

JAZZ LINES PUBLICATIONS

Presents

EASY MONEY

ARRANGED BY BENNY CARTER

PREPARED BY DYLAN CANTERBURY, ROB DUBOFF, AND JEFFREY SULTANOF

FULL SCORE

JLP-7343

MUSIC BY BENNY CARTER

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THE JAZZ LINES FOUNDATION INC.

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COUNT BASIE SERIES

EASY MONEY (1961)

Background:

Next to Duke Ellington, there is no more famous band in the history of jazz than that of William “Count” Basie. Although his economical piano playing was ahead of his time compared to several of his more stride-oriented contemporaries, Basie was always best known as the face of an organization that played a continuous role in shaping the trajectory of jazz for over 50 years.

Born on August 21, 1904 in Red Bank, New Jersey, even as a youth Basie was attracted to not just music in general, but the idea of being a bandleader specifically. Settling on the piano as his main instrument as a teen, Basie’s musical apprenticeship was fairly typical for the time. Most of his education stemmed from hanging around the Harlem stride piano scene of the 1920s. A series of tours with vaudeville troupes came next; when one of the troupes broke up in Kansas City in 1927, Basie found himself stranded.

This turned out to be a blessing in disguise, as it was not long before Basie found himself hired by bassist Walter Page to play with his now-legendary territory band, the Blue Devils. His notoriety rising, Basie eventually left the Blue Devils to take over the piano chair in the Bennie Moten Orchestra, considered to be the finest band in the Kansas City area. After Moten’s sudden death in 1935, rather than letting the band fall apart, Basie ended up taking over the reigns himself, bringing in several of his former Blue Devils band mates, including Page himself, in the process.

It did not take long for this new band to make its impact on the world of jazz. The Basie organization specialized in arrangements that were fairly loosely organized and easy to customize on the spot, known informally as “head” arrangements. This allowed for a much more soloist-friendly environment than most of the other bands of the swing era. In addition, the band’s rhythm section was responsible for a distinctive shift in the way time is kept in jazz. Spurred by drummer “Papa” Jo Jones’ more free-form approach and guitarist Freddie Green’s steady “rhythm” style of playing, the innovations of this organization would play a key role in setting up the eventual rise of bebop in the 1940s.

World War II was not kind to big bands for a variety of reasons, and Basie’s band was no exception. Financial considerations would force him to reduce his ensemble to an octet by the end of the 1940s. By the mid-1950s, however, Basie was able to reform his big band, aided in no small part to a series of hit recordings, including a particularly popular version of the jazz standard “April In Paris.” This new Basie band maintained the same relentless sense of swing as the earlier units, but was much more organized as a whole. Gone were the “head” arrangements of old in favor of a consistently expanding library of charts provided by what may have been the greatest stable of arrangers ever housed by a single band.

Basie’s celebrity firmly cemented by this point, his band remained true to this new format for the rest of his life. The 1960s and 1970s would see a string of successful albums backing singers such as Frank Sinatra, Ella Fitzgerald, Sarah Vaughan and Tony Bennett, among others. In addition, the band began to see an increased presence in Las Vegas and Hollywood; Basie’s famous cameo in Mel Brooks’ “Blazing Saddles” is no doubt a highlight of the now-classic comedy. Basie continued a busy touring and recording schedule even when he was wheelchair-bound in his final years.

Basie passed away on April 26, 1984. The band that bears his name continues to tour to this day, performing both the favorites of the past as well as new arrangements and continuing to collaborate with some of jazz’s top vocalists, including George Benson and Diane Schuur. The list of notable artists brought to prominence through the ranks of his band include saxophonists Lester Young, Frank Foster and Eddie “Lockjaw” Davis, trumpeters Harry “Sweets” Edison, Buck Clayton, and Thad Jones, trombonists Dicky Wells and Al Grey, and drummer Sonny Payne. Notable arrangers who contributed to the band’s book include Foster, Jones, Neal Hefti, Quincy Jones and Sammy Nestico.



As a soloist, Benny Carter, along with Johnny Hodges, was the model for swing era alto saxophonists. He is nearly unique in his ability to double on trumpet, which he plays in an equally distinctive style. In addition, he is an accomplished clarinetist, and has recorded proficiently on piano and trombone. As an arranger, he helped chart the course of big band jazz, and his compositions, such as *When Lights Are Low* and *Blues In My Heart*, have become jazz standards. Carter has also made major musical contributions to the world of film and television. His musicianship and personality have won him the respect of fellow artists and audiences on every continent.

Born in New York in 1907, Carter received his first music lessons on piano from his mother. He was attracted to the trumpet through his cousin, the legendary Cuban Bennett, and a neighbor, the great Ellington brass man Bubber Miley. Carter saved for months to buy a trumpet but, failing to master it over the weekend, he exchanged it for a C-melody saxophone. Frankie Trumbauer was an early inspiration to the young Benny, who was largely self-taught. By age fifteen, Carter was already sitting in at Harlem night spots.

From 1924 to 1928, Carter gained valuable professional experience as a sideman in some of New York's top bands. He also traveled to the midwest to work with the Wilberforce Collegians, and to Pittsburgh for a stint with Earl Hines. Carter's recording debut came in 1928 as a member of Charlie Johnson's Orchestra, which was based in Harlem's Small's Paradise. Two of the arrangements recorded that day were by Carter, who had somehow managed to teach himself the craft of arranging. Later that year, Carter joined Fletcher Henderson's seminal orchestra, assuming the arranging duties previously handled by Don Redman. Carter's innovative scores, particularly his writing for the sax section, revitalized the band and, according to scholar Gunther Schuller, "Carter was now the arranger everyone followed."

In 1931, Carter became musical director of another important musical organization: the Detroit-based McKinney's Cotton Pickers. Already a major force on alto, he now returned to his first love, the trumpet. Within two years, Carter was making trumpet recordings that rivaled his alto classics. On both instruments, Carter has always displayed a rare ability to conceive a solo as a whole, without losing the spark of spontaneity. In 1932, Carter returned to New York and soon began putting together his own orchestra, which eventually would include such swing stars as Chu Berry, Teddy Wilson, Sid Catlett, and Dicky Wells. As was the case with all Carter-led units, the group was known as a "musicians' band." Unfortunately, high musical standards did not ensure commercial success, especially during the depression, and by late 1934, Carter was forced to disband.

A timely invitation brought Carter to Paris in 1935 to play with Willie Lewis's orchestra. At the suggestion of music critic Leonard Feather, he was invited to England to serve as arranger for the BBC dance orchestra. Carter played an essential role in spreading jazz abroad. Over the next three years, he traveled throughout Europe, playing and recording with the top British, French, and Scandinavian jazzmen, as well as with visiting American stars such as his friend Coleman Hawkins. In Holland during this period, Carter also led the first international, interracial band. Returning home in 1938, Carter found the big band sounds, which he had helped shape, sweeping the country. He quickly formed another superb orchestra, which spent much of 1939 and 1940 at Harlem's famed Savoy Ballroom. His arrangements were much in demand and were featured on recordings by Benny Goodman, Count Basie, Duke Ellington, Glenn Miller, Gene Krupa, and Tommy Dorsey. In 1941, Carter pared down to a sextet, which included bebop pioneers Dizzy Gillespie and Kenny Clarke. In 1942, he brought a reorganized big band to California, where he has lived ever since. In the mid-1940s, the band included important modernists, such as Miles Davis, J.J. Johnson, Max Roach, and Art Pepper, all of whom have acknowledged their debt to Carter as a teacher. As Miles Davis once said: "Everyone should listen to Benny Carter. He's a whole musical education."

On the West Coast the versatile Carter moved increasingly into studio work. Beginning with "Stormy Weather" in 1943, he arranged for dozens of feature films and television productions. His credits encompass all musical idioms, from feature films such as *A Man Called Adam* and *Buck and the Preacher* to television shows, including *M Squad* and *Chrysler Theater*. He has provided arrangements for almost every major popular singer including Billie Holiday, Ella Fitzgerald, Sarah Vaughan, Lou Rawls, Ray Charles, Peggy Lee, Louis Armstrong, Pearl Bailey, Billy Eckstine and Mel Torme.

In the 1970s, Carter turned his talents in a new direction--education. He conducted seminars and workshops at many universities, and spent several semesters at Princeton, which awarded him an honorary doctorate in 1974. In 1987, Carter spent a week as visiting lecturer at Harvard. Other recent honors include induction into the Black Film Makers Hall of Fame (1978), the coveted Golden Score award of the American Society of Music Arrangers (1980), and appointment to the music advisory panel of the National Endowment of the Arts. In 1978, Carter was a guest at the White House, where he led a group at President Jimmy Carter's celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Newport Jazz Festival. He also led an orchestra for the 1984 inaugural of President Reagan and played at the White House in 1989 as a guest of President Bush.

In 1982, New York radio station WKCR marked Carter's 75th birthday by playing his music non-stop for 177 hours. Carter was also saluted at the 1984 Kool Festival with a retrospective concert. In 1987, Carter received a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences. His extended work, *Central City Sketches* (recorded in 1987 for Musicmasters with the American Jazz Orchestra) was nominated for a Grammy in 1988. Carter placed first in the 1989 Down Beat International Critics Poll in the arranger's category. Carter celebrated his 82nd birthday with a concert in Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall. He returned a year later to debut a new extended

work. In 1990, Carter was named “Jazz Artist of the Year” in both the Down Beat and Jazz Times International Critics’ polls.

In 1995 MusicMasters Records embarked on a project to bring Carter’s songwriting gifts to the fore. Sixteen leading singers collaborated on a unique recording project, The Benny Carter Songbook, which includes some thirty Carter songs--old and new--with Carter as featured soloist. Volume One of this collection has been issued and includes such vocal greats as Joe Williams, Dianne Reeves, Ruth Brown, Shirley Horn, Peggy Lee, and Bobby Short. 1996 also saw the release on home video of the highly acclaimed documentary on Carter, *Symphony in Riffs*.

In March of 1996 Carter’s multifaceted musical gifts were on display in a major event at Lincoln Center in New York. Carter appeared with the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra conducted by Wynton Marsalis in an evening of Carter’s music. In addition to performing some Carter classics, the Orchestra premiered a new suite, *Echoes of San Juan Hill*, the composer’s musical depiction of the New York neighborhood where he grew up.

Constantly evolving and absorbing, Carter’s playing retained the basic foundations that have always made it readily identifiable. He toured the world many times, written and performed five extended works, played unaccompanied saxophone on a film soundtrack, delivered a commencement address, jammed with the King of Thailand, and recorded over a dozen CDs in every conceivable setting (for which he received seven Grammy nominations and two Grammy awards). As he liked to say, “My good old days are here and now.” Benny Carter proved it every time he stepped on a stage. It is not surprising that, in a music populated by royalty, Benny Carter was known to his fellow musicians as “King.”

The Music:

Benny Carter’s *Easy Money* was written for one of two sessions the first Renaissance man of jazz made with the Count Basie Orchestra in the early 1960s. While retaining Carter’s distinct musical identity, it manages to be an excellent fit for the classic Basie band style at the same time.

Notes to the Conductor:

Taken at a quintessential medium swing tempo, the catchy melody is stated in unison by the horns from measures 8 to 24. The saxophones play a harmonized melody on the bridge at measure 25 with gently prodding brass accompaniment before the whole band comes together for the final A section at measure 32.

Beginning with a two bar break at measure 39, the spotlight is handed over to a trumpet solo for the next chorus, taken by lead trumpet master Snooky Young on the original recording. The backgrounds are mostly simple unison figures in the saxes for the A sections, breaking into basic but effective harmony for the bridge. Following this trumpet solo is a half chorus sax soli at measure 71, followed by a half-chorus of Benny Powell’s trombone at measure 89.

A key change at measure 105 sets up a Harmon-muted trumpet section soli that is revisited by the entire band at full blast at measure 129 following a piano solo. Another 8 bar piano solo at measure 145 sets up the melody recap at measure 153, with some slight variations in the final four bars of the chart. Some quick ensemble hits, a sax soli break, and one last warm brass chord bring everything to a gently effective conclusion.

This publication is not a transcription - it has been prepared from Benny Carter’s original score.

Acknowledgments:

Special thanks to Hilma Carter and Benny’s late longtime manager Ed Berger for entrusting us to preserve and protect Benny Carter’s legacy.

Doug DuBoff and Dylan Canterbury

August 2018

"EASY MONEY

Conductor

1st Alto

2nd Alto

1st Tenor

2nd Tenor

Baritone

1

2

3

4

Trumpets

1

2

3

4

Trombones

Guitar

Piano

Solo

Bass

Bass Solo

A

EASY

Col Alto

Col Tpt

Col Tpt

Col Alto

Col Tpt

Col Tpt

Col Alto

Col guitar + bass thruout

A handwritten musical score for the piece "Easy Money" by Benny Carter. The score is written on aged, yellowed paper and is organized into staves for various instruments. At the top left, the title "EASY MONEY" is written in black ink. A large, red, wavy line is drawn vertically across the right side of the page, starting from the top and ending near the bottom. The word "EASY" is written in large, red, cursive letters across the middle of the page, overlapping the red line. On the right side, there are several handwritten annotations in black ink, including "A" at the top right, "Col Alto", "Col Tpt", "Col Tpt", "Col Alto", "Col Tpt", "Col Tpt", and "Col Alto" arranged vertically. There are also some musical notations and symbols, such as a circled "4" and a circled "3". The score includes staves for Conductor, 1st and 2nd Alto, 1st and 2nd Tenor, Baritone, 1-4 Trumpets, 1-4 Trombones, Guitar, Piano, Solo Bass, and Bass Solo. The piano part has the instruction "Col guitar + bass thruout". The bass part has "Solo" and "Bass Solo" written above it.

Here is the first page of Benny Carter's score for *Easy Money* written in 1961 for the Count Basie Orchestra.

EASY MONEY

SCORE

RECORDED BY COUNT BASIE

MUSIC BY BENNY CARTER
ARRANGED BY BENNY CARTER

PREPARED BY DYLAN CANTERBURY, ROB DUBOFF AND JEFFREY SULTANOF

MEDIUM SWING $\text{♩} = 120$

The score is arranged for a jazz ensemble. The instruments and their parts are as follows:

- Alto Sax 1 & 2:** Play a melodic line starting in measure 8 with a *mp* dynamic.
- Tenore Sax 1 & 2:** Play a similar melodic line starting in measure 8 with a *mp* dynamic.
- Baritone Sax:** Plays a melodic line starting in measure 8 with a *mp* dynamic.
- Trumpet 1, 2, 3, & 4:** All parts are marked "(CUP MUTE)" and are silent throughout the score.
- Trombone 1, 2, & 3:** All parts are marked "(CUP MUTE)" and are silent throughout the score.
- Guitar:** Silent throughout the score.
- Piano:** Plays a rhythmic accompaniment starting in measure 5 with a *mp* dynamic.
- Bass:** Plays a walking bass line starting in measure 1 with a *mp* dynamic. Includes the marking "N.C." in measure 1.
- Drum Set:** Plays a rhythmic pattern starting in measure 1 with a *mp* dynamic. Includes markings "(BRUSHES)", "(4)", and "(6)".

The score is in 4/4 time and spans 8 measures.

9

A Sax. 1
A Sax. 2
T Sax. 1
T Sax. 2
B Sax.
TPT. 1
TPT. 2
TPT. 3
TPT. 4
TBN. 1
TBN. 2
TBN. 3
Gtr.
PNO.
B.S.
Dr.

Gm7 C13 Am7 D7 Gm7 C13 F6 Gm7 Am7 D7
Gm7 C13 Am7 D7 Gm7 C13 F6 Gm7 Am7 D7
LIGHT FILL LIGHT FILL LIGHT FILL LIGHT FILL

(4) (8)

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

EASY MONEY

SCORE - PAGE 3

(17)

A Sax. 1
A Sax. 2
T Sax. 1
T Sax. 2
B Sax.
Tpt. 1
Tpt. 2
Tpt. 3
Tpt. 4
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
Tbn. 3
Gtr.
Pno.
Bs.
Dr.

Gm7 C13 Am7 D7 Gm7 C13 F6
Gm7 C13 Am7 D7 Gm7 C13 F6
Gm7 C13 Am7 D7 Gm7 C13 F6

SM. FILLS

(4) (6)

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

(25)

A Sax. 1
A Sax. 2
T Sax. 1
T Sax. 2
B. Sax.
Tpt. 1
Tpt. 2
Tpt. 3
Tpt. 4
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
Tbn. 3
Gtr.
Pno.
Bs.
Dr.

F13 B^b6 G⁹ C⁷ D⁷
F13 B^b6 G⁹ C⁷ D⁷
F13 B^b6 G⁹ C⁷ D⁷

(4) (8)

25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32