

**

FRANK SINATRA SERIES

**

<u>IN THE STILL OF THE NIGHT (1961)</u>

Frank Sinatra Biography:

Francis Albert Sinatra was one of the greatest figures in the history of American entertainment and pop culture. Born December 12, 1915, in Hoboken, New Jersey, he developed an early interest in music, becoming proficient as a singer and arranging for bands by his teens. He soon dropped out of high school to pursue a career in music. Following the exposure resulting from a successful appearance on the then-popular Major Bowes Amateur Hour radio show, he came to the attention of Harry James, who hired him to front his big band. While he gained experience and released his first records with James, they did not sell well and he soon grew frustrated with the James band and left to join Tommy Dorsey, with whom he had his first huge successes. Seeing his popularity begin to skyrocket, Sinatra soon felt the need to become a solo artist, and left Dorsey, taking arranger Axel Stordahl with him; this would be the first of several very close relationships Sinatra would enjoy with arrangers over the years.

During the World War II era, he became a sensation, earning the nickname "The Voice" and gaining a following of young women that would presage the later crazes for Elvis and the Beatles. By 1946 he was topping the charts, selling millions of records, and also receiving serious acclaim for the quality and depth of his work. Tastes change however, and by the late 1940s he was suffering a significant decline in popularity. Exacerbated by the death of his publicist George Evans and the breakup of his marriage as the 1950s began, it was hard for many to believe how far Sinatra had sunk, but it would have been truly impossible to envision the future heights he would reach. By late 1951 his performances were often poorly attended, and Columbia, the label on which he became a superstar, dropped him.

Sinatra was also a successful actor, and he believed a part in the film From Here to Eternity would begin a career revival; it did, and remarkably so. The 1953 film was hugely popular and Sinatra won an Oscar for best supporting actor. He had also signed with Capitol Records, and began what was to be the most significant collaboration of his career with arranger Nelson Riddle. After the legendary first session, which included "I've Got the World on a String," Sinatra was shocked at how well Riddle seemed to understand his abilities, ideas, and aspirations. Riddle knew how to treat dynamics beautifully, and how to craft an arrangement in order to allow the singer to clearly be the star while at the same time giving him rich, creative backing. They recorded a series of albums, including In the Wee Small Hours, Songs For Swingin' Lovers, and A Swingin' Affair, that both defined the genre and turned Sinatra into a massive superstar.

As the 1960s dawned, desiring more creative power and independence, Sinatra formed Reprise Records, which became another huge success for him, signing many other successful artists as well as being his recording home. He began working with other arrangers, hiring Don Costa, who had a great mind for commercial success in various genres. He also worked with the Count Basie Orchestra and Quincy Jones during this period, their greatest success and notoriety coming from the Rat Pack era appearances at the Sands Hotel in Las Vegas. During the rest of the sixties, Sinatra memorably recorded with Antonio Carlos Jobim and Duke Ellington, and he continued to be an eminent presence around the world, recording and touring for the next thirty years, while receiving endless honors and accolades.

While he became one of the most famous musicians in history, and certainly had a well-publicized and colorful personal life, much is not widely known about this brilliant and complex man. He never had formal music training, but was blessed with an incredible ear and innate musical understanding which often surprised musicians he worked with. His voice was incredibly powerful, his diction precise, and perhaps no popular singer has had a more unique gift for interpreting lyrics. Classical musicians marveled at his skills, and even his conducting ability surprised those who worked with him. His combination of rare musical gifts and perfectionism, as well as his insistence on working with the best writers and arrangers, fused to create an unmatched catalog of definitive versions of many of America's greatest standards. Sinatra had a temper, which he showed often to the world, and he could be profane, bullying, and gruff. But he also most definitely had a very serious different side as well. He was known for treating collaborators and musicians well, and was generous to a fault. Perhaps less-known is his tremendous charitable streak. Sinatra contributed generously, gave many benefit concerts, and often very quietly donated money to many causes. He was also politically active for his entire life, at first with the Democrats, and after the famous rift with JFK, the GOP. One of the most admirable parts of his character was his lifelong battle against racism. Growing up in a time and place where Italian-Americans were often heavily discriminated against, he quickly developed a visceral hatred for racism. He performed with African-American musicians during his entire career, he worshiped Billie Holiday and said that Ella Fitzgerald was the only singer he feared, and in a time when Las Vegas was much like the Jim Crow South, he fought for the rights of his close friends Sammy Davis Jr. and Count Basie and others.

Frank Sinatra passed away with his wife at his side in Los Angeles on May 14, 1998, at the age of 82. The outpouring of grief, respect, and tributes was tremendous for a figure whose only rivals among 20th century western musicians were Bing Crosby, Elvis Presley, and the Beatles. The 100th anniversary of his birth in 2015 saw countless concert tributes as well as documentaries and major new books. This is a man whose music will be listened to as long as the world continues to turn. The voice of Sinatra in his prime is peerless-powerful and comforting, historic and vibrant; he had the rare ability to make a newly-written song instantly his own, and to breathe new life into decades-old standards while creating their definitive expressions. Jazz Lines Publications is very proud to publish dozens of his best and most important original arrangements written by Nelson Riddle, Billy May, Neal Hefti, Quincy Jones, Billy Byers, and Don Costa.

The Music:

Arranged by Johnny Mandel for Frank Sinatra's 1961 album **Ring-a-Ding-Ding!**, this setting of Cole Porter's **In the Still of the Night** is a wonderfully creative and lush interpretation of a challenging and infrequently covered entry in his wonderful catalog of songs.

Notes to the Conductor:

Some gentle pads at the beginning establish a serene mood before Sinatra enters with the melody at measure 5. This mood continues to define the first portion of the melody, with most of the ensemble backgrounds being more subliminal in nature, with a notable exception of a brief woodwind riff at measure 23. It's not until a syncopated brass riff at measure 33 that the intensity starts to ramp up a bit, with the ensemble taking on a more demonstrative approach for most of the rest of the melody.

A brief return to serenity occurs at measure 69 that, when executed properly, creates an impending sense that something big is about to happen. That thing, the ensemble shout chorus, commences eight measures later. The brass handles the main melody, with the saxes filling in the gaps for the most part, bar some Frank Rosolino trombone fills around measure 93. This shout chorus is unusually long compared to other Sinatra vehicles, and it's also a bit of a blow for the brass section in general. Sinatra makes his triumphant return at measure 109, with the band continuing to prod him along in a delightful fashion. Just as it feels like things are going to break open again, the arrangement returns to the lush pads of the introduction, subtly shifting harmonically around Sinatra's final held note before a light and breezy trumpet figure brings to a crisp and clean close.

There are two versions of this arrangement: one for full studio orchestra, and one for big band. It was not uncommon for Sinatra to employ reduced versions of studio orchestra arrangements while touring due to string sections not always being readily available. The big band version is based off of a set of reduced parts that incorporate the string parts from the original recording into the woodwinds and brass. The studio orchestra version contains string parts reconstructed from the reduced parts.

Acknowledgements:

Thanks to an agreement with Frank Sinatra Enterprises, LLC, many of the classic arrangements written for Sinatra will be available from Jazz Lines Publications. As music fans who were greatly influenced by these magnificent arrangements, it is a great honor and thrill to work on these using the original manuscripts.

Doug DuBoff and Rob DuBoff - July 2021



FRANK SINATRA



ALSO SAX

2

Above is a revised woodwind I part from Frank Sinatra's club date or touring library. All parts were modified so that Sinatra could use this arrangement on the road without the need of strings. The string parts were incorporated into the woodwinds and brass parts. This studio orchestra publication restores the arrangement to the way it was originally recorded in 1961 for the *Ring-a-Ding-Ding!* album (the studio orchestra version is available separately).

SCORE

JAZZ LINES PUBLICATIONS

IN THE STILL OF THE NIGHT

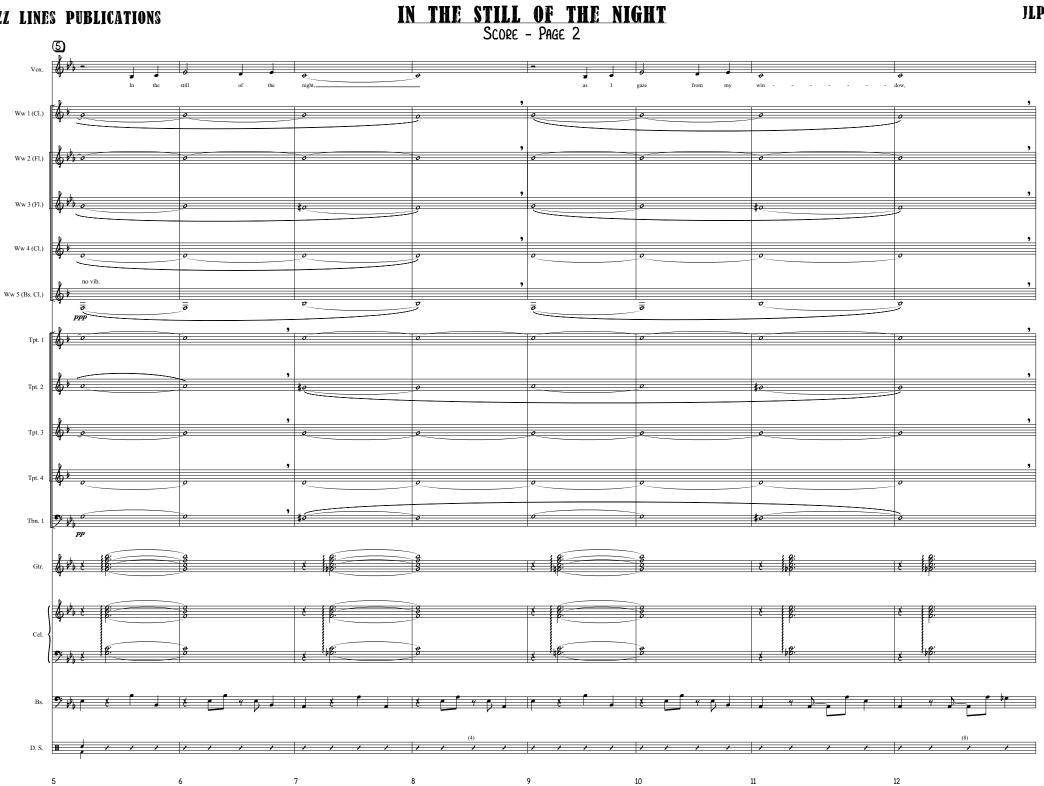
RECORDED BY FRANK SINATRA

Music and Words by Cole Porter Arranged by Sohnny Mandel Prepared by Rob Duboff, Dylan Canterbury, and Seffrey Sultanof



© 1937 (Renewed) CHAPPELL & CO., INC. This Arrangement © 2021 CHAPPELL & CO., INC. All Rights Reserved. Used by Permission of ALFRED (NUSIC. Logos, Graphics, and Layout Copyright © 2021 The Jazz Lines Foundation Inc. Frank Sinatra Is Under License from Frank Sinatra Enterprises LLC. Published by the Jazz Lines Foundation Inc., a Not-for-Profit Jazz Research Organization Dedicated to Preserving and Promoting America's (Musical Heritage.





JLP-9983



IN THE STILL OF THE NIGHT Score - Page 3

JAZZ LINES PUBLICATIONS

