Jazz Lines Publications

Presents

WHISPER NOT

(RECORDED BY QUINCY JONES)

ARRANGED BY AL COHN

EDITED BY JEFFREY SULTANOF

FULL SCORE

FROM THE ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPT

JLP-8195

Music by Benny Golson

WHISPER NOT (1959)

Background:

Benny Golson's composition *Whisper Not* was first played by the Dizzy Gillespie Orchestra in 1956, and was soon recorded by a host of top jazz artists, including Wynton Kelly, Thad Jones, Lee Morgan and even Bobby Hackett. When Golson joined Art Blakey's Jazz Messengers, *Whisper Not* came with him, and the Blakey group played it often. It has been recorded over 250 times, and is certainly considered a jazz standard.

The Music:

Quincy Jones led a remarkable big band as a result of a show closing. He was the musical director for a revised version of the Broadway show *St. Louis Woman* called *Free and Easy* (after the first lyric line of the song *Any Place I Hang My Hat is Home*). The intention was that the show would workshop as part of a European tour, the first stop being Paris, France, with the final stop being Broadway. The show closed in Paris and the all-star ensemble was stranded. Jones had wanted his own big band, and this seemed the perfect opportunity to do this. He was no stranger to Europe; he'd studied with Nadia Boulanger in France while writing and conducting for Barclay Records in 1957, and soon organized a tour for the band. With a hastily assembled book, the band was wildly successful, and by February of 1959, the band was back in New York with a contract for Mercury Records.

The band's version of *Whisper Not* was arranged by Al Cohn. Born in Brooklyn, NY, he is perhaps best known as part of the group he co-led with fellow tenor saxophonist Zoot Sims. But he was professionally active as early as 1944, playing and writing arrangements for the legendary Henry Jerome band, one of the first to play bebop; he also played and wrote for the George Auld band in 1945. He became nationally known as part of the *Four Brothers* saxophone section of the Woody Herman 1948-49 orchestra, replacing Herb Steward. Cohn went on to make his own albums as player and arranger. Less well known is his considerable body of work as a commercial arranger for a host of singers and musical directors; he even orchestrated for motion pictures and Broadway shows.

There were some changes made between what Cohn wrote and the Jones recording, particularly at the beginning and right after the solos. It is presumed that these changes were made by Jones, but this cannot be confirmed at this writing, although the Jones big band book does exist and is fully catalogued in Jones' office in California. This edition incorporates some but not all of those changes.

Notes to the Conductor:

This arrangement makes few demands on players and is mostly an opportunity for anyone and everyone to solo. Since this piece is a standard, it is the perfect opportunity to introduce it to band members who do not know it.

Jeffrey Sultanof
October 2010

WHISPER NOT
RECORDED BY QUINCY JONES

SCORE

MEDIUM SWING ♩ = 120

Alto Sax. 1
Alto Sax. 2
Tenor Sax. 1
Tenor Sax. 2
Baritone Sax.
Trumpet 1
Trumpet 2
Trumpet 3
Trumpet 4
Trombone 1
Trombone 2
Trombone 3
Trombone 4
Guitar
Piano
Bass
Drum Set

(Subtone n/v)
(Harmon Mute)
(To Cup Mute)
(Plunger)

NOTE: AL COHN WROTE THE VOICINGS THAT APPEAR IN THE PIANO AND GUITAR PARTS; HOWEVER, THEY WERE NOT PLAYED ON THE RECORDING. THEY ARE INCLUDED HERE FOR REFERENCE PURPOSES.