

Great Big Ball with a Map Wrapped Around It

by RICK HIRSCH (2007)

FOR LARGE JAZZ ENSEMBLE

5 Saxes (2 altos, 2 tenors, 1 bari)

5 Trumpets

4 Trombones (incl. 1 Bass Tbn.)

Guitar*

Piano

Bass

Drums

** guitar not in score, but part provided*

IMPROVISED SOLO: Alto Saxophone

Alternate parts included for Baritone Saxophone solo

DURATION: 4 minutes

LEVEL: MEDIUM-ADVANCED

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Good, jazzy music from Pennsylvania

PROGRAM NOTES

The first time my oldest daughter realized that she was seeing the horizon was when she was about three or four. We were standing on the Milwaukee shore of Lake Michigan looking out over the water, which might as well have been an ocean.

After taking it in for a few minutes, she looked up at me and said “Daddy, is the earth just a great big ball with a mapped wrapped around it?” I knew then that I had to burn this one into the memory banks!

In *Great Big Ball* I attempt to capture the earnestness and simplicity of my daughter's inquiry, the weightlessness of looking out over an expanse of water, and the joy I feel looking back on a young child's “a-ha” moment.

I hope this music makes you, your musicians, and your audiences feel good, too.

Sincerely,

~ *Rick Hirsch*

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REHEARSAL & PERFORMANCE NOTES

I'd encourage you to listen to Bob Brookmeyer's *Ding, Dong, Ding* and *Hello and Goodbye* from the 1980 album *Live At The Village Vanguard* (Mel Lewis and the Jazz Orchestra). As of this writing, you can find it on iTunes.

Although it is by no means a copycat chart*, *Great Big Ball* does exhibit some of the influence Brookmeyer has had on my musical outlook. And this recording may suggest possibilities for how your group might interpret the phrases.

Great Big Ball is melody-driven. The melodic lines should be played expressively and should be very swinging. During the saxophone solo, the rhythm section can cut loose and be very free-wheeling.

* I prefer overt (and covert) thievery to poor imitation (of the masters). The last two or three bars of GBB are a case in point.

(LIVELY SWING) ♩ = 94

LIGHTLY

(TIME: SYNCOPATED ELVIN-ISH SWING,

Great Big Ball . . . 2

9

Score for **Great Big Ball . . . 2**, measures 10 through 16.

SAXES

- E♭ ALTO 1
- E♭ ALTO 2
- B♭ TENOR 1
- B♭ TENOR 2
- E♭ BARITONE

B♭ TRPTS

- 1ST
- 2ND
- 3RD
- 4TH
- 5TH

TRBS

- 1ST
- 2ND
- 3RD
- 4TH

PIANO

BASS

DRUMS

Annotations:

- (Solo)** markings above the Saxophone staves in measures 10, 11, 12, 14, and 15.
- (Sim. Time Throughout)** marking above the Drums staff in measure 10.
- 2** (fingerings) markings above the Piano and Bass staves in measures 12, 14, and 16.

Watermark: PREVIEW

SAXES

E♭ ALTO 1
E♭ ALTO 2
B♭ TENOR 1
B♭ TENOR 2
E♭ BARITONE

LIGHTLY
mf

B♭ TRPTS
1ST
2ND
3RD
4TH
5TH

TRBS
1ST
2ND
3RD
4TH

mf

PIANO

G² G²/F E_m¹¹ G²/E_b G²/D A⁹/C#

BASS

(TIME) MELODY CUE:

DRUMS

1.

SAXES

E♭ ALTO 1

E♭ ALTO 2

B♭ TENOR 1

B♭ TENOR 2

E♭ BARITONE

1ST

2ND

3RD

4TH

5TH

B♭ TRPTS

1ST

2ND

3RD

4TH

TRBS

PIANO

BASS

DRUMS

PREVIEW

25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34

Great Big Ball . . . 5

DRUM:

Eb ALTO 1
 Eb ALTO 2
 Bb TENOR 1
 Bb TENOR 2
 Eb BARITONE
 1ST
 2ND
 3RD
 4TH
 5TH
 1ST
 2ND
 3RD
 4TH
 PIANO
 BASS
 DRUMS

Saxes
 Bb TRPTS
 TRBS

YOU'RE THE LEAD
 (SOLO)
 mf
 f
 G²
 G²/F
 E_m11
 F#m7(b5)
 E_m7
 G/E_b
 G²/D
 A⁹/C#
 TIME
 MELODY CUE

Great Big Ball . . . 7

58

E² SOLO BREAKS AD-LIBE²/DC#m¹¹

Score for Great Big Ball . . . 7, measures 51-58.

Key Signature: Two sharps (F# and C#).

Instrumentation: Eb ALTO 1, Eb ALTO 2, Bb TENOR 1, Bb TENOR 2, Eb BARITONE, 1ST, 2ND, 3RD, 4TH, 5TH Bb TRPTS, 1ST, 2ND, 3RD, 4TH TRBS, PIANO, BASS, DRUMS.

Chord Progression: E² (measures 51-52), E²/D (measures 53-54), C#m¹¹ (measures 55-58).

Notation: The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings (e.g., *f*, *sf*, *sfz*). A large, diagonal watermark "PREVIEW" is overlaid across the score.

Measure Details:

- Measure 51: Chord C^{MA7}. Saxophone solo (SAX.) and drum solo (DRM.) markings.
- Measure 52: Chord A5 15. Saxophone solo (SAX.) and drum solo (DRM.) markings.
- Measure 53: Chord G². Saxophone solo (SAX.) and drum solo (DRM.) markings.
- Measure 54: Chord G²/F. Saxophone solo (SAX.) and drum solo (DRM.) markings.
- Measure 55: Chord G²/F. Saxophone solo (SAX.) and drum solo (DRM.) markings.
- Measure 56: Chord G²/F. Saxophone solo (SAX.) and drum solo (DRM.) markings.
- Measure 57: Chord C#m¹¹. Saxophone solo (SAX.) and drum solo (DRM.) markings.
- Measure 58: Chord C#m¹¹. Saxophone solo (SAX.) and drum solo (DRM.) markings.

61

C MA7(b5)

Score for Great Big Ball . . . 8, page 61. The score is for a jazz ensemble and includes the following parts:

- SAXES**: Eb ALTO 1, Eb ALTO 2, Bb TENOR 1, Bb TENOR 2, Eb BARITONE.
- Bb TRPTS**: 1ST, 2ND, 3RD, 4TH, 5TH.
- TRBS**: 1ST, 2ND, 3RD, 4TH.
- PIANO**: PIANO.
- BASS**: BASS.
- DRUMS**: DRUMS.

The score is marked with a large diagonal watermark reading "PREVIEW".

Key musical elements and markings include:

- Chord symbols: C MA7(b5), Eb MA7(b5), (Ab MA7(b5)), (As 1b).
- Dynamic markings: *mf* (mezzo-forte).
- Performance instructions: **FILL**, **TIME**.
- Measure numbers: 59, 60, 62, 63, 64.

Great Big Ball . . . 9

SOLO BREAK
GMA⁹

Score for **Great Big Ball . . . 9**, featuring a **SOLO BREAK** in **GMA⁹**.

SAXES

- E♭ ALTO 1
- E♭ ALTO 2
- B♭ TENOR 1
- B♭ TENOR 2
- E♭ BARITONE

B♭ TRPTS

- 1ST
- 2ND
- 3RD
- 4TH
- 5TH

TRBS

- 1ST
- 2ND
- 3RD
- 4TH

PIANO

BASS

DRUMS

MELODY CUE:

65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72

Chord progression: E_m11, F_{MA}7(b5), E_m7, G/E♭, G/D, A⁹/C#, C_{MA}7, A5/b6.

Performance markings include **mf** (mezzo-forte), **STRONG**, and **OCTAVES**.

Great Big Ball . . . 10

73

E $\flat$ MA 9 E $\flat$ /DC $\sharp$ M $^{\flat}$ 11CMA7($\flat$ 5)

Score for Great Big Ball . . . 10, measures 73-80.

SAXES

- E $\flat$ ALTO 1: (2x $^{\circ}$)
- E $\flat$ ALTO 2: (2x $^{\circ}$) *f*
- B $\flat$ TENOR 1: (2x $^{\circ}$) *f*
- B $\flat$ TENOR 2: (2x $^{\circ}$) *f*
- E $\flat$ BARITONE: (2x $^{\circ}$) *f*

B $\flat$ TRPTS

- 1ST: (PLAY BOTH X'S) *f*, *mf*, *f*, *mf*, *sfz*
- 2ND: *f*, *mf*, *f*, *mf*, *sfz*
- 3RD: *f*, *mf*, *f*, *mf*, *sfz*
- 4TH: *f*, *mf*, *f*, *mf*, *sfz*
- 5TH: *f*, *mf*, *f*, *mf*, *sfz*

TRBS

- 1ST: (PLAY BOTH X'S) *f*, *mf*, *f*, *mf*, *sfz*
- 2ND: *f*, *mf*, *f*, *mf*, *sfz*
- 3RD: *f*, *mf*, *f*, *mf*, *sfz*
- 4TH: *f*, *mf*, *f*, *mf*, *sfz*

PIANO

(COMP FOR BARI SOLO)

GMA 9 G $\flat$ /F E $\flat$ M $^{\flat}$ 11 E $\flat$ MA7($\flat$ 5) AbMA7($\flat$ 5)

BASS

GMA 9 G $\flat$ /F E $\flat$ M $^{\flat}$ 11 E $\flat$ MA7($\flat$ 5) AbMA7($\flat$ 5)

DRUMS

(TIME)

Measures: 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80.