Jazz Lines Publications

Presents

THE JEFFREY SULTANOF MASTER EDITION

CAMEL HOP

AS RECORDED BY BENNY GOODMAN

COMPOSED AND ARRANGED BY MARY LOU WILLIAMS

EDITED BY JEFFREY SULTANOF

FULL SCORE

FROM THE ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPT

JLP-8792

Composed by Mary Lou Williams

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Jazz Lines Publications
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Saratoga Springs NY 12866 USA

CAMEL HOP (1937)

Background:

Benny Goodman and Mary Lou Williams had a mutually beneficial musical relationship for years that ended by 1948. It was John Hammond who first suggested to Mary Lou Williams that she compose some music for Benny Goodman. Her composition *Roll 'Em* is a Goodman classic, and *Camel Hop* is a wonderful contribution that unfortunately was only played for a relatively short time. Ironically, it seems never to have been recorded on the radio program that inspired its name.

Also interesting is the fact that Williams wrote this piece while still the chief composer, arranger, and pianist for Andy Kirk's band, something that rarely happened. Although it must be said that Fletcher Henderson continued to write for Goodman while still leading his own band.

The Music:

Camel Hop was in the Goodman book as early as April of 1937; it was broadcast at least once during that month. The piece was recorded for RCA Victor in November of that year, indicating that the band had already played it many times before committing it to wax.

The title *Camel Hop* refers to the radio program *Camel Caravan*, a radio show sponsored by Camel cigarettes. Goodman's band was the collective star of the program, with singers and comedy performers as guests. Although the show was on the air for over twenty years, the years 1936-1939 was clearly the peak period of this program, as Goodman's ensemble was the hottest music attraction of the day.

Notes to the Conductor:

At present, most of the original parts are assumed lost - they are not to be found in the libraries of Mary Lou Williams or Benny Goodman. So, this arrangement has been reconstructed from the extant original parts along with a transcribed score. The arrangement was written for 4 reeds (2 altos/2 tenors), 3 trumpets, 2 trombones, guitar, piano, bass, and drums and features solo clarinet. This is not very difficult and only features the clarinet soloist in four short solos. Benny Goodman's solos have been written out, though we have also included chord changes. There are also solos for trumpet 2 and tenor 1. More and more classic swing from the late 1930s is becoming available for musical directors to put in front of their bands, and *Camel Hop* is a classic by a great composer whose music swings like crazy. Playing the original recording for the band is certainly a good idea if players are unfamiliar with its specific style, or to reinforce the way the notes are to be articulated.

Acknowledgements:

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Jeffrey Sultanof
- October 2010

Photo © The Mary Lou Williams Foundation

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CAMEL HOP

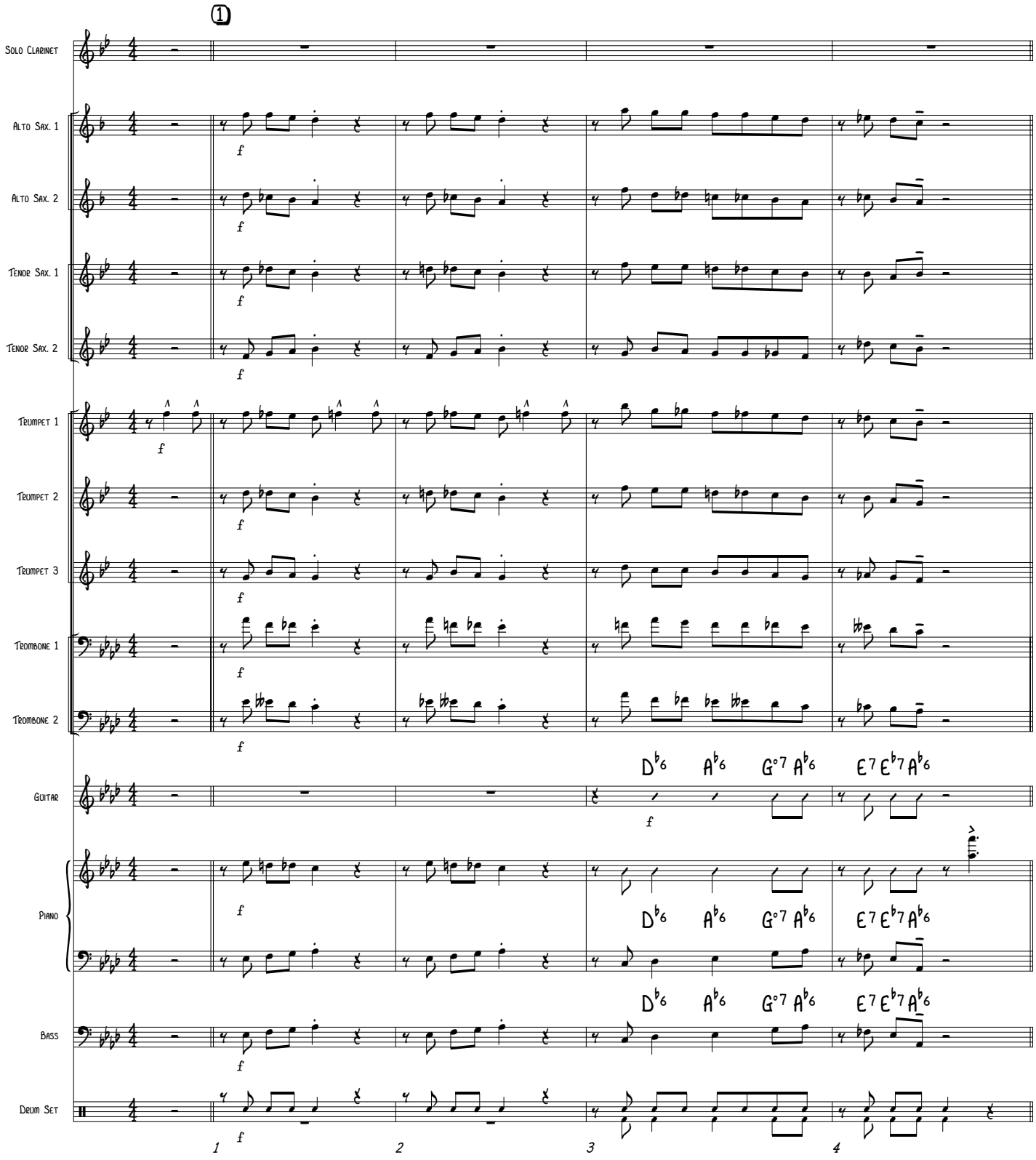
(RECORDED BY BENNY GOODMAN)

JAZZ LINES PUBLICATIONS

MUSIC BY MARY LOU WILLIAMS
ARRANGED BY MARY LOU WILLIAMS
EDITED BY JEFFREY SULTANOF

SCORE

BRIGHT SWING ♩ = 186



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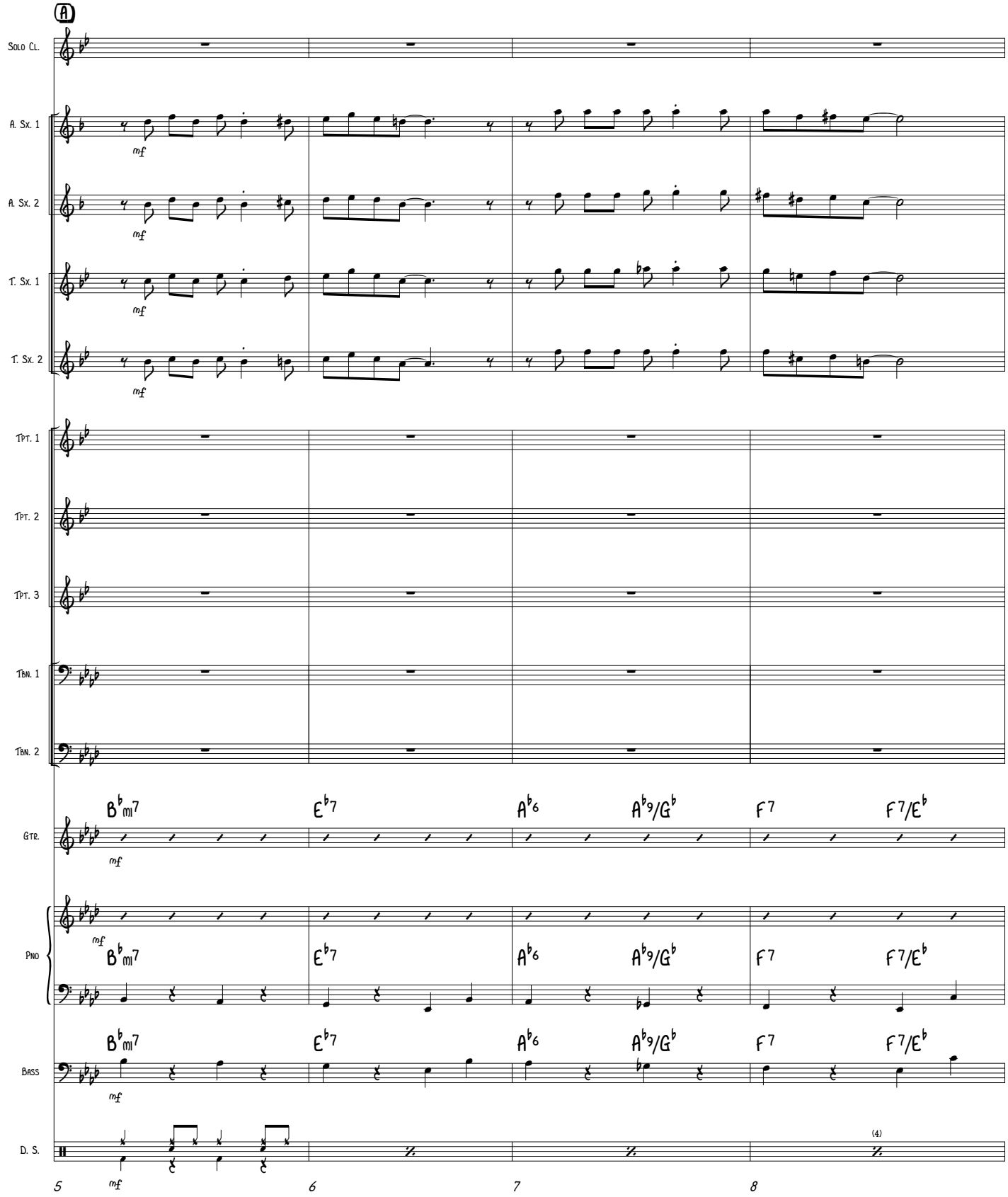
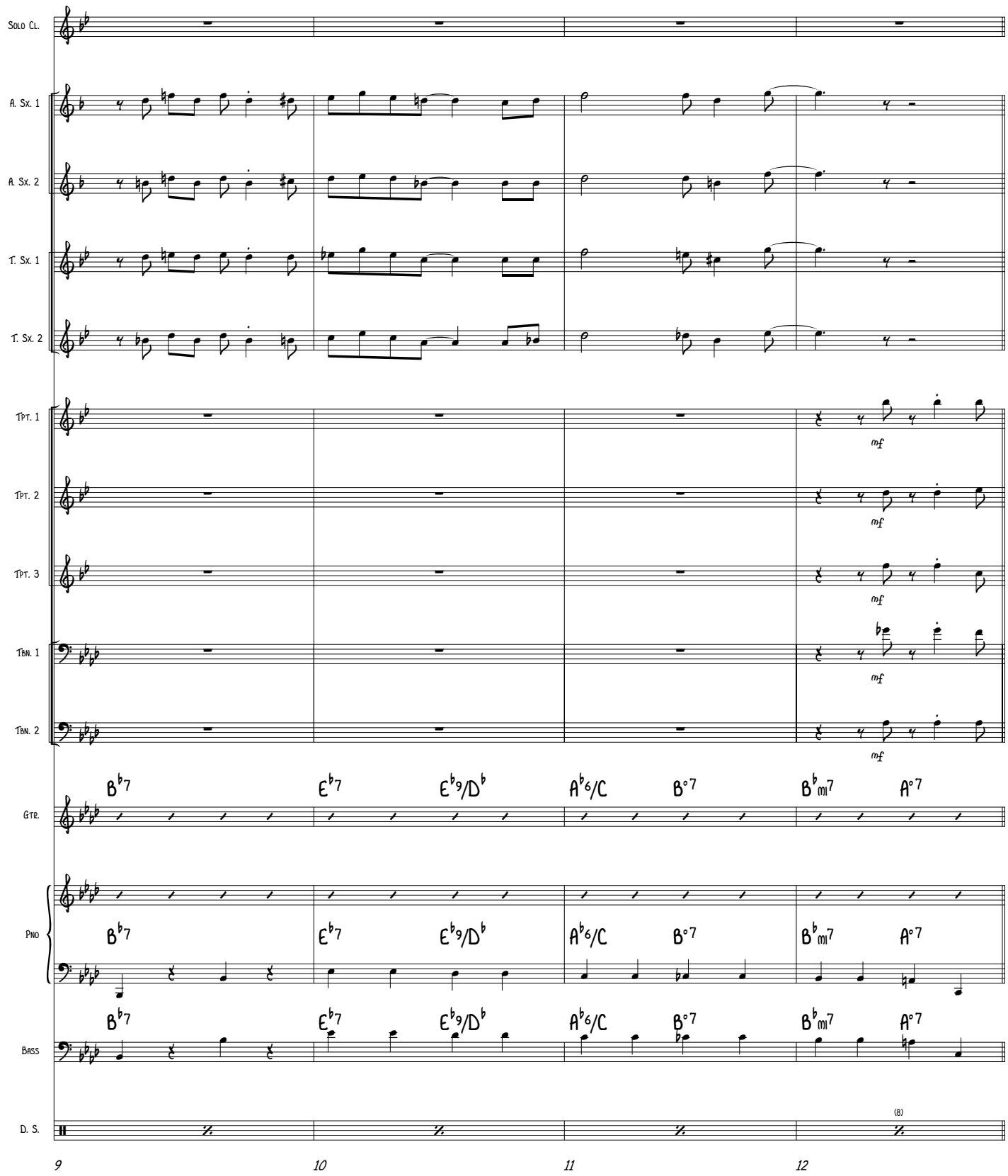
CAMEL HOP

Score - Page 2




Solo Cl.
A. Sx. 1
A. Sx. 2
T. Sx. 1
T. Sx. 2
Tpt. 1
Tpt. 2
Tpt. 3
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
Gtr.
Pno
Bass
D. S.
mf
B♭7
E♭7
E♭9/D♭
A♭6/C
B°7
B♭m7
A°7
(8)
9
10
11
12