JAZZ LINES PUBLICATIONS

Presents

IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK LIKE CHRISTMAS

RECORDED BY BING CROSBY
WITH JUD CONLON AND THE RHYTHMAIRES

ARRANGER UNKNOWN, POSSIBLY NATHAN VAN CLEAVE

PREPARED FOR PUBLICATION BY ROB DUBOFF AND JEFFREY SULTANOF

FULL SCORE

JLP-6078

BY MEREDITH WILLSON

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



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IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK LIKE CHRISTMAS (1951)

Background:

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One of America's most endearing entertainters, 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:

Recorded in October 1951 in Los Angeles for Decca, this arrangement of Meredith Willson's tune It's Beginning to Look Like Christmas has become one of the most cherished holiday favorites. A Bing Crosby discography lists John Scott Trotter as the arranger and conductor for this session, but this arrangement was clearly written by someone else: possibly Nathan Van Cleave (the score is not signed). Although, this same recording session produced Christmas in Killarney, which was arranged by Trotter. Neither the handwriting nor the style of the arrangement matches Trotter's work. Interestingly, the discography also credits the London Symphony Orchestra as the backing ensemble.

To the Conductor:

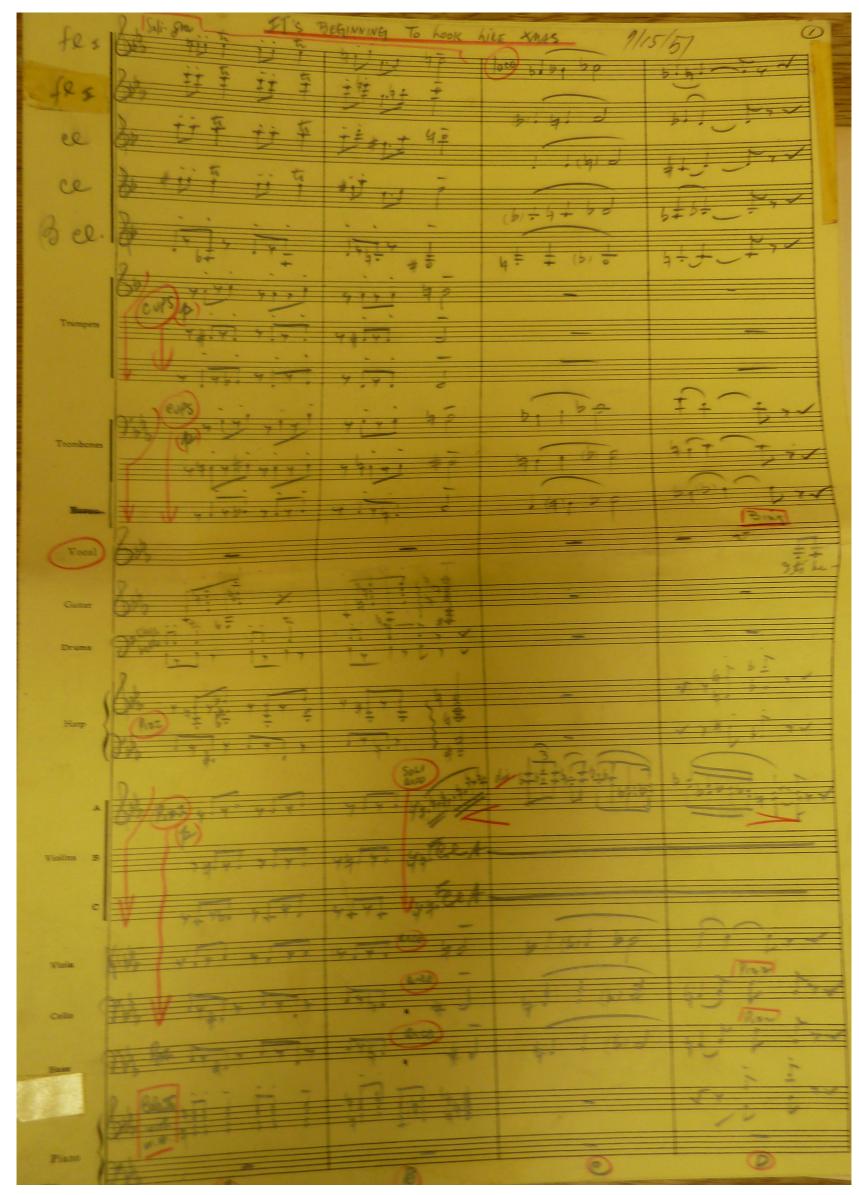
The arrangement is designed to feature the vocalist with the support of a vocal group [SAATT]. The 1951 recording featured Jud Conlon's Rhythmaires, but Van Cleave wrote the vocal parts (with the exception of a few changed notes). There is an 8-bar instrumental interlude that allows the strings, brass, and woodwinds to shine. There isn't anything specific in the arrangement that is difficult, but putting it together to match the famous recording will challenge the best ensembles. But, it will be well worth the challenge to be able to perform this for holiday concerts - this is sure to be a crowd pleaser.

Note that the first two bars for guitar (as written by the arranger) are unplayable or very difficult to play at this tempo. An alternate, playable guitar part has been written but the original part is included for reference.

This publication was based on the original pencil score and the set of parts used for the 1951 recording session - this is not a transcription.

Doug DuBoff and Rob DuBoff

- October 2022



Above is the first page of the score for It's Beginning to Look Like Christmas, possibly arranged by Nathan Van Cleave in 1951.

ITS BEGINNING TO LOOK LIKE X IT'S BE - GIN-NING TO LOOK A LOT LIKE EV - RY-WHERE YOU GO; TAKE A LOOK IN THE FIVE AND TEN CHRIST-MAS GLIS-TEN-ING ONCE A-GAIN, WITH CAN-DY CANES AND SILVER LANES A - GLOW. ITS BE-GIN-NING TO LOOK A LOT LIKE CHRIST-MAS_ TOYS IN BUT THE PRET-TI-ESTSIGHT TO SEE IS THE HOL-LY THAT WILL BE ON YOUR NWO FRONT HOP- A-LONG BOOTS AND A PIS-TOL THAT SHOOTS IS THE DOOR A PAIR OF WISH OF BAR-NEY AND BEN_ DOLLS THAT WILL TALK AND WILL GO FOR A WALK IS THE HOPE OF JAN-ICE AND JEN; AND MOM AND DAD CAN HARD-LY WAIT FOR

JAZZ LINES PUBLICATIONS

IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK LIKE CHRISTMAS

SCORE

RECORDED BY BING CROSBY WITH THE RHYTHMAIRES

By Meredith Willson Arranger Unknown, Possibly Nathan Van Cleave

PREPARED FOR PUBLICATION BY ROB DUBOFF AND JEFFREY SULTANOF MEDIUM SWING J = 100 It's be -Soprano Alto Woodwind 3: Clarinet Bass Clarine Woodwind 5: Bass Clarinet/Clarinet bo Trumpet 1 Cup Mute Trumpet 2 Trumpet 3 Cup Mute be be be be be 6 6 6 8 4 8 6 6 6 8 Violin 2 4040 Violin 3 Pizz. Arco Viola Cello Pizz. Arco 9: 1/4 4 Sleigh Bells Drum Set (with Sleigh Bells)

IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK LIKE CHRISTMAS Score - Page 2

