

Presents

JAZZ LINES PUBLICATIONS

A MELLOW BIT OF RHYTHM

RECORDED BY ANDY KIRK

ARRANGED BY MARY LOU WILLIAMS

EDITED BY ROB DUBOFF AND JEFFREY SULTANOF

FULL SCORE

JLP-8794

MUSIC BY MARY LOU WILLIAMS

COPYRIGHT © 1940 CECILIA MUSIC PUBLISHING COMPANY
THIS ARRANGEMENT COPYRIGHT © 2012 CECILIA MUSIC PUBLISHING COMPANY
ALL RIGHTS RESERVED USED BY PERMISSION REPRINTED BY PERMISSION
LOGOS, GRAPHICS, AND LAYOUT COPYRIGHT © 2012 THE JAZZ LINES FOUNDATION INC.

THIS ARRANGEMENT HAS BEEN AUTHORIZED BY THE MARY LOU WILLIAMS FOUNDATION INC.

PUBLISHED BY THE JAZZ LINES FOUNDATION INC., A NOT-FOR-PROFIT JAZZ RESEARCH ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO PRESERVING AND PROMOTING AMERICA'S MUSICAL HERITAGE.



THE JAZZ LINES FOUNDATION INC.

PO BOX 1236

SARATOGA SPRINGS NY 12866 USA

MARY LOU WILLIAMS BIG BAND SERIES

A MELLOW BIT OF RHYTHM (1937)

Background:

The music of Mary Lou Williams is a rich tapestry spanning seventy years of sounds and styles of American music. A pioneer in so many ways, it is with great honor and pleasure that the Jazz Lines Foundation Inc. has made an exclusive agreement with the Mary Lou Williams Foundation to make her music available to be studied, played, and enjoyed.

Born Mary Alfrieda Scruggs in Atlanta, Mary Lou showed talent at the piano from a very early age. Her family moved to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania when she was five, and by the age of eight, she was already known in the neighborhood for her piano skills. She was already on the road with a tent show by the age of thirteen. The leader of the band, saxophonist John Williams, would become her husband when Mary was only sixteen.

Williams joined the band of T. Holder, but he was 'fired' by his sidemen over money issues, and the band was taken over by bassist Andy Kirk. Headquartered at Kansas City, the Kirk band would be Mary Lou's musical home for many years. Not only did she play piano (for many years, Kirk's was the only major big band with a woman instrumentalist), she became Kirk's musical director, and such titles as *Mary's Idea*, *Walkin' and Swingin'*, *Scratchin' the Gravel*, and *The Lady Who Swings the Band* are considered big band classics.

The Music:

A Mellow Bit of Rhythm was recorded for Decca Records on July 26, 1937. As the title implies, this is a straightforward swing piece with a few solos. This may be opened up for more solos.

Notes to the Conductor:

The 1930s Kansas City swing feel needs to be felt by everyone in the organization to make this piece work. A Basie-esque approach is the right way to go. If students have not heard vintage Kansas City big bands from this era, this is the perfect opportunity for band members to familiarize themselves with this unique sound. As I've recommended in earlier publications of this vintage of big band music, have students immerse themselves in this style **before** they begin to play this piece. I also recommend that they do not hear the recording of this arrangement before they try playing it. The goal isn't to mimic the 1937 recording but to bring something of their own to the music.

Acknowledgements:

Special thanks to Father Peter O'Brien of the Mary Lou Williams Foundation for his help in completing this publication.

Jeffrey Sultanof

- March 2012



SCORE

A MELLOW BIT OF RHYTHM

RECORDED BY ANDY KIRK

MUSIC BY MARY LOU WILLIAMS

ARRANGED BY MARY LOU WILLIAMS

EDITED BY JEFFREY SULTANOF AND ROB DUBOFF

MEDIUM SWING ♩ = 160

(ALTO SAX)

REED 1: ALTO SAX/CLARINET *fp* *f* *mp*

REED 2: ALTO SAX *fp* *f* *mp*

REED 3: TENOR SAX *fp* *f* *mp*

REED 4: TENOR SAX/CLARINET *fp* *f* *mp*

TRUMPET 1 *mf* *Cresc.* *f*

TRUMPET 2 *mf* *Cresc.* *f*

TRUMPET 3 *mf* *Cresc.* *f*

TROMBONE 1 *mf* *Cresc.* *f*

TROMBONE 2 *mf* *Cresc.* *f*

TROMBONE 3 *mf* *Cresc.* *f*

GUITAR *mf* *Cresc.* *f*

PIANO *mf* *Cresc.* *f*

BASS *mf* *Cresc.* *f*

DRUM SET *mf* *Cresc.* *f*

2 3 4 5 6 7 8

COPYRIGHT © 1940 CECILIA MUSIC PUBLISHING COMPANY

THIS ARRANGEMENT COPYRIGHT © 2012 CECILIA MUSIC PUBLISHING COMPANY

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED USED BY PERMISSION REPRINTED BY PERMISSION

LOGOS, GRAPHICS, AND LAYOUT COPYRIGHT © 2012 THE JAZZ LINES FOUNDATION INC.

THIS ARRANGEMENT HAS BEEN AUTHORIZED BY THE MARY LOU WILLIAMS FOUNDATION INC.

PUBLISHED BY THE JAZZ LINES FOUNDATION INC., A NOT-FOR-PROFIT JAZZ RESEARCH ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO PRESERVING AND PROMOTING AMERICA'S MUSICAL HERITAGE.

9

Rd. 1 (A Sax) *mp* *mf*

Rd. 2 (A Sax) *mp* *mf*

Rd. 3 (T Sax) *mp* *mf*

Rd. 4 (T Sax) *mp* *mf*

Trpt. 1 *mf*

Trpt. 2 *mf*

Trpt. 3 *mf*

Tbn. 1 *mf*

Tbn. 2 *mf*

Tbn. 3 *mf*

Gtr. *mp* *mf*

Pno. *mp* *mf*

Bs. *mp* *mf*

D. S. *mp* *mf*

9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18

Swing (4) (6)

Chord Progression: E^b6 E^b7 A^b7 A^7 B^b7 E^b6 $Fm7$ $F^{\sharp}7$ E^b6 $Fm7$ B^b9 A^b6 $Fm7$ $F^{\sharp}7$ B^b7

[illegible]