

*Presents*

JAZZ LINES PUBLICATIONS

# **GROOVE BLUES**

ARRANGED BY DON MENZA

PREPARED FOR PUBLICATION BY ROB DUBOFF AND JEFFREY SULTANOF

## **FULL SCORE**

JLP-51403

MUSIC BY DON MENZA

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# **DON MENZA SERIES**

## **GROOVE BLUES (1975)**

### **Background:**

Don Menza is a powerful tenor saxophonist, with an dynamic and distinctive sound and soloing style as well as an influential composer and arranger. Born in Buffalo, New York in 1936, Menza started playing tenor saxophone when he was 13. After leaving the U.S. Army he toured and recorded with Maynard Ferguson's Orchestra (1960-1962) as both a soloist and an arranger.

A short tenure with Stan Kenton and a year leading a quintet in Buffalo preceded a period living in Germany (1964-1968). Upon returning to the U.S. he joined Buddy Rich's 1968 big band in the 'jazz tenor' chair, recording the famous solo cadenza on *Channel 1 Suite* (recorded live at Caesar's Palace, Las Vegas, NV) that utilized circular breathing and has become known as a classic among music educators and musicians alike.

He settled in California and has recorded with Elvin Jones, Keely Smith, Horace Silver, Frank Strazzeri, and Louie Bellson. He is also a noted educator and has been featured on many studio dates. Menza has recorded as a leader for Saba (1965) in Germany, Discwasher (1979), Realtime, and Palo Alto (the latter two in 1981). Don was a long time member of The Tonight Show Band, with Johnny Carson.

His compositions, such as *Groovin' Hard* and *Time Check* (both favorites of Doc Severinsen's NBC Orchestra and Buddy Rich's Big Band) have become standard repertoire in jazz studies programs at colleges and universities worldwide. In 2005 Don Menza was inducted into the Buffalo Music Hall of Fame.

### **The Music:**

The name of this chart is a bit of false advertising, as Don Menza's *Groove Blues* is actually 40 measures in length. That being said, even without following the traditional 12 bar form, the entire arrangement (originally recorded by Louie Bellson in 1975) is permeated with the unmistakable funk of the blues.

### **Notes to the Conductor:**

The band explodes right off the bat with a loud blast, followed by some biting backgrounds under a brief raucous solo courtesy of the piece's composer. The hard-swinging melody begins at measure 9 and is pretty evenly distributed across the ensemble. The underpinning backgrounds are simple, yet effective, and should have an overall edginess to them. Another honking tenor sax solo occurs at measure 41, slightly delaying the unison sax melody on the final A section at measure 49.

The brass provide a bright send-off into a chorus-long sax section soli at measure 57 that will surely give your players a bit of a workout. Although it is technically demanding, be sure that it continues to swing as hard as possible. The listener's ears are given a little bit of a break from the intensity for the first solo chorus at measure 97 on the original recording, as trumpeter Blue Mitchell and bassist Johnny Williams are left all to themselves for the first 16 bars before the backgrounds enter at measure 113. The intensity picks back up for the next two solos, handled by a plunger-mute wielding Cat Anderson and Menza's tenor saxophone. The backgrounds are played once more behind Menza.

Once the solos are wrapped up, the final shout chorus commences at measure 139 under slightly subdued pretenses. The brass are unison in the first four measures before splitting into harmony upon the saxophones' entrance. Things officially take off into the stratosphere, however, when Anderson launches into the high note heroics he was most famous for at measure 147. Even if your band chooses to forgo the screaming, the entire shout should continue to build in energy and attitude all the way through its blues-infused finale.

This publication is not a transcription - it has been prepared from a set of parts supplied to us by Don Menza.

**Dylan Canterbury**

- March 2019



# GROOVE BLUES

## SCORE

RECORDED BY LOUIE BELLSON

MUSIC BY DON MENZA

ARRANGED BY DON MENZA

PREPARED BY ROB DUBOFF AND JEFFREY SULTANOF

BRIGHT SHUFFLE ♩ = 180

Alto Sax 1

Alto Sax 2

Tenor Sax 1

Tenor Sax 2

Baritone Sax

Trumpet 1

Trumpet 2

Trumpet 3

Trumpet 4

Trumpet 5

Trombone 1

Trombone 2

Trombone 3

Trombone 4

Trombone 5

Guitar

Piano

Bass

Drum Set

2 3 4 5 6 7 8

9

Asx. 1

Asx. 2

Tsax. 1

Tsax. 2

B. Sax.

Trpt. 1

Trpt. 2

Trpt. 3

Trpt. 4

Trpt. 5

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

Tbn. 4

Tbn. 5

Gtr.

PNO.

Bs.

Dr.

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

A. Sax 1 *mf*

A. Sax 2 *mf*

T. Sax 1 *mf*

T. Sax 2 *mf*

B. Sax *mf*

Trpt. 1 *mf*

Trpt. 2 *mf*

Trpt. 3 *mf*

Trpt. 4 *mf*

Trpt. 5 *mf*

Tbn. 1 *mp*

Tbn. 2 *mp* (2) (4)

Tbn. 3 *mp*

Tbn. 4 *mp*

Tbn. 5 *mp*

Gtr. *B<sup>b</sup>7<sup>(9)</sup> E<sup>b</sup>13 B<sup>b</sup>7<sup>(9)</sup> E<sup>b</sup>13 B<sup>b</sup>9 A<sup>9</sup> A<sup>b</sup>9 G<sup>9</sup> C7<sup>(9)</sup> F7<sup>(9)</sup> B<sup>b</sup>9*

Pno. *B<sup>b</sup>7 E<sup>b</sup>7 B<sup>b</sup>7 E<sup>b</sup>7 B<sup>b</sup>9 A<sup>9</sup> A<sup>b</sup>9 G<sup>9</sup> C7<sup>(9)</sup> F7<sup>(9)</sup> B<sup>b</sup>9*

Dr. (4) (8)

17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24