

JAZZ LINES PUBLICATIONS

Presents

AVALON

RECORDED BY THE HARRY JAMES ORCHESTRA

ARRANGED BY ANDY GIBSON

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

FULL SCORE

JLP-7765

BY AL TOLSON, VINCENT ROSE, AND B.G. DESYLVA

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THE JAZZ LINES FOUNDATION INC.

PO BOX 1236

SARATOGA SPRINGS NY 12866 USA

HARRY JAMES BIG BAND SERIES

AVALON (1939)

Harry James Biography:

One of the most exciting and technically proficient trumpeters of all time, Harry James left behind a substantial legacy of recordings and performances that continue to delight listeners to this day. Born into a family of traveling circus performers in 1916, James looked primed to live a life in the family business, performing as a contortionist as a young boy. At age 10, however, he began taking trumpet lessons from his father, developing a stunning level of technical proficiency by the time he was in his mid-teens.

Joining up with the Benny Goodman Orchestra in 1937, James quickly became one of the band's star soloists. Leaving Goodman two years later, he formed his first orchestra (featuring a young Frank Sinatra as its male vocalist). The band's greatest commercial success would come in the early 1940s, when it expanded to include a string section and focused on achieving a "sweeter" sound than most contemporary outlets. In addition to recording a number of hits, the band would also appear on-screen in a number of films during this time.

Despite a string of hits, James's bands were also known to have an experimental side. Beginning in 1939 with the rhythmically adventurous arranger Andy Gibson, to the harmonically sophisticated Johnny Thompson, and leading up to the bebop influenced arrangements of Neal Hefti, the Harry James Orchestra often challenged listeners to re-evaluate their conception of what a big band could sound like. James was diagnosed with lymphatic cancer in 1983, but continued to perform all the way up until his passing later that year. The Harry James Orchestra still continues to operate to this day, currently under the direction of Fred Radke.

Andy Gibson Biography:

Born on November 6, 1913, in Zanesville, Ohio, Gibson played violin and trumpet early on and performed in a variety of bands before settling in as an arranger and composer by about 1937. His first big break was being hired by Ellington, for whom he worked as a copyist, observing the orchestra of the man he would always hold in the highest esteem as the arranger he most admired.¹ He was next hired by Charlie Barnet, with whom he would work well into the future, specifically to write new takes on some Ellington tunes. No easy feat, considering Duke's pioneering originality, Gibson began to make his abilities really stand out by managing "...to retain the essence of the originals and yet make them sound just different enough to have his own stamp on them."² Next came Harry James, with whom he perhaps made his first really indelible marks on history. James had hired the 23-year-old Frank Sinatra in 1939. When James asked Sinatra to sing his first song live with the band, they had no vocal charts to use, so Frank called **Star Dust** and acquitted himself quite well. Following this, James immediately had Gibson begin writing what would be the young unknown's first serious, professional charts.³

His work with Charlie Barnet and Harry James often featured surprising rhythmic figures and articulations, especially accented notes, that would later become a hallmark of the bebop movement. His work in the late 1930s almost certainly provided inspiration for Tadd Dameron, with whom Gibson would share arranging duties for Count Basie in 1940. His harmonies were often very sophisticated for the time period and included upper-extension alterations such as 13(b9), 9(#11) and 7(#5b5). Perhaps from his study of Ellington's work, Gibson was also fond of using a wide variety of mutes and effects in the brass section. He effectively used this tonal color palette in background material behind soloists or to provide variations in melodic content; creatively framing the work around the painting being created by a soloist was one of Gibson's trademarks.⁴

Gibson entered the US Army in 1942, leading his own big band across Europe until discharged in 1945. He continued working for Barnet, as they were a fine match; both of them had their own unique styles and open-minded ways of approaching life and music. A colorful character, Barnet was quite forward-thinking for the time, integrating his big band before nearly anyone else, and moving toward bebop sounds quite early for a swing big band leader.⁵ By the end of the 1940s, they both were yearning for new directions. Barnet semi-retired and never played music full-time again, and Gibson began focusing on R&B, eventually becoming music director for King Records in Cincinnati. He continued composing, with some of his best-known works being **The Hucklebuck**, **The Great Lie**, **I Left My Baby**, **From the Bottom of My Heart**, and **Shorty George**.



By the late 1950s, he was working in various styles, and writer/producer Stanley Dance tells a great story that shows not only Dance's reverence for the historically underappreciated Gibson, but vividly illustrates the true versatility this man possessed. Dance had been hired to produce what he referred to as a "mainstream" jazz record, and decided that one side would have a small group, and one side a big band; he and Gibson consulted and debated on the personnel, and then Gibson wrote the arrangement. It was to be a long blues, designed with the hope of capturing the intense dynamics and improvisations longer pieces sometimes inspired. Names included Milt Hinton, Dicky Wells, Vic Dickenson, the young Kenny Burrell, and the star of the show, Paul Gonsalves, who "rode on through" the "stormy choruses" "triumphantly," as he had been known to do.⁶

The young Burrell asked Gibson at the end of the session what it would be called, and Gibson replied, "**Blueprint** - a kind of design for what ought to be."⁷ Following the session, Gibson had a rock 'n' roll studio date, to which Dance and Gonsalves accompanied him as curious spectators. Not enamored with the relatively new music that had been exploding across America, Dance was rather dismissive. Many rock records, he felt, "sound as though they were made in a tin barn with the minimum of forethought and care."⁸ Despite this, he lauded Gibson's approach as being identical to the expert professionalism he had shown earlier in the day, paying precisely equal attention to, "routing, timing, dynamics, phrasing, and tempo" as well as recording balance.⁹ He and Gonsalves soon left, not enjoying the music, but marvelling at the depth and breadth of Andy Gibson's abilities.

One of the defining characteristics of American music is the manner in which artists have continued to develop songs, ideas, and themes from the past as part of their own original creative pathways. From the earliest iterations of jazz in and around New Orleans in the late 19th and early 20th century that took blues and ragtime to new places, to Gibson and his contemporary swing era arrangers who constantly breathed new life and style into standards, to the bebop/hard bop/post bop greats who did the same in even newer ways right up to the rap greats of the '90s who combined some of all of this with funk themes to create an international sensation, the greatest of our musical figures always continue pushing the American musical tradition forward - toward what it "ought to be."

Gibson was apparently one for whom this was his seminal musical trait. His skills were sought out by so many playing in very different styles during years that were truly transformative in the American musical world. From his rare ability to re-interpret Ellington, to his writing the very first arrangements performed by Frank Sinatra as a serious pro, to his shift to R&B and authorship of **The Hucklebuck** (which was a transformation of Charlie Parker's **Now's the Time**), Gibson was unusually versatile. He was a definite part of the tradition of both making the old new again and pressuring the music forward. He seemed to have an innate ability to re-imagine great music of the past, as well as write his own new tunes. Moving expertly from jazz to R&B to rock, he illustrated how style boundaries are often not noticed by true visionaries; after all, Parker loved his 'with strings' records and was fond of country music.

Sadly, Gibson died of a heart attack in Cincinnati at age 47 on February 10, 1961. One is left wondering what the future may have brought from this restless, fertile mind during the coming years of continuing seismic changes in the music world. We will never know, but thankfully we do have many surviving arrangements that give a solid glimpse into this unique, creative musical mind.

Notes:

¹Stanley Dance, **The World of Swing: An Oral History of Big Band Jazz**, Da Capo Press, 2001, Pg.231

²<http://jazzmuseuminharlem.org/today-in-jazz/happy-birthday-andy-gibson/>

³Charles L. Granata, **Sessions with Sinatra**, Chicago Review Press, 2004, Pg. 5

⁴Rob DuBoff, conversations with the author.

⁵https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charlie_Barnet

⁶Stanley Dance, **The World of Swing: An Oral History of Big Band Jazz**, Da Capo Press, 2001, Pg. 230

⁷Stanley Dance, **The World of Swing: An Oral History of Big Band Jazz**, Da Capo Press, 2001, Pg. 230

⁸Stanley Dance, Andy Gibson, Arranger, **Just Jazz 4**, Souvenir Press, Ltd., 1960, Pg. 58

⁹Stanley Dance, Andy Gibson, Arranger, **Just Jazz 4**, Souvenir Press, Ltd., 1960, Pg. 58

The Music:

Recorded by the Harry James Orchestra in 1939, this Andy Gibson arrangement of the traditional jazz warhorse **Avalon** is fairly standard fare for the sound of James's orchestra at the time. Featuring plenty of brassy flourishes and some easygoing saxophone figures, there are just enough challenges along the way to give your musicians a bit of a workout. A strong trumpet soloist is, obviously, a must-have to make things work, as well.

Notes to the Conductor:

A simple syncopated riff in the saxophones kicks things off, leading into the melody as handled by muted brass at measure 9, with James's trumpet taking the lead over the ensemble. The melody as a whole is performed in a quite straight-ahead fashion, with the brass handling the first half and the saxophones handling the second. A sudden brass fanfare at measure 39 is where things get a surprise jolt of excitement, setting up a chorus of tenor saxophone solo beginning a few measures later. A key change at measure 73 sees the spotlight return to James' trumpet for a half-chorus of improvised solo, with the second half going to a piano solo. Make sure your ensemble keeps their volume low so as to not overwhelm said solo.

The band gets a chance to strut their stuff for a shout chorus based on the original melody at measure 105. This section is not technically difficult, but the challenge arises from creating excitement while still managing to hold things back for the arrangement's grand finale, which begins with another key change at measure 137. James's trumpet returns to lead a hard-swinging brass charge over top of the saxophones playing a straightened out version of the melody. From this point out, the band should be roaring along at its most raucous. A few stop-time hits, a quick saxophone flutter, and one last ensemble jab bring the performance to a swinging conclusion.

This publication was based on the original Andy Gibson pencil score - this is not a transcription.

Doug DuBoff and Rob DuBoff

- April 2021

Violins A

Violins B

1st Alto Sax I

2nd Alto Sax II

2nd Tenor

1st Tenor

1

Trpts II

III

1

Trombones

II

Conductor

Drums

8

Swing SAX 8 Bars

Eb Ebdom FM7 Bb7 Eb CM7 FM7 Bb7 Bb7 Eb Eb7 Ab Abdom Eb Bb7 Eb Edom

Piano I

Above is the first page of Andy Gibson's pencil score for **Avalon**, recorded by the Harry James Orchestra in 1939.

N.R. 930-92-1501 B-way 20th St. to Louis R. Anderson

SERIAL NUMBER 3876	1. NAME (Print) Albert Andy Gibson (First) (Middle) (Last)		ORDER NUMBER 1093
2. ADDRESS (Print) 46 Harold Home 4444 4452 Parmer Ave 4452 225 West 110th St Apt. 69 New York Chicago N.Y. Ill (Number and street or R. F. D. number) (Town) (County) (State)			
3. TELEPHONE none	4. AGE IN YEARS 26 DATE OF BIRTH 11 6 12 (Mo.) (Day) (Yr.)	5. PLACE OF BIRTH Zanesville Ohio (Town or county) (State or country)	6. COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP U.S.A
7. NAME OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS Mr. Count Basie (Mr., Mrs., Miss) (First) (Middle) (Last)			8. RELATIONSHIP OF THAT PERSON Employer
9. ADDRESS OF THAT PERSON 120 St. 138 St New York City N.Y. (Number and street or R. F. D. number) (Town) (County) (State)			
10. EMPLOYER'S NAME Count Basie			
11. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS 120 St. 138 St New York City New York (Number and street or R. F. D. number) (Town) (County) (State)			
I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.			
REGISTRATION CARD D. S. Form 1 (over)		16-17105 Albert Andy Gibson (Registrant's signature)	

3/1/42 Hotel Home 20th St N.Y.C.

★GIBSON

Albert (Andy); 3044 Victory Pky., formerly of New York City and Zanesville, Ohio; husband of Mrs. Rose Marie Gibson of Los Angeles, Calif.; father of Albert Gibson Jr. of Los Angeles, dear brother of Mrs. Mary Cathryn Price of Cleveland, Ohio; suddenly Saturday, February 11, at Jewish Hospital. Friends may call at Renfro Funeral Home, 647 Forest Ave., Avondale, Tuesday, February 14, from 5 P. M. until 10:30 P. M. and at Hillis Funeral Home, Zanesville, Ohio, Wednesday evening February 15. Service Thursday, February 16, at 1 P. M. at Union Baptist Church, 8th St., Zanesville. Interment Woodlawn Cemetery, Zanesville.



Andy Gibson's 1940 draft card indicating Count Basie as his employer (top left); Obituary from the February 14, 1961 edition of the Cincinnati Enquirer (above); photo taken by Jack Bradley during the 1959 Camden recording session (above right).

LOCATION		HOUSEHOLD DATA	NAME	RELATION	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION	EDUCATION	PLACE OF BIRTH	RESIDENCE, APRIL 1, 1935	PERSONS 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER—EMPLOYMENT STATUS					
Line No.	Block No.	Household No.	Name	Relation	Personal Description	Education	Place of Birth	County	State or foreign country	Age	Sex	Marital status	Usual occupation, industry, and class of worker	Income in 1939
1	272	1	Jones, Emmett	Head	M, Neg, 39, 7, 11, 11	High school	Manhattan	Manhattan	No	72	M	Married	Salvage	52, 300 No
2	272	2	Jones, Helen	Wife	F, Neg, 38, 7, 11, 11	High school	Manhattan	Manhattan	No	48	F	Married	Clerk	52, 900 No
3	272	3	Smith, Jerome	Son	M, Neg, 24, 7, 11, 11	High school	Manhattan	Manhattan	No	65	M	Single	Manager	52, 1800 No
4	272	4	Susan	Daughter	F, Neg, 44, 7, 11, 11	High school	Manhattan	Manhattan	No	18	F	Single	Secretary	52, 0 Yes
5	272	5	Bowling, Emily	Daughter	F, Neg, 28, 7, 11, 11	High school	Manhattan	Manhattan	No	50	F	Single	Accountant	52, 0 Yes
6	272	6	Rodriguez, Annie	Daughter	F, Neg, 29, 7, 11, 11	High school	Manhattan	Manhattan	No	25	F	Single	Teacher	52, 1800 No
7	272	7	Brown, Henry	Son	M, Neg, 45, 7, 11, 11	High school	Manhattan	Manhattan	No	70	M	Single	Teacher	52, 0 Yes
8	272	8	Carroll, Louis	Son	M, Neg, 36, 7, 11, 11	High school	Manhattan	Manhattan	No	44	M	Single	Teacher	52, 2000 No
9	272	9	Hemmingway, Peter	Son	M, W, 46, 7, 11, 11	High school	Manhattan	Manhattan	No	0	M	Single	Teacher	0 0 Yes
10	272	10	Jane	Daughter	F, W, 38, 7, 11, 11	High school	Manhattan	Manhattan	No	0	F	Single	Teacher	0 0 Yes
11	272	11	Forster, Elton	Son	M, Neg, 29, 7, 11, 11	High school	Manhattan	Manhattan	No	8	M	Single	Teacher	36, 1800 No
12	272	12	Wasserman, Anthony	Son	M, W, 42, 7, 11, 11	High school	Manhattan	Manhattan	No	48	M	Single	Clerk	52, 1200 No
13	272	13	Wasserman, Ralph	Son	M, W, 31, 7, 11, 11	High school	Manhattan	Manhattan	No	45	M	Single	Teacher	52, 2000 No
14	272	14	Bernardoni, Alice	Daughter	F, W, 38, 7, 11, 11	High school	Manhattan	Manhattan	No	48	F	Single	Teacher	52, 1500 No
15	272	15	Hannigan, John	Son	M, W, 30, 7, 11, 11	High school	Manhattan	Manhattan	No	48	M	Single	Clerk	36, 800 No
16	272	16	Smith, Frank J.	Son	M, W, 38, 7, 11, 11	High school	Manhattan	Manhattan	No	54	M	Single	Teacher	52, 1200 No
17	272	17	Wasserman, Ben	Son	M, W, 30, 7, 11, 11	High school	Manhattan	Manhattan	No	40	M	Single	Teacher	52, 1900 No
18	272	18	Hannigan, Margaret	Daughter	F, W, 18, 7, 11, 11	High school	Manhattan	Manhattan	No	54	F	Single	Teacher	27, 1400 No
19	272	19	Bernardoni, Elizabeth	Daughter	F, W, 48, 7, 11, 11	High school	Manhattan	Manhattan	No	48	F	Single	Teacher	52, 416 Yes
20	272	20	Wasserman, Alice	Daughter	F, W, 26, 7, 11, 11	High school	Manhattan	Manhattan	No	52	F	Single	Teacher	52, 1900 No
21	272	21	Wasserman, Frank	Son	M, W, 40, 7, 11, 11	High school	Manhattan	Manhattan	No	50	M	Single	Teacher	40, 100 Yes
22	272	22	Wasserman, Marion	Daughter	F, W, 25, 7, 11, 11	High school	Manhattan	Manhattan	No	63	F	Single	Teacher	47, 1450 No
23	272	23	Wasserman, John	Son	M, W, 20, 7, 11, 11	High school	Manhattan	Manhattan	No	34	M	Single	Teacher	52, 720 No
24	272	24	Wasserman, David	Son	M, W, 20, 7, 11, 11	High school	Manhattan	Manhattan	No	64	M	Single	Teacher	30, 750 No
25	272	25	Wasserman, Helen	Daughter	F, W, 22, 7, 11, 11	High school	Manhattan	Manhattan	No	58	F	Single	Teacher	36, 900 No
26	272	26	Wasserman, Ella	Daughter	F, W, 21, 7, 11, 11	High school	Manhattan	Manhattan	No	40	F	Single	Teacher	36, 5000 Yes
27	272	27	Wasserman, William	Son	M, W, 26, 7, 11, 11	High school	Manhattan	Manhattan	No	48	M	Single	Teacher	52, 0 Yes
28	272	28	Wasserman, Rita	Daughter	F, W, 32, 7, 11, 11	High school	Manhattan	Manhattan	No	51	F	Single	Teacher	36, 900 No
29	272	29	Wasserman, Richard	Son	M, W, 25, 7, 11, 11	High school	Manhattan	Manhattan	No	49	M	Single	Teacher	52, 2000 No
30	272	30	Wasserman, Helen	Daughter	F, W, 35, 7, 11, 11	High school	Manhattan	Manhattan	No	56	F	Single	Teacher	40, 700 Yes
31	272	31	Wasserman, Emma	Daughter	F, W, 20, 7, 11, 11	High school	Manhattan	Manhattan	No	56	F	Single	Teacher	52, 900 Yes
32	272	32	Wasserman, Helen	Daughter	F, W, 30, 7, 11, 11	High school	Manhattan	Manhattan	No	3	F	Single	Teacher	20, 1500 No
33	272	33	Wasserman, Helen	Daughter	F, W, 28, 7, 11, 11	High school	Manhattan	Manhattan	No	3	F	Single	Teacher	20, 1500 No
34	272	34	Wasserman, Helen	Daughter	F, W, 29, 7, 11, 11	High school	Manhattan	Manhattan	No	48	F	Single	Teacher	40, 1000 No
35	272	35	Wasserman, Helen	Daughter	F, W, 38, 7, 11, 11	High school	Manhattan	Manhattan	No	38	F	Single	Teacher	21, 700 No
36	272	36	Wasserman, Helen	Daughter	F, W, 30, 7, 11, 11	High school	Manhattan	Manhattan	No	42	F	Single	Teacher	32, 400 No
37	272	37	Wasserman, Helen	Daughter	F, W, 29, 7, 11, 11	High school	Manhattan	Manhattan	No	54	F	Single	Teacher	0 0 No
38	272	38	Wasserman, Helen	Daughter	F, W, 26, 7, 11, 11	High school	Manhattan	Manhattan	No	54	F	Single	Teacher	32, 700 Yes
39	272	39	Wasserman, Helen	Daughter	F, W, 34, 7, 11, 11	High school	Manhattan	Manhattan	No	48	F	Single	Teacher	0 0 No
40	272	40	Wasserman, Helen	Daughter	F, W, 35, 7, 11, 11	High school	Manhattan	Manhattan	No	48	F	Single	Teacher	50, 1200 No

Above is a page from the 1940 census showing Andy Gibson living at the Hotel Braddock, which was at the corner of 126th St and 8th Ave in New York City. The hotel was located near the Apollo Theater and was frequented by many important jazz musicians. Note that Ella Fitzgerald was also staying at the Hotel Braddock (the line above Gibson).

ARRANGED BY ANDY GIBSON

PREPARED BY ROB DUBOFF, JEFFREY SULTANOF, AND DYLAN CANTERBURY

Trumpet Soloist

WOODWIND 1:
ALTO SAX.

WOODWIND 2:
BARITONE SAX.

WOODWIND 3:
TENOR SAX.

WOODWIND 4:
TENOR SAX.

TRUMPET 1

TRUMPET 2

TRUMPET 3

TROMBONE 1

TROMBONE 2

TROMBONE 3

GUITAR

PIANO

BASS

DRUM SET

9

LEAD w/BRASS

TRPT. SOLOIST

mf

W1 1 (A. Sax)

mp

W2 2 (B. Sax)

mp

W3 3 (T. Sax)

mp

W4 4 (T. Sax)

mp

NO LEAD

TRPT. 1

mf

TRPT. 2

mf

TRPT. 3

mf

TBN. 1

mf

TBN. 2

mf

TBN. 3

mf

GTR.

mp

PNO.

mp

BS.

mp

DR.

mp

(4)

(8)

9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16