

Presents

JAZZ LINES PUBLICATIONS
BALLIN' THE JACK

AS RECORDED BY THE DAVE PELL OCTET

ARRANGED BY HARRY BETTS

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

FULL SCORE

FROM THE ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPT

JLP-8533

MUSIC AND LYRICS BY JIM BURRIS AND CHRIS SMITH

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DAVE PELL OCTET SERIES

BALLIN' THE JACK (1961)

Background:

This man responsible for this remarkable series of arrangements was himself a remarkable man.

Dave Pell grew up in Brooklyn playing clarinet and saxophone. He joined the Bobby Sherwood, Tony Pastor and Bob Crosby bands while still a teenager. Because he could play in many different styles of jazz and dance music, he became an active freelancer upon moving to Los Angeles. A call from Les Brown to fill in for a missing saxophonist resulted in Pell becoming the chief tenor saxophone soloist for the Les Brown band from 1947-1955. Pell also doubled on bass clarinet, one of the few jazz improvisers who could solo on this instrument at that time.

While still with Les Brown, Pell formed an octet with musicians from the band and made several albums. His initial idea was to build albums around the lesser-known songs by such writers as Irving Berlin, Rodgers and Hart, and Burke and Van Heusen. The concept focused on commissioning hip arrangements and one-chorus solos by the all-star ensemble. The octet blazed important trails in two different directions: its output was jazz yet had a commercial approach, and it was a very early instance where a small jazz ensemble concentrated primarily on what became the 'great American songbook.' From the start, the octet was a major success; its albums sold very well, and the ensemble not only worked proms across the country, but played top jazz clubs. Wisely, Pell made these arrangements available for sale, one of the first leaders to market his ensemble's arrangements in their original form. They sold in good numbers as well.

When Pell left Les Brown, he was already a first-call musician for record dates of all types and film soundtracks. He was working nights either with the octet or jamming at jazz clubs. He brought his Rolleiflex along and took pictures from the bandstand. He was often called to make photos for album covers; one of his most famous was of the Gerry Mulligan Quartet for an early album on Pacific Jazz. He became a record producer, eventually running Liberty Records. He ran Motown Records when that label moved from Detroit to Los Angeles. He later became a music supervisor for motion pictures.

In 1978, due to the success of Supersax, Pell organized Prez Conference, where the solos of Lester Young were arranged for three tenor saxophones and a baritone saxophone (with rhythm section). Harry 'Sweets' Edison was added on trumpet. The group made two albums for GNP Records, the second featuring singer Joe Williams. The group made worldwide tours at festivals and clubs.

Acknowledgements:

Special thanks to Dave Pell and his family for granting us access to his library and sharing with us many memories of forming and playing with the *Dave Pell Octet*. We're thrilled to have the opportunity to publish music from this wonderful library.

Jeffrey Sultanof

- March 2020



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MEDIUM SWING ♩ = 140

①

The musical score is arranged for a jazz ensemble. It features eight staves: Tenor Sax, Baritone Sax, Trumpet, Trombone, Guitar, Piano, Bass, and Drums. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats) and the time signature is 4/4. The score begins with a first ending bracket labeled '1' above the first measure. The Tenor Sax and Baritone Sax parts play a melodic line starting on the second measure, marked with a forte 'f' dynamic. The Trumpet and Trombone parts play a rhythmic line with triplets, also marked with 'f'. The Guitar part provides harmonic support with chords. The Piano part plays a walking bass line. The Bass part plays a steady eighth-note pattern. The Drums part provides a consistent rhythmic accompaniment.

1 2 3 4

The musical score is arranged in a standard jazz format with the following parts and notations:

- T.Sx. & B.Sx.:** Melodic lines for Tenor and Baritone Saxophones, featuring eighth and quarter notes with accents and slurs.
- Tpt. & Tbn.:** Trumpet and Trombone parts with triplet figures (marked '3') and slurs.
- Gtr.:** Guitar part with chords and a $B^{\flat}m7$ chord symbol.
- PNO.:** Piano part with chords and a sequence of chord symbols: $B^{\flat}m7$, $E^{\flat}7$, $E^{\flat}13(b9)$, $A^{\flat}6$.
- BS.:** Bass line with a $Gm7$ and $C7$ chord symbol, and a 'SOLO' section indicated by a dashed line.
- DR.:** Drum part with a steady quarter-note pattern and a final syncopated pattern.