

Little Bird: An Examination of the
Early Alto Saxophone Style of Jimmy
Heath

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MERRY LEE (AKA HACKENSACK)

(DECEMBER, 1947)

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff contains measures 1-4 with chords D Δ , G⁷, D Δ , F \sharp -⁷, and B⁷. The second staff contains measures 5-8 with chords E-⁷, A⁷, and D Δ . The third staff contains measures 9-12 with chords D Δ , G⁷, D Δ , F \sharp -⁷, and B⁷. The fourth staff contains measures 13-16 with chords E-⁷, A⁷, and D Δ . The score includes several triplet markings (3) and rests.

DOWN HOME

(DECEMBER, 1947)

1 G7 C7 G7 D-7 G7

3

5 C7 G7 B-7 E7

3

9 A-7 D7 G7 D7

3

13 G7 C7 G7 D-7 G7

3

17 C7 G7 B-7 E7

3

21 A-7 D7 G7 D7

3

25

HOT AND MELLOW (AKA YARDBIRD SUITE)

(FEBRUARY, 1948)

1 A^{Δ} D^{-7} G^7 A^7 G^7 $F^{\#7}$

6 B^7 E^7

8 A^{Δ} $D^{\#07}$ $G^{\#7}$ ALT.

AL'S TUNE

(MAY, 1948)

1 D7 G7 D7 A-7 D7

5 G7 D7 F#-7 B7

9 E-7 A7 D7 A7

13 D7 G7 D7 A-7 D7

17 G7 D7 F#-7 B7

21 E-7 A7 D7 A7

Detailed description: The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. It consists of six staves of music. The first staff contains measures 1-4 with chords D7, G7, D7, A-7, and D7. The second staff contains measures 5-8 with chords G7, D7, F#-7, and B7. The third staff contains measures 9-12 with chords E-7, A7, D7, and A7. The fourth staff contains measures 13-16 with chords D7, G7, D7, A-7, and D7. The fifth staff contains measures 17-20 with chords G7, D7, F#-7, and B7. The sixth staff contains measures 21-24 with chords E-7, A7, D7, and A7. The score includes various rhythmic patterns, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and several triplet markings.

HOW HIGH THE MOON

(MAY, 1948)

Chords: E Δ , E-7, A7, D Δ , D-7, G7, C Δ , F# Δ 7, B7, E-7, F# Δ 7, B7, G#-7, C#7, F#-7, B7, E Δ , E-7, A7, D Δ , D-7, G7, C Δ , F# Δ 7, B7, E Δ , F#-7, B7, G#-7, C#7, F#-7, B7, E Δ , E-7, A7.

2

38 D^{Δ} D^{-7} G^7

42 C^{Δ} $F^{\#o7}$ B^7 E^{-7} $F^{\#o7}$ B^7

46 $G^{\#-7}$ $C^{\#7}$ $F^{\#-7}$ B^7

3
DELAYED -----

50 E^{Δ} E^{-7} A^7

54 D^{Δ} D^{-7} G^7

58 C^{Δ} $F^{\#o7}$ B^7 E^{Δ} $F^{\#-7}$ B^7

62 $G^{\#-7}$ $C^{\#7}$ $F^{\#-7}$ B^7 E^{Δ} $F^{\#-7}$ B^7 E^{Δ}

3
DELAYED --

BOP EN VOGUE

(MAY, 1948)

1 G7 C7 G7 D-7 G7

5 C7 G7 B-7 E7

9 A-7 D7 G7 D7

13 G7 C7 G7 D-7 G7

17 C7 G7 B-7 E7

21 A-7 D7 G7 D7

Detailed description: The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. It consists of six staves of music. The first staff (measures 1-4) starts with a G7 chord, followed by a triplet of eighth notes (G4, A4, B4), then a quarter note (C5), a quarter note (B4), and a quarter note (A4). The second staff (measures 5-8) begins with a C7 chord, a triplet of eighth notes (B4, A4, G4), followed by a quarter note (F#4), a quarter note (E4), a quarter note (D4), and a quarter note (C4). The third staff (measures 9-12) starts with an A-7 chord, a quarter note (G#4), a quarter note (F#4), a quarter note (E4), and a quarter note (D4). The fourth staff (measures 13-16) begins with a G7 chord, a triplet of eighth notes (F#4, E4, D4), followed by a quarter note (C4), a quarter note (B3), a quarter note (A3), and a quarter note (G3). The fifth staff (measures 17-20) starts with a C7 chord, a quarter note (B3), a quarter note (A3), a quarter note (G3), and a quarter note (F#3). The sixth staff (measures 21-24) begins with an A-7 chord, a quarter note (G3), a quarter note (F#3), a quarter note (E3), and a quarter note (D3). The score includes various chord changes and rhythmic patterns, including several triplet markings.

NICOLE

(MAY, 1948)

87

5

9

13

Chords: 87, #E7, A7, D7, G Δ , E⁻⁷, A⁻⁷, D7, B⁻⁷, E7, A⁻⁷, D7, D⁻⁷, G7, C Δ , C⁻⁷, G Δ , A⁻⁷, D7, G Δ

DONNA LEE

(MAY, 1948)

Musical score for Donna Lee in 4/4 time. The score consists of eight staves of music, each with a measure number and a key signature of one flat (Bb). The chords and melodic lines are as follows:

- Staff 1: Measure 1 (FΔ), Measure 2 (D7), Measure 3 (G7), Measure 4 (rest).
- Staff 2: Measure 5 (G-7), Measure 6 (C7), Measure 7 (FΔ), Measure 8 (C-7), Measure 9 (F7).
- Staff 3: Measure 9 (BbΔ), Measure 10 (Eb7), Measure 11 (FΔ), Measure 12 (D7). Includes triplets in measures 9, 10, and 11.
- Staff 4: Measure 13 (G7), Measure 14 (G-7), Measure 15 (C7).
- Staff 5: Measure 17 (FΔ), Measure 18 (D7), Measure 19 (G7).
- Staff 6: Measure 21 (Eø7), Measure 22 (A7), Measure 23 (D-), Measure 24 (A7). Includes a triplet in measure 22.
- Staff 7: Measure 25 (D-), Measure 26 (A7), Measure 27 (D-), Measure 28 (Ab°), Measure 29 (melodic line).
- Staff 8: Measure 29 (A-7), Measure 30 (D7), Measure 31 (G-7), Measure 32 (C7), Measure 33 (FΔ), Measure 34 (C7), Measure 35 (FΔ).

BIG WILL (AKA WAHOO)

(MAY, 1948)

1 A-7 D7 G Δ E7

5 A-7 D7 G Δ E7

9 A-7 D7 G Δ E7

13 A-7 D7 G Δ B7