

JAZZ LINES PUBLICATIONS

Presents

LOOKS LIKE A COLD, COLD WINTER

RECORDED BY BING CROSBY
WITH THE LEE GORDON SINGERS

ARRANGED BY SY OLIVER

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

FULL SCORE

JLP-6070

BY JACK FULTON, AL GOERING, AND CAESAR PETRILLO

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PUBLISHED BY THE JAZZ LINES FOUNDATION INC.,

A NOT-FOR-PROFIT JAZZ RESEARCH ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO PRESERVING AND PROMOTING AMERICA'S MUSICAL HERITAGE.



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LOOKS LIKE A COLD, COLD WINTER (1950)

Background:

One of America's most endearing entertainers, Bing Crosby was one of the first people to attain massive crossover success as a popular figure, having equally successful careers in music and film. Born in Tacoma, Washington in 1903, Crosby became the first vocalist to achieve star billing with a big band after joining the Paul Whiteman Orchestra in 1926. More success came as the featured star of The Rhythm Boys after leaving Whiteman.

The 1930s continued to see not only a continued string of musical successes, but also Crosby's break into film. Starring in several short comedies during this time, often pairing up with comedian Bob Hope. His career as an actor reached its peak in 1944, when he won the Academy Award for Best Actor for his performance in *Going My Way*.

Crosby would branch out in several different directions in the 1950s. He became a regular sight on television, as well as becoming actively involved in the world of sports, owning several thoroughbred race horses as well as being partial owner of the Pittsburgh Pirates baseball team. He passed away in 1977.

The Music:

Few voices are more associated with the holiday season than the silky smooth baritone of Bing Crosby. While Sy Oliver's arrangement of *Looks Like a Cold, Cold Winter* adheres to the classic Crosby holiday hit template, it still manages to impart a unique, buoyant feel to the proceedings via a liberal smattering of the techniques Oliver utilized for the Jimmie Lunceford and Tommy Dorsey orchestras.

The 1950 recording of this arrangement often appears on Bing Crosby/Andrews Sisters compilations. This was not recorded by the Andrews Sisters: it was recorded by Bing Crosby with the Lee Gordon Singers, which consisted of two female and two male singers. Billy May also wrote an arrangement of this same tune in 1950 that Crosby performed twice live on radio for the Chesterfield Cigarettes radio show (11/1/50 and 1/10/51).

To the Conductor:

A quickly tagged intro, complete with sleigh bells, leads into the first melody statement at measure 11. Crosby has the spotlight to himself initially, with the horn accompaniment largely staying out of the way (aside from a sly *Silent Night* quote in the saxes). The horns drop even further back for the second time through the tune at measure 37, where the vocal group comes in to engage with some playful back-and-forth with Bing.

The instrumental ensemble gets a chance to shine for a bit for half a chorus at measure 69. The muted brass start things off, followed by a short tenor sax solo and a mellow sax soli before the singers return at measure 85. Bing and company lead the listener to the arrangement's conclusion, featuring a quick brass fanfare to provide one last kick.

Some performance notes:

- 1) Oliver's original arrangement did not have a baritone saxophone part. One has been added to allow for performances with a traditional sax section.
- 2) There were two minor cuts made for the original recording, likely for time reasons. This publication includes the entire arrangement with notes on what material was cut so that it may be played exactly as it was in 1950.

This publication was prepared using the original set of parts from the 1950 recording session as well as Sy Oliver's pencil score - this is not a transcription.

Doug DuBoff, Dylan Canterbury, and Rob DuBoff

- October 2023



MOD B - WITH A BEAT Coda first time - (Christy feel) LOOKS LIKE A COLD COLD WINTER (B. CROSBY)

ALTO¹
ALTO²
Sax.
TENOR¹
TENOR²
BING
Trumpets 1
Trumpets 2
Trumpets 3
Sax. 1
Sax. 2
TROMBONE
Guitar
Piano
Bass
Drums

ST. MUTE SWING
ST. MUTE SWING
ST. MUTE SWING

SWITCH BEATS - SWING

No. 27
1595 BROADWAY, N.Y.

Above is the first page of the score for *Looks Like a Cold, Cold Winter*, arranged by Sy Oliver in 1950.

1st Alto

COLD COLD WINTER

Mod^{to} - with a beat

A Play 2nd time only

C

MORRIS GLUCKMAN
G 1267
LOCAL 802
REGISTERED 1950

Above is the alto saxophone I part that was used for the 1950 recording session.

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SCORE

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MEDIUM SWING ♩ = 120

OPT. CUT TO (7)

The score is arranged for a jazz ensemble. The instruments listed on the left are: Male Vocal, Alto 1, Alto 2, Tenor 1, Tenor 2, Woodwind 1: Alto Sax., Woodwind 2: Alto Sax., Woodwind 3: Tenor Sax., Woodwind 4: Tenor Sax., Woodwind 5: Baritone Sax. (Opt.), Trumpet 1, Trumpet 2, Trumpet 3, Trombone 1, Trombone 2, Trombone 3, Guitar, Piano, Acoustic Bass, and Drum Set/Sleigh Bells. The music is in 4/4 time with a tempo of 120 beats per minute. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The score includes dynamic markings such as *f*, *mp*, *mf*, and *mf*. There are also performance instructions like "Straight Mute" for the brass instruments and "Sleigh Bells" for the drums. Chord symbols are provided for the guitar and piano parts: $F7^{(6)}$, B^b_9 , $E^b_9^{(6)}$, and A^b_{13} . The score is divided into measures, with measure numbers 2, 3, and 4 indicated at the bottom.

7

M

Looks like a

Ww 1 (A. Sax) *mp* *f*

Ww 2 (A. Sax) *mp* *f*

Ww 3 (T. Sax.) *mp* *f*

Ww 4 (T. Sax.) *mp* *f*

Ww 5 (B. Sax)

Tpt 1

Tpt 2

Tpt 3

Tbn 1

Tbn 2

Tbn 3

Gtr

Pno

Bs

D. S.

(4) (6) (7)

Hi-Hat

as-written

F7^(♯5) B[♭]₉ E[♭]₉(^{♯5}) A[♭]₁₃ F7^(♯5) B[♭]₉ E[♭]_m₉ /A[♭] A[♭]₇(^{♭9}) D[♭]₆

11

M
cold, cold win - ter, plen - ty of ice and snow. But
long, long win - ter, ba - by, what do we care as

Ww 1 (A. Sx)
Play 2nd x only
p

Ww 2 (A. Sx)
Play 2nd x only
p

Ww 3 (T. Sx.)
Play 2nd x only
p

Ww 4 (T. Sx.)
Play 2nd x only
p

Gtr
p
D^b D^bma⁷ D^b7 G^b6 A^b7 D^bma⁹ D^b7

Pno
light fills 1st time only
p
D^b D^bma⁷ D^b7 G^b6 A^b7 D^bma⁹ D^b7

Bs
p
D^b D^bma⁷ D^b7 G^b6 A^b7 D^bma⁹ D^b7

D. S.
p
(add sleigh bells this measure) (add sleigh bells this measure)

11

12

13

14