JAZZ LINES PUBLICATIONS

Presents

BELLS

RECORDED BY HARRY JAMES

ARRANGED BY NEAL HEFTI

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

FULL SCORE

JLP-8717

MUSIC BY NEAL HEFTI

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HARRY JAMES BIG BAND SERIES

BELLS (1949)

Background:

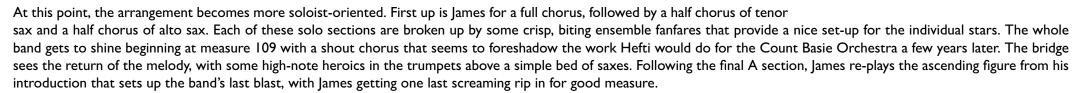
Neal Hefti had already been an important part of the Woody Herman First Herd as a trumpet player and writer by the time he joined the Harry James Orchestra in 1949. He composed several arrangements for James during the time he was there, later writing for Tommy Dorsey. In 1950 he decided that he didn't want to be labeled a 'jazzman' and began writing more commercial music. His composition Coral Reef was an immediate hit and led him to create a big band for weekend gigs during this period. He later made a series of recordings with wordless choruses before Ray Conniff became famous for this sound. Eventually the Hollywood studios beckoned, and Hefti became an in-demand writer for television. He is perhaps most celebrated for having written the themes for the television shows *Batman* and *The Odd Couple*.

The Music:

Although he achieved his greatest commercial success playing romantic ballads, trumpeter Harry James was highly keen on exploring the experimental side of jazz as both a trumpet player and a bandleader throughout his career. Bells was written for James' band in 1949 by Neal Hefti, and is clearly influenced by the bebop revolution that was taking place at the time. This arrangement will provide your ensemble with a nice challenge due to both its brisk pace and demanding brass section parts.

Notes to the Conductor:

James' ascending trumpet serves as a way to set up the entrance for the entire band at measure 7, playing at full power with James continuing to scream atop everything. The melody proper commences at measure 11 and is mostly handled by the saxophones, with some not-so-subtle brass blasts filling in the gaps on occasion. James briefly takes center stage again at measure 21 before yielding back to the saxes a few measures later.



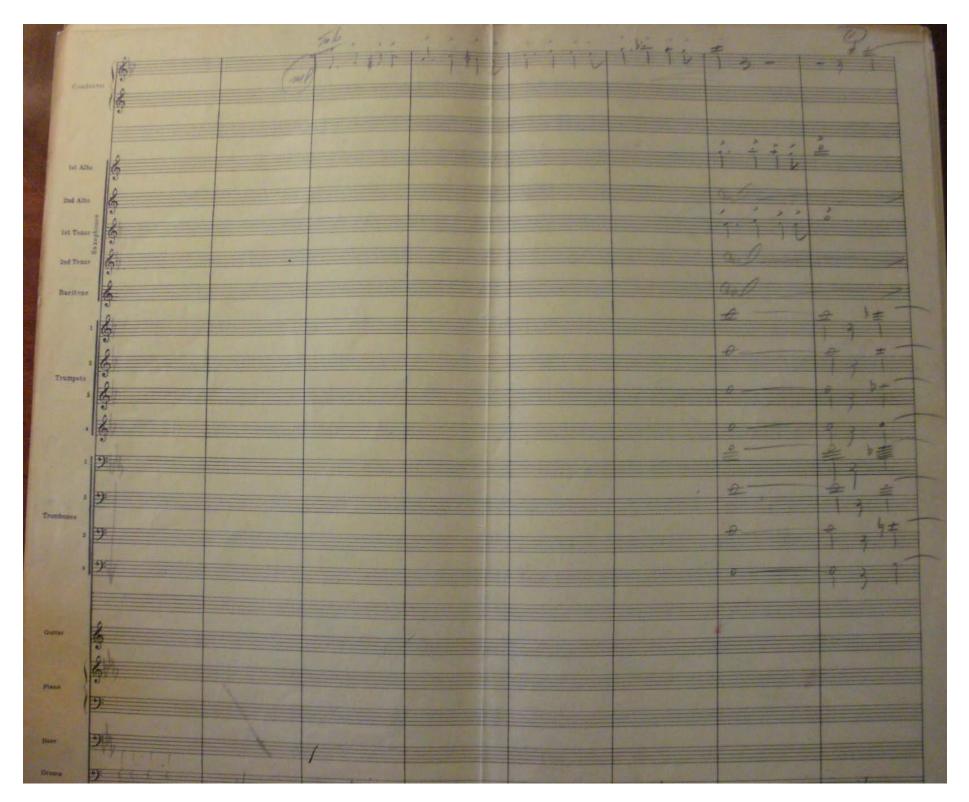
This publication was based on Neal Hefti's original score - this is not a transcription.

Jeffrey Sultanof and Dylan Canterbury

- June 2022







Here is the first page of Neal Hefti's score for Bells, written in 1949.

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SCORE

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