

Presents

ON A MISTY NIGHT

ARRANGED BY TADD DAMERON

EDITED BY JEFFREY SULTANOF

FULL SCORE

FROM THE ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPT

JLP-8824

MUSIC BY TADD DAMERON

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ON A MISTY NIGHT (1962)

Background:

Tadd Dameron was one of the most influential composer/arrangers in American music. Born in 1917, he wrote for bands led by Jimmie Lunceford, Count Basie, Billy Eckstine (many original compositions later performed by the Dizzy Gillespie Orchestra were originally written for Eckstine), Ted Heath and Tommy Dorsey. He also arranged for Sarah Vaughan, Pearl Bailey and the underrated Kay Penton. Dameron led various groups for live gigs and recordings, and the musicians he played with constituted a who's who of jazz. At one time or another his ensembles included Fats Navarro, Freddie Webster, Charlie Rouse, Kenny Clarke, Kai Winding, Wardell Gray, J.J. Johnson, Dexter Gordon, Miles Davis, Kenny Dorham, John Coltrane and Clifford Brown.

Unfortunately Dameron was institutionalized in Kentucky for drug possession from 1958 through 1961. While still in prison, he contributed several arrangements to a Blue Mitchell album on Riverside Records, and when he was released, Riverside wanted him to make an album of his own. *The Magic Touch* was the result, and this



resulted in various composing and arranging assignments, most notably for Benny Goodman, who commissioned several scores from Dameron for his 1962 big band that made an historic tour of the Soviet Union.

The Music:

On a Misty Night was first heard on Tadd's quartet record of 1956, Mating Call (with John Coltrane). In 1962 he arranged the tune for his Magic Touch record for Riverside. This version was written for Benny Goodman in May of 1962, and is a slightly re-orchestrated version of the piece as played on the Riverside album. The instrumentation was modified to include five reeds and seven brass (the Magic Touch album had six brass including a French horn). In Dameron's score for the Benny Goodman Orchestra, he designated Goodman as the chief soloist; this edition has moved the solo to tenor sax 2, modeling the Riverside recording.

Notes to the Conductor:

Like all of Dameron's music, this piece is a real treat; an elegant, beautiful, swinging piece with hip harmonies and lovely voicings that can be played by many middle school bands. The ensemble must be perfectly in tune for these harmonies to ring out. Tempo is very important here; Dameron clearly wrote this piece to be danced to.

Acknowledgements:

We wish to thank Mia Dameron and Don Sickler for their support of our Tadd Dameron series of arrangements.

Jeffrey Sultanof

- March 2011

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