

Song of the Northern Road

Russell Scarbrough

Commissioned by the Gates-Chili High School Jazz Ensemble
Christopher Oldfield, director

Instrumentation:

Soprano Saxophone
Alto Saxophone
Tenor Saxophone 1
Tenor Saxophone 2
Baritone Saxophone

Trumpet 1
Trumpet 2
Trumpet 3
Trumpet 4
Trumpet 5

Trombone 1
Trombone 2
Trombone 3
Bass Trombone

Vibraphone / Percussion
Guitar
Piano
Acoustic Bass
Drum Set

Notes on **SONG OF THE NORTHERN ROAD**:

This is a nice folk-song like tune that has a lot of melodic lines that come from different pentatonic scales, usually in groups of four pitches at a time. The opening call, in the saxophones, consists almost exclusively of the notes C, D, F, and G (adding the A only for the climactic moment). This can be used as an illustration of the advantage of limiting one's materials for improvisational purposes, for instance. One need not make use of the whole chromatic scale, even if all 12 tones are available — in fact, a restricted pitch set serves to unify melodic lines.

As for the shape of the piece, it should be pointed out that the highest peak in terms of energy occurs at 310; however, for me the emotional climax is actually 301-304, particularly in the inner moving parts: the A-Bb in the first trombone and rhythm is where the whole chart is leading to.

The coda, at 345, is a kind of return to the opening section, but with a pedal D in the rhythm and pairs of ascending 5ths. Note that the actual tempo does not change at 345, only the feel is half time. There should be a very gradual decelerando from 349, really putting the brakes on at 356. If vibes are present, he should continue to repeat his written arpeggio for the duration of the fermata, *fortissimo*.

The vibraphone and percussion part is not strictly essential, but they will certainly add a lot to the sound of the chart. Likewise, the 5th trumpet part may be considered optional, but is highly recommended. You may also consider having your guitarist play on an acoustic guitar, in the manner of Pat Metheny, if that is available.

Many thanks to Christopher Oldfield and the Gates-Chili High School Jazz Ensemble for inspiring the creation of this chart.

RS

Score

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18

EVEN 8THS $\text{♩} = 100$
SOLO, CON PASSIONE

The score is arranged in a standard orchestral format. The top section includes five saxophone staves: Soprano, Alto, Tenor 1, Tenor 2, and Baritone. The middle section contains five trumpet staves and three trombone staves (Tenor 1, Tenor 2, and Bass). Below these are staves for Vibes, Guitar, Piano (with two staves), and Bass. At the bottom is a Drum Set staff. The saxophone parts are active, featuring eighth-note patterns and melodic lines, while the other instruments are mostly in rests. A box number '18' is located at the top right of the page.

Opt: H.H. PEDAL ONLY (Dr Tracer)

33

SOPRANO

ALTO

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

BARISAX

TRP. 1

TRP. 2

TRP. 3

TRP. 4

TRP. 5

TEN. 1

TEN. 2

TEN. 3

BASS BONE

VIBES

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

D.S.

42

50

SOPRANO

ALTO

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

SAXI SAX

TRP. 1

TRP. 2

TRP. 3

TRP. 4

TRP. 5

SAX CUES

TEN. 1

TEN. 2

TEN. 3

SAXES BONE

SAX CUES

PLAY:

VIOLAS

GRS.

PNO.

BASS

ART. HARM.

D. S.

59

67

Musical score for *Song of the Northern Road*, page 4. The score includes parts for:

- Vocalists:** SOPRANO, ALTO, TENOR 1, TENOR 2, BARI SAX.
- Instrumentalists:** TRP. 1, TRP. 2, TRP. 3, TRP. 4, TRP. 5, TEN. 1, TEN. 2, TEN. 3, BASS BONE, VIOLA, GTR. (with notes: *AD LIB PALM MUTE*, *8th SIM.*, *G7sus/A*), PNO., BASS, D.S.

The score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It features a complex arrangement with multiple vocal lines and a rich instrumental texture. The piano part includes dense chordal textures and arpeggiated patterns. The guitar part features a palm-muted texture with a melodic line. The bass and double bass parts provide a solid harmonic foundation. The score is divided into measures 59 through 70.

This musical score page includes the following parts and markings:

- Vocal Parts:** SOPRANO, ALTO, TENOR 1, TENOR 2, BARI SAX, TRP. 1, TRP. 2, TRP. 3, TRP. 4, TRP. 5, TEN. 1, TEN. 2, TEN. 3, BASS BONE, VIOLAS, GTR., PNO., BASS, D. S.
- Chord Markings:** B^b9, G7sus/A, B^b9, G7sus/A, A^b13#11
- Performance Instructions:** (TO CASAS), (FULL)

83 91

SOPRANO

ALTO

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

BARI SAX

TRP. 1

TRP. 2

TRP. 3

TRP. 4

TRP. 5

TEN. 1

TEN. 2

TEN. 3

BASS BONE

PERC.

GR.

PNO.

BASS

D. S.

83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94