

# JAZZ BEGINNINGS SERIES

 Belwin™ JAZZ  
a division of Alfred

## Blue Skies

Words and Music by Irving Berlin

*Arranged by Victor López*

### INSTRUMENTATION

Conductor	1st Trombone
1st E♭ Alto Saxophone	2nd Trombone (Optional)
2nd E♭ Alto Saxophone	Guitar Chords
1st B♭ Tenor Saxophone	Guitar (Optional)
2nd B♭ Tenor Saxophone (Optional)	Piano
1st B♭ Trumpet	Bass
2nd B♭ Trumpet (Optional)	Drums

### Optional/Alternate Parts

1st C Flute
2nd C Flute
1st B♭ Clarinet
2nd B♭ Clarinet
E♭ Baritone Saxophone
Vibraphone
Tuba (Doubles Bass)
Horn in F (Doubles 1st Trombone)
Baritone Horn T.C./B♭ Tenor Saxophone (Doubles 1st Trombone)
Auxiliary Percussion (Claves, Guiro, Congas)

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## NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

*Blue Skies* was composed in 1926 by Irving Berlin. The song was an instant success with audiences and countless versions have been recorded by top jazz and pop artists.

The main emphasis of Latin music is the rhythm. Although this piece may be played with only a drumset, I suggest having another drummer/percussionist play the optional Auxiliary Percussion part for an authentic Latin feel. Most important is the two-measure clave pattern, 2-3 son clave, where the first measure gets two beats, and the second measure gets three beats. Note that the auxiliary part includes the guiro and the conga drums. It is highly recommended that players who have little experience with these instruments research on the internet for tutorials on how to properly play them.

Note that at the beginning of the piece, the drumset has an indication an *Abanico*. The term "abanico" means hand fan in Spanish, and it is a technique often used in Latin music. It consists of a drum roll, followed by a rim shot usually played on timbales to introduce a new section or, in this case, to begin the piece.

I suggest referencing Youtube or other online instructional and/or educational sources for additional information on these techniques and styles.

Make certain the wind players are articulating properly. Use the syllable "dah" when a note has a tenuto mark to play the note full value; "dit" for staccato, playing the note short but clipped; and "daht" for the marcato or rooftop accent ( $\blacktriangle$ ), which is played accented and detached.

If time permits, I suggest rehearsing the rhythm section first, making certain all players are comfortable playing their parts. Then add the winds and work on balance and a relaxed groove. Remember that the cha-cha-cha is basically a dance style. As for the tempo, the indicated  $\text{♩} = 116 \text{ BPM}$  is about right.

Ultimately, encourage students to listen to different kinds of music genres; specifically, Latin music and professional percussionists such as Tito Puente, Chano Pozo, Mongo Santamaria, and Ray Barreto, to mention a few. The listening activity will expand their horizons, and, at the same time, they will discover new things about the instrument they play.

—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.

**CONDUCTOR**  
50940S

# BLUE SKIES

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

CHA-CHA-CHA  $\text{d} = 116$

1ST C FLUTE (OPTIONAL)

2ND C FLUTE (OPTIONAL)

1ST B♭ CLARINET (OPTIONAL)

2ND B♭ CLARINET (OPTIONAL)

1ST E♭ ALTO SAXOPHONE

2ND E♭ ALTO SAXOPHONE

1ST B♭ TENOR SAXOPHONE

2ND B♭ TENOR SAXOPHONE (OPTIONAL)

1ST B♭ TRUMPET

2ND B♭ TRUMPET (OPTIONAL)

1ST TROMBONE

2ND TROMBONE (OPTIONAL)

GUITAR (OPTIONAL)

PIANO

BASS

DRUMS

ZIM SHOT   ABANICO   SM. CONGAS (MUFFLED)  
SNARE DRUM   BASS DRUM   ZIM CLICK   MED. TOM

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CONDUCTOR

-2-

BLUE SKIES

FLUTE 1  
FLUTE 2  
CL. 1  
CL. 2  
ALTO 1  
ALTO 2  
TENOR 1  
TENOR 2  
TPT. 1  
TPT. 2  
TBN. 1  
TBN. 2  
GR. 2  
PNO.  
BASS  
DRUMS

6 7 8 9 10 11

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CONDUCTOR

- 3 -

BLUE SKIES

FLUTE 1

FLUTE 2

CL. 1

CL. 2

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

TPT. 1

TPT. 2

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

Dm7/C<sup>#</sup> Dm7/C G<sub>9</sub> B<sub>9</sub> F<sub>9</sub> D7(45) G<sub>9</sub>7 C<sub>7</sub> F<sub>9</sub> Dm7/B<sub>7</sub> A7(45)

12 13 14 15 16 17 18

FULL

CONDUCTOR

- 4 -

BLUE SKIES

(19)

FLUTE 1  
FLUTE 2  
CL. 1  
CL. 2  
ALTO 1  
ALTO 2  
TENOR 1  
TENOR 2  
TPT. 1  
TPT. 2  
TBN. 1  
TBN. 2  
GTR. 2  
PNO.  
BASS  
DRUMS

19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26

Dhi Dhi/C# Dhi/C Dhi/B F/C

Toms Fill

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CONDUCTOR

- 5 -

BLUE SKIES

FLUTE 1

FLUTE 2

CL. 1

CL. 2

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

TPT. 1

TPT. 2

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

Gtr.

Pno.

BASS

Drums

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

F6/C      Bbui      Ami      Bbui      Ami      F6      Bbui/F      Ami/F      Bbui/F      Ami/F      Bbui      F/A      A7

Different Cymbals      LIGHTLY

H.H. CLOSED

FLOOR TOM

CONDUCTOR

- 6 -

BLUE SKIES

Flute 1

Flute 2

CL. 1

CL. 2

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

TPT. 1

TPT. 2

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

Dm  
Dm/C#  
Dm/C  
G9  
B9/B10  
F6  
D7/(#5)  
G7  
C7  
F6  
Dm7  
B7  
A7/(#5)

FILL

35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42

CONDUCTOR

(43)

- 7 -

BLUE SKIES

FLUTE 1

FLUTE 2

CL. 1

CL. 2

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

TPT. 1

TPT. 2

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50

N.C.

FILL-

CONDUCTOR

- 8 -

BLUE SKIES

The musical score consists of 14 staves, each representing a different instrument or voice part. The instruments listed from top to bottom are: FLUTE 1, FLUTE 2, CL. 1, CL. 2, ALTO 1, ALTO 2, TENOR 1, TENOR 2, TRPT. 1, TRPT. 2, TBON. 1, TBON. 2, GR. (Guitar), PNO. (Piano), BASS, and DRUMS. The score is numbered 51 at the beginning and 58 at the end. A large red watermark reading "Preview Legal Use Requires Purchase" is diagonally overlaid across the page.

FLUTE 1

FLUTE 2

CL. 1

CL. 2

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

TRPT. 1

TRPT. 2

TBON. 1

TBON. 2

GR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

Different Cymbals

LIGHTLY

H.H. CLOSED

FILL

51

52

53

54

55

56

57

58

CONDUCTOR

- 9 -

BLUE SKIES

FLUTE 1

FLUTE 2

CL. 1

CL. 2

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

TPT. 1

TPT. 2

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

59

60

61

62

63

64

65

CONDUCTOR

- 10 -

BLUE SKIES

FLUTE 1

FLUTE 2

CL. 1

CL. 2

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

TPT. 1

TPT. 2

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

GTR

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73

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