VICTOR LÓPEZ

INSTRUMENTATION

Conductor	1st Trombone
1st E \flat Alto Saxophone	2nd Trombone
2nd E \flat Alto Saxophone	3rd Trombone (Optional)
1st B \flat Tenor Saxophone	4th Trombone (Optional)
2nd B \flat Tenor Saxophone	Guitar Chords
E \flat Baritone Saxophone (Optional)	Guitar (Optional)
1st B \flat Trumpet	Piano
2nd B \flat Trumpet	Bass
3rd B \flat Trumpet	Drums
4th B \flat Trumpet (Optional)	Auxiliary Percussion

Optional/Alternate Parts

C Flute
Tuba
Horn in F (Doubles 1st Trombone)
1st Baritone T.C./B \flat Tenor Saxophone (Doubles 1st Trombone)
2nd Baritone T.C./B \flat Tenor Saxophone (Doubles 2nd Trombone)

PROGRAM NOTES

"Gonna Fly Now (Theme from *Rocky*)" is the theme song from the movie *Rocky*, composed by Bill Conti with lyrics by Carol Connors and Ayn Robbins, and performed by DeEtta Little. The song became part of American popular culture to reflect the triumph of main character, Rocky Balboa. The song is often played at sporting events. Trumpeter Maynard Ferguson, one of the few jazz musicians to find success in pop music, recorded a version of Bill Conti's "Gonna Fly Now," which became familiar as the theme for *Rocky*. Ferguson's recording reached No. 22 on Billboard's pop charts in 1977.

Walter "Maynard" Ferguson (May 4, 1928–August 23, 2006) was a Canadian jazz trumpet player and bandleader. He came to prominence playing in Stan Kenton's orchestra, before forming his own band in 1957. He was famous for being able to play accurately in the very high register, and for his bands which served as stepping stones for up-and-coming jazz talent.

Maynard Ferguson was one of a handful of virtuoso musician/bandleaders to survive the end of the big band era and the rise of rock and roll. He demonstrated a remarkable ability to adapt to the musical trends that evolved from the 1940s through the 2000s. Ferguson's albums show an evolution from big band swing, bebop, cool jazz, Latin, jazz/rock, fusion with classical and operatic influences. Through his devotion to music education in America, Ferguson was able to impart the spirit of his jazz playing and his amazing technique to scores of amateur and professional trumpeters during the many master classes he taught throughout his long career.

NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

This arrangement is reminiscent of the Maynard Ferguson hit of the late '70s with the famous trumpet solo, but scored for the young player. Note that the harmonies (open fourths and major seconds) on this selection are a bit dense and consequently young musicians will have to get used to hearing them to play them in tune. The beginning is to be played triumphantly until the trumpets introduce the melody at measure 9. The accompaniment throughout the chart vacillates between the rock and disco styles which are so reminiscent of the '70s pop music. At the end of the trumpet solo, on measure 31, the 1st tenor is featured. Note that during this section the drum set player should be playing the authentic disco beat. You may have to work with the drummer to get the right open and closed sounds from the hi-hat. The background figures through measure 47 should not overpower the soloist. At measure 47, a suggested drum solo is written in the part but the player should be encouraged to make up his or her own solo within the style of the chart. At measure 55 the trumpet solo returns leading to measure 65 where it is played triumphantly until the end of the chart.

As a former trumpet player, I was influenced by Maynard Ferguson and was a Maynard groupie. I have a picture with him at a "Midnight Madness with Maynard" concert at Gusman Hall in Miami. As a young player I used to (try) to play along with his records day after day.

Enjoy!

—Victor López



**Victor
López**

Victor López is a highly acclaimed educator, composer, arranger, and adjudicator. He holds music degrees from the University of Florida and Florida International University, with an Ed.D. in Educational Administration and Supervision. He has served as director of bands at the middle and senior high school levels and as an administrator in the Miami-Dade County Public Schools. He has recorded and performed with various artists and has appeared in numerous music videos. He has over 450 compositions/arrangements published as an exclusive composer, arranger and clinician for Alfred Music Publishing Co.

CONDUCTOR
26901S

GONNA FLY NOW

Theme from "Rocky"

Words and Music by BILL CONTI,
AYN ROBBINS and CAROL CONNORS
Arranged by VICTOR LOPEZ

Moderate rock ♩ = 112

The score is arranged for a full band. The instruments listed on the left are: C Flute (Optional), 1st Eb Alto Saxophone, 2nd Eb Alto Saxophone, 1st Bb Tenor Saxophone, 2nd Bb Tenor Saxophone, Eb Baritone Saxophone (Optional), 1st Bb Trumpet, 2nd Bb Trumpet, 3rd Bb Trumpet, 4th Bb Trumpet (Optional), 1st Trombone, 2nd Trombone, 3rd Trombone (Optional), 4th Trombone (Optional), Guitar (Optional), Piano, Bass, and Drums (Ride Cym, Tamb., Toms). The score is in 4/4 time with a tempo of 112. It features a prominent saxophone melody in the first system, followed by a trumpet and trombone section. The guitar and piano provide harmonic support with chords and arpeggios. The bass line is simple and steady. The drums feature a consistent pattern with occasional fills. A large red watermark 'Preview Requires Purchase' is overlaid diagonally across the score.

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CONDUCTOR

GONNA FLY NOW

FL.

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

BARI.

TRP. 1

TRP. 2

TRP. 3

TRP. 4

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

TBN. 3

TBN. 4

GRG.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

AUX. PERC.

(TBN. 3)

(TBN. 4)

(8va)

E \flat (No9rd)

D(No9rd)

Cmi7

B \flat ma \flat 7

Cmi7

B \flat ma \flat 7

Cmi7

B \flat ma \flat 7

H.H.

7 8 9 10 11 12



CONDUCTOR

GONNA FLY NOW

- 3 -

17

FL.

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

BARI.

TRP. 1

TRP. 2

TRP. 3

TRP. 4

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

TBN. 3

TBN. 4

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

AUX. PERC.

PLAY ME

Legal Use Requires Purchase

13 14 15 16 17 18

FILL

(1ST TRP. SOLO)

FL.

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

BARI.

TRP. 1

TRP. 2

TRP. 3

TRP. 4

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

TBN. 3

TBN. 4

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

AUX. PERC.

SOLO

FILL

Chorus

Legal Use Requires Purchase

19

20

21

22

23

24

CONDUCTOR

GONNA FLY NOW

(END OF SOLO)

FL. 25

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1 (TEN. 3)

TENOR 2 (TEN. 4)

BARI.

TRP. 1

TRP. 2

TRP. 3

TRP. 4

TEN. 1

TEN. 2

TEN. 3

TEN. 4

GTR. C#m7

PNO. C#m7

BASS

DRUMS

AUX. PERC.

SOLO

PLAY

(END OF SOLO)

- 5 -

39

FL.

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

BARI.

TPT. 1

TPT. 2

TPT. 3

TPT. 4

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

TBN. 3

TBN. 4

GR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

AUX. PERC.

Esus

Dmi7

Ami7

Dsus

Cmi7

Gmi7

TOM6

37 38 39 40 41 42



FL.

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

BARI.

TRP. 1

TRP. 2

TRP. 3

TRP. 4

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

TBN. 3

TBN. 4

QTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

AUX. PERC.

Chord symbols: Dmi7, Emi7, Fmaj7, Esus6, Ebmaj7, Dsus6, N.C.

Drum notation: FILL, SOLO FILL, TOMS, COWBELL

Measure numbers: 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48

Tempo/Performance markings: (47)

Text: Legal Use Requires Purchase

FL.

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

BARI.

TRP. 1

TRP. 2

TRP. 3

TRP. 4

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

TBN. 3

TBN. 4

GRG.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

AUX. PERC.

The image shows a page of a musical score for the piece 'Gonna Fly Now'. The score is arranged for a conductor and includes parts for various instruments: Flute (FL.), Alto 1 and 2, Tenor 1 and 2, Baritone (BARI.), Trumpets 1-4 (TRP.), Trombones 1-4 (TBN.), Guitar (GRG.), Piano (PNO.), Bass, Drums, and Auxiliary Percussion (AUX. PERC.). The score is written in a key signature of one flat (B-flat major or D minor) and a 4/4 time signature. A large, diagonal red watermark reading 'Preview Only' is overlaid across the entire page. At the bottom of the page, there are three 'SOLO FILL' markings with dashed lines indicating specific measures. The measure numbers 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, and 54 are printed below the drum and auxiliary percussion staves.

49

50

51

52

53

54

CONDUCTOR

GONNA FLY NOW

FL. (55) (1st Trp. Solo) (59)

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1 (TEN. 3)

TENOR 2 (TEN. 4)

BARI.

TRP. 1 SOLO

TRP. 2

TRP. 3

TRP. 4

TEN. 1

TEN. 2

TEN. 3

TEN. 4

GTR. Cm7 Dm7 Ebmaj7 Dsus

PNO. Cm7 Dm7 Ebmaj7 Dsus Cm7 Dm7

BASS

DRUMS FILL

AUX. PERC.

55 56 57 58 59 60



CONDUCTOR

(END OF SOLO)

GONNA FLY NOW

FL.

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

BARI.

TPT. 1

TPT. 2

TPT. 3

TPT. 4

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

TBN. 3

TBN. 4

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

AUX. PERC.

PLAY

PLAY

PLAY

(END OF SOLO)

(END OF SOLO)

FILL

OUTLINE AND FILL IN BETWEEN

61 62 63 64 65 66



FL. (1st Trp. Solo)

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

BARI.

TRP. 1 Solo

TRP. 2

TRP. 3

TRP. 4

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

TBN. 3

TBN. 4

GTR. (8va) E(No920) D(No920) G(No920) F(No920) E(No920) D(No920)

PNO. E(No920) D(No920) G(No920) F(No920) E(No920) D(No920)

BASS

DRUMS

AUX. PERC.

67 68 69 70 71 72 73

