

# The Music of Billy Strayhorn for Brass Quintet

BILLY STRAYHORN  
Arranged by ZACHARY SMITH

## INSTRUMENTATION

Conductor  
1st B $\flat$  Trumpet  
2nd B $\flat$  Trumpet  
Horn in F  
1st Trombone  
Tuba

SMALL  
ENSEMBLE  
SERIES

 **Belwin** JAZZ  
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## NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

This arrangement is designed as a showpiece when played in its entirety, but you could perform each song individually if desired. For example, to perform “Raincheck” as a stand-alone piece, play mm. 1–71. To play only “Chelsea Bridge,” begin with the pick-ups in m. 72 and end by adding a *fermata* to m. 104. To play only “Take the A Train,” the familiar intro begins in m. 105 to the end.

“Raincheck” has been arranged as an up-tempo swing. Pay close attention to the articulations and accents. Regarding articulation, a *staccato* marking is short (think “dit”), and notes marked with a *marcato*, or rooftop (▲), markings are detached, accented, and played for their full value (think “daht”).

When played at the suggested tempo, the figures will swing so there is no need to overdo or “force” a swing feel. Tuba should connect quarter notes and put an emphasis on beats 2 and 4 when playing the line that begins in m. 9. The trombone player must be careful not to rush the solo beginning at m. 40.

Typical of a ballad, the eighth notes should be played straight in “Chelsea Bridge.” This arrangement features a lot of thick and close harmonies. The quintet should play the harmony notes with confidence, particularly in mm. 95–96 and mm. 99–100, which are a bit dissonant—don’t shy away from this dissonance.

“Take the A Train” is performed as an up-tempo swing. Again, players will not need to “swing” the figures—they will swing naturally when the “ands,” or upbeats, of the eighth notes are lightly emphasized. Tuba should play the “walking bass line” quarter notes, which should be connected with a light emphasis on beats 2 and 4. Look over mm. 143–146. The most important aspect of this figure is to relax the triplets—avoid rushing. Strive to have trumpet 2 and tuba land together on beat 1 of m. 147. For those unfamiliar with plunger markings, the “+” indicates to cover the bell, and the “o” indicates open bell. Maintain a steady tempo as the dynamic level decreases.

Enjoy!

—Zachary Smith



**Zachary  
Smith**

Zachary Smith is a noted composer, arranger, and professional trumpet player and has led the New Orleans music ensemble Dixie Power Trio for the past twenty-five years. He earned a BS in jazz performance at the University of North Texas and has maintained a busy performing, writing, and teaching schedule in the Washington, D.C. area. Zack has a garnered a large following as an arranger for his brass ensemble writing and won the 2012 Humboldt State University Brass Chamber Music competition.

CONDUCTOR  
41172S

# THE MUSIC OF BILLY STRAYHORN

for Brass Quintet

By Billy Strayhorn  
Arranged by Zachary Smith

BRIGHT SWING  $\text{♩} = 180$

1 2

8b TRUMPETS

HORN IN F

TROMBONE

TUBA

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

9 "RAINCHECK"

1 2

TRPTS.

HN.

TBN.

TUBA

9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16

17

1 2

TRPTS.

HN.

TBN.

TUBA

17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24

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CONDUCTOR

25

1 TPRS.

2 TPRS.

HN.

TBN.

TUBA

25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32

33

1 TPRS.

2 TPRS.

HN.

TBN.

TUBA

33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40

SOLO

41

1 TPRS.

2 TPRS.

HN.

TBN.

TUBA

41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48

CONDUCTOR

49

1 TPRS.

2 TPRS.

HN.

TBN.

TUBA

49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56

Solo

57

1 TPRS.

2 TPRS.

HN.

TBN.

TUBA

57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64

65

1 TPRS.

2 TPRS.

HN.

TBN.

TUBA

65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72

"CHELSEA BRIDGE"  
SLOWLY  $\text{♩} = 72$

Solo

73

1  
TPTs.

2

HN.

TBN.

TUBA

73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80

81

1  
TPTs. HARMON MUTE

2  
TPTs. HARMON MUTE

HN.

TBN.

TUBA

81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88

89

1  
TPTs.

2

HN.

TBN.

TUBA

89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96

CONDUCTOR

97

1 TPTS.

2 TPTS.

HN.

TBN.

TUBA

97 98 99 100 101 102 103 104

105 BRIGHT SWING  $\text{♩} = 108$

1 TPTS.

2 TPTS.

HN.

TBN.

TUBA

105 106 107 108 109 110 111

To STRAIGHT MUTE

109 "TAKE THE A TRAIN"

112

1 TPTS.

2 TPTS.

HN.

TBN.

TUBA

112 113 114 115 116 117 118

117



CONDUCTOR

119 120 121 122 123 124 125 126

1 TPRS. 2 TPRS. HN. TBN. TUBA

OPEN SOLO

127 128 129 130 131 132 133 134

1 TPRS. 2 TPRS. HN. TBN. TUBA

133

135 136 137 138 139 140 141 142

1 TPRS. 2 TPRS. HN. TBN. TUBA



143

1 2

TRPs.

HN.

TBN.

TUBA

143 144 145 146 147 148 149 150

*Solo*

*mf*

151

1 2

TRPs.

HN.

TBN.

TUBA

151 152 153 154 155 156 157 158

159

1 2

TRPs.

HN.

TBN.

TUBA

159 160 161 162 163 164 165 166

CONDUCTOR

167

1

2

HN.

TBN.

TUBA

*mf*

*mf*

*mf*

*mf*

TO PLUNGER

TO PLUNGER

167 168 169 170 171 172 173 174

175

1

2

HN.

TBN.

TUBA

*mf*

*mf*

*mf*

*mf*

*mf*

175 176 177 178 179 180

1

2

HN.

TBN.

TUBA

181 182 183 184 185 186

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