

SARATOGA SPRINGS NY 12866 USA

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SUMMERTIME (1958)

Background:

In late 1996, I was one of the first to examine the contents of three boxes of music that had been in storage in a facility rented by Miles Davis. All of the Gil Evans scores for Davis's Columbia albums were there, as well as extracted parts used at the recording sessions. Several of these scores had been transcribed for various projects and concerts over the years before the discovery of these boxes, in particular for a concert in honor of Evans himself. When these original scores are compared against the transcriptions, one sees immediately the futility of the even attempting to transcribe Gil's music, as he fools the ear repeatedly. It is an honor and pleasure to make available these classic scores for study and performance in edited editions.

The Music:

Summertime, of course, comes from Porgy and Bess, and that album is a deserved classic. Evans's arrangement centers around a repeated line or riff, which changes color and texture throughout as Davis improvises over it. Evans would later adapt this arrangement for an album with Helen Merrill, and that performance included a guest appearance by soprano saxophonist Steve Lacy.

The arrangement for Davis has two separate introductions played one after another at the beginning. These were cut for the recording, but are included here for their historical value. Playing or not playing them in performance is of course left to the discretion of the conductor.

The bass player should be advised to play the written notes and improvise a walking line where there are slashes.

Notes to the Conductor:

This is a fairly straightforward setting of the classic Gershwin song.

Dynamics in all of Evans's music is of prime importance. Minimal miking of the flutes is recommended so that they can be heard, but they must not be louder than the brass.

As has been discussed in other Jazz Lines Publications, the original parts for the *Porgy and Bess* album are for four reed players, one of which is an alto sax, the remainder doubling on reeds of all sizes and types. Clearly Evans wanted the sound of a brass orchestra with woodwinds as color and acoustic support; he did not conceive these settings for live performance. In the studio, the instrumental balance was worked out so that the reeds sounded as Gil wished. For live performances, some amplification is needed so that the clarinet and bass clarinets are heard. Please do not over amplify them; they are not meant to be as loud as the brass in ensemble passages.

Jeffrey Sultanof

- April 2011

SCORE

SUMMERTIME

RECORDED BY MILES DAVIS

JAZZ LINES PUBLICATIONS

MUSIC AND LYRICS BY GEORGE GERSHWIN, DUBOSE AND DOROTHY HEYWARD AND IRA GERSHWIN ARRANGED BY GIL EVANS EDITED BY ROB DUBOFF AND JEFFREY SULTANOF



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