

Presents

SAMBANDREA SWING

ARRANGED BY DON MENZA

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

FULL SCORE

JLP-51411

MUSIC BY DON MENZA

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DON MENZA SERIES



SAMBANDREA SWING (1978)

Background:

Don Menza is a powerful tenor saxophonist, with an dynamic and distinctive sound and soloing style. Born in Buffalo, New York in 1936, Menza started playing tenor saxophone when he was 13. After getting out of the Army, he was 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). After 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 I Suite* (Recorded live at Caesar's Palace, Las Vegas) that utilized circular breathing and has become known as a classic among music educators and musicians alike.

He settled in California and has worked with Elvin Jones (1969), Louie Bellson, as an educator, and in the studios. Don Menza, who has made far too few records, 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:

Recorded by the Louie Bellson Big Band on their album *Dynamite*, the word "explosive" is a highly accurate description for Don Menza's *Sambandrea Swing*. The chart switches back and forth between samba and swing feels multiple times, but the energy level starts off at high-octane levels and does not relent one bit throughout the performance.

Notes to the Conductor:

The brisk introductory theme switches back and forth between 4/4 and 6/4 time before settling into a more consistent 4/4 samba groove at measure 12.A drum solo sets up the main melody at measure 29. The melody is handled by baritone sax and bass trombone, with multiple layers of counterpoint gradually stacking on top. The first layer is flutes and Harmon muted trumpets at the pickups to measure 45 the first time, the second is tenor sax, open trumpets, and trombones the second time at measure 29. The full band comes together at measure 83 following another drum solo to set up the shift to a swing feel. This exciting mini-shout ultimately culminates in an open solo section at measure 105 that returns to the samba feel. On the original recording, the solo order is tenor sax, trumpet and trombone for a chorus a piece, but you may obviously customize this to your own liking.

Following the final horn solo, the drums once again get a shot to show off. Following this open drum solo, a heavy backbeat feel (aided by some rhythmic slaps from the guitar and bass) set up a challenging unison horn line at measure 167. The rhythm section returns to providing harmonic accompaniment at measure 199, with the horns splitting back into harmony themselves shortly thereafter. Yet another drum break sets up the climactic shout chorus at measure 217. Returning to a swing feel, this section is pure, unadulterated big band fun, and should be performed with an appropriate level of energy and enthusiasm. The introductory theme returns, with slight harmonic alterations, to serve as a conclusion at measure 264.

This arrangement has been prepared from Don Menza's original sketch score and parts - this is not a transcription. Alto I doubles on piccolo, Alto 2 and Tenor 2 double on flute.

Dylan Canterbury

- February 2020



DON MENZA

SAMBANDREA SWING



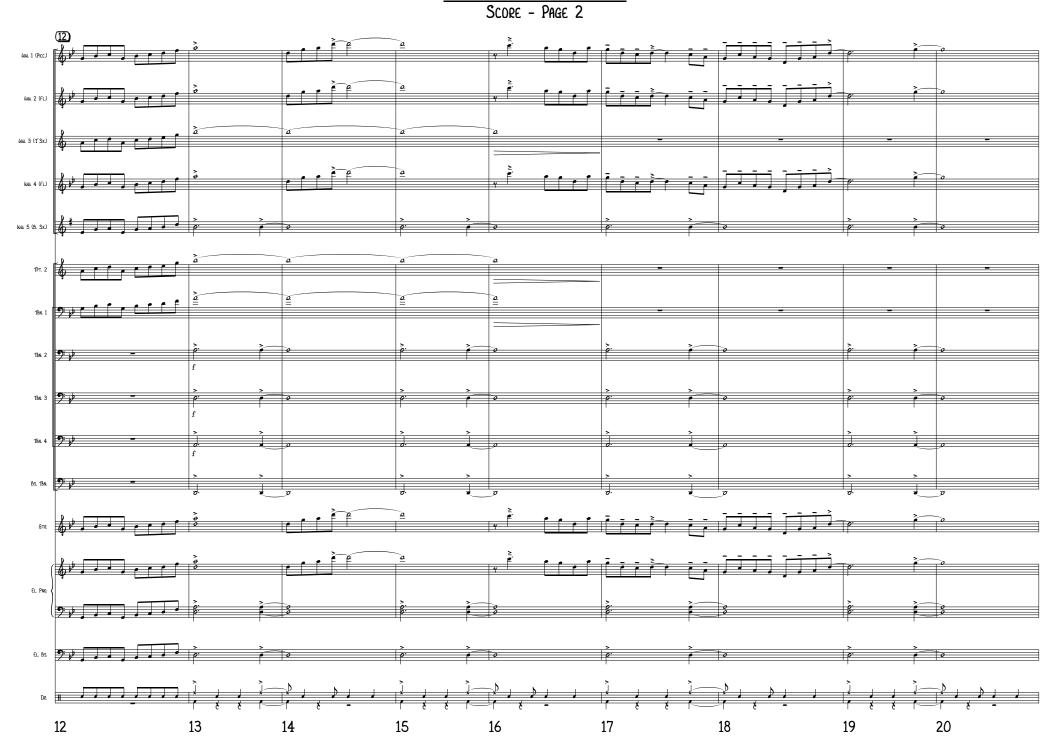
SAMBANDREA SWING

SCORE

MUSIC BY DON MENZA
ARRANGED BY DON MENZA
PREPARED BY DYLAN CANTERBURY, ROB DUBOFF AND SEFFREY SULTANOF



SAMBANDREA SWING



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