

# Touch

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Russell Scarbrough

Commissioned by the Brockport High School Jazz Ensemble  
Shawn Halquist & Andrew Stoker, directors

**Instrumentation:**

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

Trumpet 1  
Trumpet 2  
Trumpet 3  
Trumpet 4  
Trumpet 5 (optional)

Trombone 1  
Trombone 2  
Trombone 3  
Bass Trombone

Vibraphone (optional)  
Guitar  
Piano  
Bass  
Drum Set

## About **Touch**:

The title may refer to:

- a kind of soulful, human quality that should be applied to this work, even though it contains very little that sounds like the blues or funk. It's a melody-driven piece that needs to have red blood in it.
- the way we use the word "touch" when talking about how a pianist plays, for example, in the feeling and sound they get through their physical contact with the instrument.
- a restrained kind of contact that allows one to get a sense of warmth, life, or the subtleties within something; "touch" as opposed to "strike".

The rhythm section feel throughout is somewhere between a kind of latin-soul and modern jazz straight 8ths (the so-called "ECM feel"). The drummer should resist the temptation to lay back into a backbeat-oriented funk groove.... keep it subtle. An occasional rim-click on 3 might be OK (and from 154-167 this is written in), but a snare drum backbeat is not the style here.

As far as electric vs. acoustic bass / piano, either may work well in this piece. Use your discretion. An acoustic guitar, Pat Metheny style, might be nice.

Many thanks to Shawn Halquist, Andrew Stoker, and the Brockport High School Jazz Ensemble for the inspiration for this piece.

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EVEN 8THS ♩=180

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

- Alto Saxophone 1 & 2:** Play a melodic line with eighth notes and quarter notes, often with slurs.
- Tenor Saxophone 1 & 2:** Play a similar melodic line to the alts, sometimes with more rhythmic variation.
- Baritone Saxophone:** Provides a lower melodic line, often with a more sustained feel.
- Trumpet 1-5:** Play a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes, often with accents and slurs.
- Trombone 1-4:** Play a rhythmic pattern similar to the trumpets, often with a more sustained feel.
- Bass Trombone:** Provides a lower rhythmic line, often with a more sustained feel.
- Vibes:** Play a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes, often with a more sustained feel.
- Guitar:** Provides a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes, often with a more sustained feel. Chords are indicated below the staff:  $B^b_{m11}$ ,  $G_{m11}/C$ ,  $F_{m11}/B^b$ ,  $B^b_{m7}/C$ ,  $C^7_{m6}(b9)$ , and  $C^7(b9)$ .
- Piano:** Provides a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes, often with a more sustained feel.
- Bass:** Provides a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes, often with a more sustained feel.
- Drum Set:** Provides a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes, often with a more sustained feel. Includes markings for (FILL) and CLOSED H.H.

14

22

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

BARIT SAX

TRP. 1

TRP. 2

TRP. 3

TRP. 4

TRP. 5

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

TBN. 3

BASS BONE

VIBES

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

D. S.

CONTINUE GROOVE

30 38

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

BARI SAX

TRP. 1

TRP. 2

TRP. 3

TRP. 4

TRP. 5

TEN. 1

TEN. 2

TEN. 3

BASS BONE

VIOLA

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

D. S.

STOP TIME

TONG

G#15 G#15 C7(#9) F#m7 Abm7/Bb Dbm7/Eb C7(#9) Ebm7 F#m Am7/E Dm7 F#m7  
 G#15 G#15 C7(#9) F#m7 Abm7/Bb Dbm7/Eb C7(#9) Ebm7 F#m Am7/E Dm7 F#m7  
 F#m7 Abm7/Bb Dbm7/Eb C7(#9) Ebm7 F#m Am7/E F#m7

The musical score for page 4 of "Touch" includes the following parts and details:

- Vocalists:** ALTO 1, ALTO 2, TENOR 1, TENOR 2, and BARI SAX. The vocal lines feature melodic phrases with various articulations and dynamics.
- Instrumental Sections:** TRP. 1-5, TBN. 1-3, and BASS SAX. The trumpet and trombone parts provide harmonic support and melodic counterpoints.
- Keyboard and Bass:** PNO. (Piano), GTR. (Guitar), and BASS. The piano and guitar parts feature rhythmic patterns and chordal accompaniment. The bass line provides a steady harmonic foundation.
- Chord Progression:** The harmonic structure is defined by the following sequence of chords:  $D_{m7}$ ,  $F\sharp m7$ ,  $Bm7$ ,  $Bm7/E$ ,  $A$ ,  $C\sharp m7/G\sharp$ ,  $Gm7$ , and  $B\flat m7/C$ .
- Performance Markings:** The score includes dynamic markings such as  $mf$  and  $f$ , and performance instructions like "STOP TIME" and "(FILL)".

54

Musical score for Touch, page 5. The score includes parts for Alto 1, Alto 2, Tenor 1, Tenor 2, Bari Sax, Trp. 1, Trp. 2, Trp. 3, Trp. 4, Trp. 5, Ten. 1, Ten. 2, Ten. 3, Bass Bone, Vibes, Gtr., PNO., Bass, and D.S. The score is in 4/4 time and features a key signature of one sharp (F#). The Alto 1 part is marked "SOLI w/ BONE" and the Ten. 1 part is marked "SOLI w/ ALTO". The D.S. part includes markings for "DRMS ON H.H." and "(FILL)".