

# Arranging for the Small Jazz Ensemble: A Step-by-Step Guide with Practical Exercises and Recorded Examples


By Robert Larson

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Arranging for the Small Jazz Ensemble presents an innovative approach to the challenging subject of jazz arranging. The author, Robert Larson, has narrowed down the choices of instrumentation and texture in such a way that anyone from a novice jazz enthusiast to a seasoned professional can learn how to arrange jazz standards and originals in a relatively short period of time. Four original jazz tunes are used throughout the book to demonstrate texture, instrumentation, introductions, endings, interludes, solo backgrounds, solis, and shout choruses. Each chapter contains exercises that give the reader a chance to practice the techniques learned in that chapter. By the end of the study, the reader will be equipped to create a complete jazz arrangement. With everything you need here in one book, why aren't you Arranging for the Small Jazz Ensemble?

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## Arranging for the Small Jazz Ensemble: A Step-by-Step Guide with Practical Exercises and Recorded Examples By Robert Larson Bibliography

- Rank: #1295500 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Armfield Academic Press
- Published on: 2010-07-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 11.02" h x .91" w x 8.27" l, 2.22 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 452 pages

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### **Editorial Review**

#### About the Author

Robert Larson joined the faculty of Shenandoah Conservatory in 1982 where he serves as Director of Jazz Studies. He holds degrees from Eastern Washington University, the University of Oregon, and Shenandoah Conservatory. Dr. Larson teaches courses in jazz arranging, jazz history, jazz improvisation, jazz repertoire, jazz pedagogy, and private jazz piano instruction. His book, *Arranging for the Small Jazz Ensemble* (Armfield Academic Press) has received glowing reviews from jazz educators and students across the country and internationally. Bob has recently recorded and released his first CD under his own name - *Popular Delusions*, and can be heard on two recordings with the Alan Baylock Jazz Orchestra - *Two Seconds to Midnight* and *Primetime* featuring Doc Severinsen. He performs with his own trio, with the Capitol Bones, the Metropolitan Jazz Orchestra, and many others. He has published articles in the *Music Educators Journal*, the *Virginia Music Educators Association Journal*, and the *International Association of Jazz Educators Papers*. Dr. Larson has presented at conferences for the Jazz Educators Network, the National Jazz Workshop, and for the National Association of Jazz Educators on the early recordings of Bill Evans. He conducted the Shenandoah Conservatory Jazz Ensemble from 1987-2000, and during that time the ensemble performed with guest artists such as Randy Brecker, Billy Taylor, Bob Berg, Conrad Herwig, Allen Vizzutti, Vince DiMartino, and many others. The ensemble performed in China, Japan, Spain, France, and Iceland as well as throughout the mid-Atlantic region. He has provided clinics throughout the region and adjudicated at many jazz festivals and competitions. Larson has served on the touring panel for the Virginia Commission for the Arts and is the host of the National Jazz Workshop at Shenandoah Conservatory.

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