

Wynton Marsalis, Managing and Artistic Director, Jazz at Lincoln Center

# SECOND LINE (FROM NEW ORLEANS SUITE)

BY DUKE ELLINGTON

As performed by the Duke Ellington Orchestra

Transcribed and Edited by David Berger for Jazz at Lincoln Center

FULL SCORE

This transcription was made especially for Jazz at Lincoln Center's 2012-13 Eighteenth Annual *Essentially Ellington* High School Jazz Band Program.

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ESSENTIALLY  
ELLINGTON

jazz

## NOTES ON PLAYING ELLINGTON

At least 95% of modern-day large ensemble jazz playing comes out of three traditions: Count Basie's band, Duke Ellington's band, and the orchestrations of small groups. Those young players interested in jazz will be drawn to small groups for the opportunity to improvise and for practical reasons (it is much easier to organize 4 or 5 people than it is 15). Schools have taken over the task (formerly performed by dance bands) of training musicians to be ensemble players. Due to the Basie Band's popularity and its simplicity of style and emphasis on blues and swing, the better educators have almost exclusively adopted this tradition for teaching jazz ensemble playing. As wonderful as Count Basie's style is, it doesn't address many of the important styles developed under the great musical umbrella we call jazz. Duke Ellington's comprehensive and eclectic approach to music offers an alternative.

The stylistic richness of Ellington's music presents a great challenge to educators and performers alike. In Basie's music, the conventions are very nearly consistent. In Ellington's music there are many more exceptions to the rules. This calls for greater knowledge of the language of jazz. Clark Terry, who left Count Basie's band to join Duke Ellington, said, "Count Basie was college, but Duke Ellington was graduate school." Knowledge of Ellington's music prepares you to play any big band music.

The following is a list of performance conventions for the great majority of Ellington's music. Any deviations or additions will be spelled out in the individual performance notes which follow.

1. Listen carefully many times to the Ellington recording of these pieces. There are many subtleties that will elude even the most sophisticated listener at first. Although it was never Ellington's wish to have his recordings imitated, knowledge of these definitive versions will lead musicians to make more educated choices when creating new performances. Ellington's music, though written for specific individuals, is designed to inspire all musicians to express themselves. In addition, you will hear slight note differences in the recording and the transcriptions. This is intentional, as there are mistakes and alterations from the original intent of the music in the recording. You should have your players play what's in the score.

2. General use of swing phrasing. The triplet feel prevails except for ballads or where notations such as even eighths or Latin appear. In these cases, eighth notes are given equal value.

3. There is a chain of command in ensemble playing. The lead players in each section determine the phrasing and volume for their own section, and their section-mates must conform to the lead. When the saxes and / or trombones play with the trum-

pets, the lead trumpet is the boss. The lead alto and trombone must listen to the first trumpet and follow him. In turn, the other saxes and trombones must follow their lead players. When the clarinet leads the brass section, the brass should not overblow him. That means that the first trumpet is actually playing "second." If this is done effectively, there will be very little balancing work left for the conductor.

4. In Ellington's music, each player should express the individuality of his own line. He must find a musical balance of supporting and following the section leader and bringing out the character of the underpart. Each player should be encouraged to express his or her personality through the music. In this music, the underparts are played at the same volume and with the same conviction as the lead.

5. Blues inflection should permeate all parts at all times, not just when these opportunities occur in the lead.

6. Vibrato is used quite a bit to warm up the sound. Saxes (who most frequently represent the sensual side of things) usually employ vibrato on harmonized passages and no vibrato on unisons. The vibrato can be either heavy or light depending on the context. Occasionally saxes use a light vibrato on unisons. Trumpets (who very often are used for heat and power) use a little vibrato on harmonized passages and no vibrato on unisons. Trombones (who are usually noble) do not use slide vibrato. A little lip vibrato is good on harmonized passages at times. Try to match the speed of vibrato. In general unisons are played with no vibrato.

7. Crescendo as you ascend and diminuendo as you descend. The upper notes of phrases receive a natural accent and the lower notes are ghosted. Alto and tenor saxophones need to use sub-tone in the lower part of their range in order to blend properly with the rest of the section. This music was originally written with no dynamics. It pretty much follows the natural tendencies of the instruments, play loud in the loud part of the instrument and soft in the soft part of the instrument. For instance, a high C for a trumpet will be loud and a low C will be soft.

8. Quarter notes are generally played short unless otherwise notated. Long marks above or below a pitch indicate full value: not just long, but full value. Eighth notes are played full value except when followed by a rest or otherwise notated. All notes longer than a quarter note are played full value, which means if it is followed by a rest, release the note where the rest appears. For example, a half note occurring on beat one of a measure would be released on beat three.

9. Unless they are part of a legato background figure, long notes should be played somewhat *fp* (forte-piano); accent then diminish the volume. This is important so that the moving parts can be heard over the sustained notes. Don't just hold out the long notes, but give them life and personality: that is, vibrato, inflection, crescendo, or diminuendo. There is a great deal of inflection in this music, and much of this is highly interpretive. Straight or curved lines imply non-pitched glisses, and wavy lines mean scalar (chromatic or diatonic) glisses. In general, all rhythmic figures need to be accented. Accents give the music life and swing. This is very important.

10. Ellington's music is about individuality: one person per part—do not double up because you have extra players or need more strength. More than one on a part makes it sound more like a concert band and less like a jazz band.

11. This is acoustic music. Keep amplification to an absolute minimum. In the best halls, almost no amplification should be necessary. Everyone needs to develop a big sound. It is the conductor's job to balance the band. When a guitar is used, it should be a hollow-body, unamplified rhythm guitar. Simple three-note voicings should be used throughout. An acoustic string bass is a must. In mediocre or poorly designed halls, the bass and piano may need a bit of a boost. I recommend miking them and putting them through the house sound system. This should provide a much better tone than an amplifier. Keep in mind that the rhythm section's primary function is to accompany. The bass should not be as loud as a trumpet. That is unnatural and leads to over-amplification, bad tone, and limited dynamics. Stay away from monitors. They provide a false sense of balance.

12. Solos and rhythm section parts without chord changes should be played as is or with a little embellishment. Solos and rhythm section parts with chord changes should be improvised. However, written passages should be learned because they are an important part of our jazz heritage and help the player understand the function of his particular solo or accompaniment. Soloists should learn the chord changes. Solos should not be approached as opportunities to show off technique, range, or volume, but should be looked at as a great opportunity to further develop the interesting thematic material that Ellington has provided.

13. The notation of plungers for the brass means a rubber toilet plunger bought in a hardware store. Kirkhill is a very good brand (especially if you can find one of their old hard rubber ones, like the one I loaned Wynton and he lost). Trumpets use 5" diameter and trombones use 6" diameter. Where Plunger/Mute is notated, insert a pixie mute in the bell and use the plunger over the mute. Pixies are available from Humes & Berg in Chicago. Tricky Sam Nanton and his successors in the Ellington plunger trombone

chair did not use pixies. Rather, each of them employed a Nonpareil (that's the brand name) trumpet straight mute. Nonpareil has gone out of business, but the Tom Crown Nonpareil trumpet straight mute is very close to the same thing. These mute/plunger combinations create a wonderful sound (very close to the human voice), but they also can create some intonation problems which must be corrected by the lip or by using alternate slide positions. It would be easier to move the tuning slide, but part of the sound is in the struggle to correct the pitch. If this proves too much, stick with the pixie—it's pretty close.

14. The drummer is the de facto leader of the band. He establishes the beat and controls the volume of the ensemble. For big band playing, the drummer needs to use a larger bass drum than he would for small group drumming. A 22" or 24" is preferred. The bass drum is played softly (nearly inaudible) on each beat. This is called feathering the bass drum. It provides a very important bottom to the band. The bass drum sound is not a boom and not a thud—it's in between. The larger size drum is necessary for the kicks; a smaller drum just won't be heard. The key to this style is to just keep time. A rim knock on two and four (chopping wood) is used to lock in the swing. When it comes to playing fills, the fewer, the better.

15. The horn players should stand for their solos and solis. Brass players should come down front for moderate to long solos, surrounding rests permitting. The same applies to the pep section (two trumpets and one trombone in plunger/mutes).

16. Horns should pay close attention to attacks and releases. Everyone should hit together and release together.

17. Above all, everyone's focus should remain at all times on the swing. As the great bassist Chuck Israels says, "The three most important things in jazz are rhythm, rhythm, and rhythm, in that order." Or as Bubber Miley (Ellington's first star trumpeter) said, "It don't mean a thing if it ain't got that swing."

## GLOSSARY

The following are terms which describe conventions of jazz performance, from traditional New Orleans to the present avant garde.

*Break* — within the context of an ongoing time feel, the rhythm section stops for one, two, or four bars. Very often a soloist will improvise during a break.

*Call and response* — repetitive pattern of contrasting exchanges (derived from the church procedure of the minister making a statement and the congregation answering with "amen"). Call-and-response patterns usually pit one group of instruments against another. Sometimes we call this "trading fours," "trad-

ing twos," etc., especially when it involves improvisation. The numbers denote the amount of measures each soloist or group plays. Another term frequently used is "swapping fours."

*Coda* — also known as the "outro." "Tags" or "tag endings" are outgrowths of vaudeville bows that are frequently used as codas. They most often use deceptive cadences that finally resolve to the tonic or they go from the sub-dominant and cycle back to the tonic.

*Comp* — improvise accompaniment (for piano or guitar).

*Groove* — the composite rhythm. This generally refers to the combined repetitive rhythmic patterns of the drums, bass, piano, and guitar, but may also include repetitive patterns in the horns. Some grooves are standard (i.e., swing, bossa nova, samba), while others are manufactured (original combinations of rhythms).

*Head* — melody chorus.

*Interlude* — a different form (of relatively short length) sandwiched between two chorus forms. Interludes that set up a key change are simply called modulations.

*Intro* — short for introduction.

*Ride pattern* — the most common repetitive figure played by the drummer's right hand on the ride cymbal or hi-hat.



*Riff* — a repeated melodic figure. Very often, riffs repeat verbatim or with slight alterations while the harmonies change underneath them.

*Shout chorus* — also known as the "out chorus," the "sock chorus," or sometimes shortened to just "the shout." It is the final ensemble passage of most big band charts and where the climax most often happens.

*Soli* — a harmonized passage for two or more instruments playing the same rhythm. It is customary for horn players to stand up or even move in front of the band when playing these passages. This is done so that the audience can hear them better and to provide the audience with some visual interest. A soli sound particular to Ellington's music combines two trumpets and a trombone in plungers/mutes in triadic harmony. This is called the "pep section."

*Stop time* — a regular pattern of short breaks (usually filled in by a soloist).

*Swing* — the perfect confluence of rhythmic tension and relaxation in music creating a feeling euphoria and characterized by accented weak beats (a democratization of the beat) and eighth notes that are played as the first and third eighth notes of an eighth-note triplet. Duke Ellington's definition of swing: when the music feels like it is getting faster, but it isn't.

*Vamp* — a repeated two- or four-bar chord progression. Very often, there may be a riff or riffs played on the vamp.

*Voicing* — the specific spacing, inversion, and choice of notes that make up a chord. For instance, two voicings for G7 could be:



Note that the first voicing includes a 9th and the second voicing includes a 9th and a 13th. The addition of 9ths, 11ths, 13ths, and alterations are up to the discretion of the pianist and soloist.

## The Four Elements of Music

The following are placed in their order of importance in jazz. We should never lose perspective on this order of priority.

*Rhythm* — meter, tempo, groove, and form, including both melodic rhythm and harmonic rhythm (the speed and regularity of the chord changes).

*Melody* — a tune or series of pitches.

*Harmony* — chords and voicings.

*Orchestration* — instrumentation and tone colors.

— David Berger

# SECOND LINE

## INSTRUMENTATION

Solo Clarinet	Trumpet 1	Trombone 1	Piano
Reed 1 - Alto Sax	Trumpet 2	Trombone 2	Bass
Reed 2 - Alto Sax	Trumpet 3	Trombone 3	Drums
Reed 3 - Tenor Sax	Trumpet 4		
Reed 4 - Tenor Sax			
Reed 5 - Baritone Sax			

## ORIGINAL RECORDING INFORMATION

Composer: Duke Ellington

Arranger: Duke Ellington

Recorded: April 27, 1970 in New York City

Master Number: ST-A-712141 PR

Original Issue: Atlantic SD-1580

Currently available on CD: *New Orleans Suite* / Atlantic 1580-2

Currently available as digital download: *New Orleans Suite* - itunes.com

**Personnel:** Cootie Williams, Fred Stone, Al Rubin, Harold Johnson (trumpet); Booty Wood, Julian Priester, Malcolm Taylor (trombone); Russell Procope (clarinet); Johnny Hodges, Norris Turney (alto sax); Harold Ashby, Paul Gonsalves (tenor sax); Harry Carney (baritone sax); Duke Ellington (piano); Joe Benjamin (bass); Rufus Jones (drums)

**Soloists:** Cootie Williams (trumpet); Booty Wood (trombone); Julian Priester (trombone); Russell Procope (clarinet)

## REHEARSAL NOTES

Near the end of Duke Ellington's career, he wished to pay homage to New Orleans, the birthplace of jazz. For decades big bands have attempted to capture the spirit of New Orleans music but were rarely successful. One notable exception is Haggart and Bauduc's *South Rampart Street Parade* written for the Bob Crosby Band. A major stumbling block has always been how to augment the 3-man New Orleans front line: trumpet melody, trombone tailgate and clarinet filigree. In **Second Line** Ellington solves the riddle.

This programmatic piece of music depicts the classic New Orleans street parade. The second line is the unofficial dancers who follow the parade. Their joyous struts, turns and costumes go back to slave days in Congo Square with roots in Africa. There are 2 basic strains in this piece: one in Bb major and one in G minor (the relative minor of Bb major). Each strain is 8 bars long. Both strains usually repeat, but not always. The minor strain stays on the tonic for the entire 8 bars. Occasionally passing chords are added. The major strain uses a I VI II V bass

pattern with dominant sevenths on all but the tonic chord. A semi-cadence is used before repeating this strain. The form is: MmmM(interlude)mmMMmMmmMmmMMMMmmmmmm. I have used M to denote a major strain and m to denote a minor strain. The interlude is a variation of the major strain using dominant pedal point and resolving to Gm in the last 2 bars.

This piece was written when Ellington was carrying 6 saxophone players. On this piece Russell Procope (born and raised in New York City) plays the traditional New Orleans Albert System clarinet role that he took over from his predecessor in the band, New Orleans native Barney Bigard. Other authentic New Orleans clarinetists include Sidney Bechet, Johnny Dodds, Jimmy Noone and Albert Nicholas. I strongly recommend that your clarinetist listen to their recordings to get an idea of the style. In addition I recommend that your entire band listen to some classic New Orleans bands such as King Oliver, Louis Armstrong and Jelly Roll Morton. Elements of this clarinet style are a big woody sound, vibrato and big gestures.

After the opening 16 bars of melody, the clarinet in this piece plays filigree with the exception of **S** and **T** (clarinet solo). The purpose of filigree is to add excitement. It is not crucial to the development or form of the piece. The word filigree means fanciful, delicate ornamentation. In jazz it generally involves a lot of fast notes (mostly arpeggios), slides and glisses. This is not a chance to practice your bebop. All the solos on this piece should be dealing with blues and swing.

The bass and drums are in 2 for the first 16 bars. After that it's 4/4 all the way. Straight-ahead, unimpeded, unadulterated swinging. Keep it simple, don't get in the way. Both bass and drum parts are improvised. Ellington never wrote drum parts and on a simple piece like this, he felt no need to write a bass part. This worked out well when the band was playing the same chart night after night, but could present certain drawbacks when music was written for a recording session and rehearsal time was limited. In the case of **Second Line**, the drummer is not aware of figures that he might have wanted to catch and the bassist occasionally is not prepared for the key of the next section. You may want to cue in a few of the major hits on the drum part (not too many or you will disrupt the flow). For the sake of performance, I have corrected obvious errors in the bass part.

The piano part is as Ellington played it. I would keep the first 16 bars as is. This seems worked out to fit in with the clarinet solo. After that, the piano's function is to sporadically comment on the proceedings. I can't overemphasize the importance of understanding and obeying the call and response. This applies to the clarinet and trombone fills as well. Towards the end of the recording Ellington is standing in front of the band clapping on

beats 2 and 4. I'm not sure that this should be the function of the pianist, but I included it because it is what is on the recording. If you are not hip to Ellington's genius as an accompanist, checking out what he plays on this tune is a good place to start. Note the amount of space he leaves--uncluttered and always swinging.

The band unisons (**C**, **D**, etc.) are played *f*, but not blaring. Accent the strong beats: **C1** beats 1, 2+ and 4+. **C3** beats 1, 3 and 4+. This keeps the music swinging and from sounding flat. Don't forget to follow the natural flow of the line, and diminuendo slightly as you descend and crescendo as you ascend. Exaggerating the dynamics impedes the flow and sounds affected. As Jimmy Stewart used to say, "Don't let 'em catch you acting."

At **E** I recommend *fp* in the trombones on their long notes. Similarly in the trumpets and saxes they can do a *fp* with a crescendo on their long note. This adds forward motion, personality and excitement.

At **K** make sure to have the saxes and trumpets play with accent: **K1** beat 3, **K2** beats 1 and 2+. I would have the drums catch this figure every time it comes up.

At **M** and **N** the trombones should be noble. The trumpet solo that follows at **O** continues that heroic style. Cootie shows his love for Louis Armstrong. I can't even imagine another way to play this solo. Note that although the saxes are *mf* under the trumpet solo, the brass are *f* on their interruptions. At **S** make sure that the saxes come down to *mp* under the clarinet solo. In jazz it is generally the drummer's job to make the transitions smooth. He needs to set up the dynamics of the next section, so that when the horns come in, they know what volume to play. This happens many times throughout this piece, not the least of which is the last bar of **T** and the first bar of **U**. Speaking of dynamics, notice the terraced diminuendo at **Y**, **Z** and **AA** and then the *f* drum set up of the surprise *f* reprise of the melody. This is the parade going further and further down the street and almost out of earshot, and then all of a sudden they turn the corner and are right in front of you. This has got to be one of the most exciting endings in all of jazz.

- David Berger

To view interactive videos of Wynton Marsalis leading the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra in rehearsals of the *Essentially Ellington* 2012-13 repertoire please visit: <http://tuttiplayer.com/ialc>

CONDUCTOR

Jazz at Lincoln Center Library - Essentially Ellington

# SECOND LINE (from New Orleans Suite)

Music by Duke Ellington  
Transcribed by David Berger

**A** Medium swing  $\text{♩} = 167$

Solo Clarinet

Reeds 1  
Alto Sax

2  
Alto Sax

3  
Tenor Sax

4  
Tenor Sax

5  
Baritone Sax

Trumpets 1

2

3

4

Trombones 1

2

3  
Bass Trombone

Piano  
Bb *mf* G7-9 C7-9 F7-9 Bb6 Ab A Bb G7-9 C7-9 F7-9 Bb G7-9 Ab7-9 A7-9

Bass  
*mf*

Drums  
Ride  
*mp*

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Second Line

Sheet music for various instruments including Cl., Alto, Tenor, Bari., Tpts. 1-4, Tbn. 1-3, Pno., Bass, and Drs. The score includes a rehearsal mark [C] and a section labeled "Fill around Ens." with a chord change to Am. A large watermark "Preview Only - Legal Use Requires Purchase" is overlaid on the page.

Second Line

Cl. D Am

Alto

Alto

Tenor

Tenor

Bari.

Tpts. 1

2

3

4

Tbns. 1

2

3

Pno. Gm

Bass

Drs. R.S.

The musical score is for a piece titled "Second Line". It features a variety of instruments: Clarinet (Cl.), two Alto saxophones, two Tenor saxophones, Baritone saxophone (Bari.), four Trumpets (Tpts.), three Trombones (Tbns.), Piano (Pno.), Bass, and Drums (Drs.). The score is written in a key signature of one flat (B-flat major or D minor) and a 4/4 time signature. A large red watermark, "Preview Only - Legal Use Requires Purchase", is overlaid diagonally across the entire page. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings. A box containing the letter "D" is placed above the first measure of the Clarinet part, and "Am" is written below it. The Piano part has a "Gm" marking. The Drums part has an "R.S." marking. The Trombone part has "Gm" and "Even" markings. The Trumpets part has a "3" marking. The Alto saxophone parts have "v" markings. The Tenor saxophone parts have "b" markings. The Baritone saxophone part has "b" markings. The Bass part has "b" markings. The Drums part has "R.S." marking.



**E**

Cl.

Alto

Alto

Tenor

Tenor

Bari.

Tpts. 1

2

3

4

Tbn. 1

2

3

Pno.

F Pedal

Gm

Bass

Drs.

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Score for Second Line, page 6. The score includes parts for Clarinet (Cl.), Alto, Tenor, Bari., Trumpets (Tpts. 1-4), Trombones (Tbns. 1-3), Piano (Pno.), Bass, and Drums (Drs.).

Key signature: A minor (Am). The piano part begins with a G minor (Gm) chord.

Chord markings: F (boxed), Am, Gm.

Performance markings: R.S. (Repeat Sign) appears under the drum part.

Watermark: "Legal Use Requires Purchase" is overlaid diagonally across the score.