



Blue Skies

Words and Music by Irving Berlin

Arranged by Victor López

INSTRUMENTATION

- 1 Conductor
- 2 Vocal
(Optional)
- 8 Flute
- 2 Oboe
- 2 Bassoon
- 4 1st B♭ Clarinet
- 4 2nd B♭ Clarinet
- 2 B♭ Bass Clarinet
- 5 E♭ Alto Saxophone
- 2 B♭ Tenor Saxophone
- 2 E♭ Baritone Saxophone
- 4 1st B♭ Trumpet
- 4 2nd B♭ Trumpet
- 4 F Horn

- 4 Trombone
- 2 Baritone
- 2 Baritone T.C.
- 4 Tuba
- 2 Electric Bass
(Optional)
- 1 Piano
(Optional)
- 2 Mallet Percussion
(Xylophone [Opt. Marimba], Bells)
- 2 Percussion 1
(Drumset [Opt. Snare Drum/
Concert Toms (3)/Hi-Hat Cymbals, Bass
Drum])
- 3 Percussion 2
(Tambourine/Triangle/Claves
or Woodblock, Maracas/Small Cowbell)
- 2 Timpani
(Tune: A, B♭, D)

WORLD PARTS

Available for download from
www.alfred.com/supplemental

- E♭ Alto Clarinet
- E♭ Contra Alto Clarinet
- B♭ Contra Bass Clarinet
- E♭ Horn
- B♭ Trombone B.C.
- B♭ Trombone T.C.
- B♭ Baritone B.C.
- E♭ Tuba B.C.
- E♭ Tuba T.C.
- B♭ Tuba B.C.
- B♭ Tuba T.C.

PROGRAM NOTES

Blue Skies was composed in 1926 by Irving Berlin and published in 1927. It was originally used as a last-minute addition to the Rodgers and Hart musical *Betsy*. The song was an instant success with audiences and several versions have been recorded by top jazz and pop artists. Additionally, *Blues Skies* has been featured in several films, including *Star Trek: Picard* in 2020.

NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

This arrangement is written for intermediate level ensembles and follows the guidelines of Alfred Music Young Band Series. The chart incorporates a mix of Latin styles. It is easy to learn and teach and provides the options of a vocal feature and piano part.

After the introduction, at measure 5, a beguine dance style, which is like a slow rhumba is introduced. The section at measure 37, introduces an ostinato melody, which consists of arpeggiated chords in syncopated patterns. This is often called 'Guajeo,' pronounced (Gwa-Heh-Oh) and it is played often by the piano and bass. In this arrangement, other instruments have been also assigned the same harmonic sequence. Additionally, note that in this Guajeo, the two-three clave pattern is used because it begins on the downbeat, emphasizing the first beat. Make certain the claves are properly held to produce a resonant sound. Furthermore, the small cowbell in this section should be played muffled. Additionally, students should research the internet for tutorials that address the correct way of playing above mentioned instruments.

Before the first full rehearsal, work with the percussion section and make certain that everyone knows their part. Those who are doubling on other instruments should have them placed within reach for quick access; a tray table works well. Check for mallets and sticks, drum tuning, and placement. Based on the needs of your ensemble, when a drumset is used, placement of the drums as well as tuning also applies.

Note that articulations are extremely important through this piece. Use the syllable 'Dah' when a note has a tenuto mark, so play the note long; 'Dit' for staccatos, play the note short; 'Tah' for marcato to emphasize the note.

Keep in mind that this chart provides several performance options: 1) full band with or without vocalist; (2) vocalist with piano; and (3) vocalist with rhythm section (drum set, piano, guitar and electric bass). When featuring the vocalist with full band, always use a microphone. Also, you are encouraged to experiment with either having the instruments that have the melody play softer under the vocalist or keeping as is but not overpowering the soloist.

Also, be sure the Del Segno al Coda transition is smooth and don't overlook the dynamics.

Enjoy, and have fun!



Blue Skies

FULL SCORE
Duration - 2:55

Words and Music by Irving Berlin
Arranged by Victor López (ASCAP)

Moderately ♩ = 116

Vocal
(Optional)

Flute
mf

Oboe
mf

Bassoon
mf *f* *mf*

B♭ Clarinets
1 *mf*
2 *mf*

B♭ Bass Clarinet
mf

E♭ Alto Saxophone
mf *f* *mf*

B♭ Tenor Saxophone
mf *f* *mf*

E♭ Baritone Saxophone
mf *f* *mf*

B♭ Trumpets
1 *mf*
2 *mf*

F Horn
mf *f* *mf*

Trombone
mf *f* *mf*

Baritone
mf *f* *mf*

Tuba
(Optional Electric Bass 8va)
mf *f* *mf*

Mallet Percussion
(Xylophone [opt. Marimba], Bells)
mf

Percussion 1
(Drumset [opt. Snare Drum/ Concert Toms (3)/ Hi-Hat Cymbals, Bass Drum])
S.D. *mf*
B.D. *mf*

Percussion 2
(Tambourine/Triangle/ Claves or Woodblock, Maracas/Small Cowbell)
mf

Timpani
mf

Tom-Toms

Xylophone (opt. Marimba) (w/medium-soft mallets)

Tambourine

Tune: A, B♭, D

1 2 3 4



5 % *mf*

Vocal Blue skies smil - ing at me, noth - ing but

Fl. *mf*

Ob. *mf*

Bsn. *mf*

1 *mf*

2 *mf*

Cl. *mf*

B. Cl. *mf*

A. Sax. *mf*

T. Sax. *mf*

Bar. Sax. *mf*

5 % *mf*

1 *mf*

2 *mf*

Tpts. *mf*

Hn. *mf*

Tbn. *mf*

Bar. *mf*

Tuba *mf*

Mlt. Perc. *mf*

Perc. 1 (near rim) *mf*

Perc. 2 Tamb. *mf*

Maracas R R L R L R L R L *mf*

Timp. *mf* lightly

sim.

5 6 7 8

Vocal

blue skies do I see.

Fl.

Ob.

Bsn.

1

2

Cls.

B. Cl.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

1

2

Tpts.

Hn.

Tbn.

Bar.

Tuba

Mlt. Perc.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Timp.

13

Vocal

Blue - birds sing - ing a song, noth - ing but

Fl.

Ob.

Bsn.

1

Cls.

2

B. Cl.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

13

1

Tpts.

2

Hn.

Tbn.

Bar.

Tuba

Bells
(w/hard rubber mallets)

Mlt. Perc.

mf

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Timp.

Change: A to F, Bb to C

Vocal

blue - birds all day long.

Fl.

Ob.

Bsn.

1

2

Cls.

B. Cl.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

1

2

Tpts.

Hn.

Tbn.

Bar.

Tuba

Mlt. Perc.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Timp.

21

Vocal

Nev - er saw the sun shin - ing so bright. — Nev - er saw things_ go - ing so right. No - tic - ing the days

Fl.

Ob.

Bsn.

1

2

Cl. s.

B. Cl.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

21

1

2

Tpts.

Hn.

Tbn.

Bar.

Tuba

Xyl.

Mlt. Perc.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Triangle

Timp.

Change: C to A

50912S

21

22

23

24

25

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50912S

To Coda ☐

Vocal

gone, noth - ing but blue skies from now on...

Fl.

Ob.

Bsn.

1

2

Cls.

B. Cl.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

1

2

Tpts.

Hn.

Tbn.

Bar.

Tuba

Mlt. Perc.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Timp.

To Coda ☐

Change: F to A, A to B $\flat$

Vocal

Fl.

Ob.

Bsn.

1
Cls.

2

B. Cl.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

1
Tpts.

2

Hn.

Tbn.

Bar.

Tuba

Mlt. Perc.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Timp.

The musical score is written for a large ensemble. The instruments listed on the left are: Vocal, Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Bassoon (Bsn.), Clarinet 1 (Cls. 1), Clarinet 2 (Cls. 2), Bass Clarinet (B. Cl.), Alto Saxophone (A. Sax.), Tenor Saxophone (T. Sax.), Baritone Saxophone (Bar. Sax.), Trumpets 1 (Tpts. 1), Trumpets 2 (Tpts. 2), Horn (Hn.), Trombone (Tbn.), Baritone (Bar.), Tuba, Mallet Percussion (Mlt. Perc.), Percussion 1 (Perc. 1), Percussion 2 (Perc. 2), and Timpani (Timp.). The score is divided into measures 39, 40, 41, and 42. A large red watermark 'Preview Only' is overlaid diagonally across the page.

45

Vocal

Fl.

Ob.

Bsn.

1
Cls.

2

B. Cl.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

1
Tpts.

2

Hn.

Tbn.

Bar.

Tuba

Mlt. Perc.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Timp.

45

mp Floor Tom *mf*

mp *mf*

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