

Probable Cause

by RICK HIRSCH (2008)

FOR LARGE JAZZ ENSEMBLE

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

4 Trumpets

4 Trombones (incl. 1 Bass Tbn.)

Guitar

Piano

Bass

Drums

Auxiliary Percussion

IMPROVISED SOLOS: Open choruses for any player

DURATION: 3+ minutes

LEVEL: MEDIUM-EASY

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Good, jazzy music from Pennsylvania

PROGRAM NOTES

The assignment: write something for a high school's "second" or developmental jazz band. Make it a suitable solo vehicle, open to all improvisors. And make it an easy read.

Brass ranges are modest, scoring is homogenous, and melodic-rhythmic material is limited to a few straightforward ideas.

In *Probable Cause*, everyone has the opportunity to improvise—even the director, who is instructed to mix-and-match the written background figures at his/her will. So, this chart should never sound the same way twice.

By golly, if a student is going to be asked to make something up on the spot, then the director should have a chance to do the same.

Incidentally, I wrote *Probable Cause* as part of a double-commission / mini-residency with the Hollidaysburg Area High School jazz bands. I also wrote *Catch Me If You Can!* for the advanced jazz band.

Dig it!

~ Rick Hirsch

CONTACT ME

Rick@HirschMusic.com

(814) 867-9935

REHEARSAL & PERFORMANCE NOTES

Use this tune as a vehicle for developing your improvisors. Two different pentatonic scales are suggested to keep pitch-choice options simple.

During rehearsal, I strongly suggest that you have multiple students solo at once. This allows more students to participate and relieves them of an unwanted spotlight if they're the only soloist.

Have fun with the background figures at m.41-A. The note in the score should suffice.

Encourage the rhythm section players to play whatever sounds right to them. They'll probably come up with something better than I did!

Since I don't have anything available at this time, I'd encourage you to record several choruses of your rhythm section playing the solo form. You can post this online and share with your students as a practice play-along track.

Probable Cause

by RICK HIRSCH

(LATIN ROCK) ♩ = 172

5 (PLAY END X⁰)

SAXES

E♭ ALTO 1

E♭ ALTO 2

B♭ TENOR 1

B♭ TENOR 2

E♭ BARITONE

B♭ TRPTS

1ST

2ND

3RD

4TH

TRBS

1ST

2ND

3RD

4TH

GUITAR

PIANO

BASS

DRUMS

SHAKER

(HARMON) (BOTH X'S)

(HARMON) (BOTH X'S)

(OPEN)

(OPEN)

(TIME) CLOSED HI-HAT

CROSS-STICK

CLOSED HI-HAT

(TIME)

CROSS-STICK

2

mp

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

SAXES

E♭ ALTO 1

E♭ ALTO 2

B♭ TENOR 1

B♭ TENOR 2

E♭ BARITONE

B♭ TRPTS

1ST

2ND

3RD

4TH

TRBS

1ST

2ND

3RD

4TH

GUITAR

PIANO

BASS

DRUMS

SHAKER

9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14. 15. 16.

2

2

TONS

(FILL)

(OPEN AT 17) →

(OPEN AT 17) →

PREVIEW

17

SAXES

E♭ ALTO 1

E♭ ALTO 2

B♭ TENOR 1

B♭ TENOR 2

E♭ BARITONE

B♭ TRPTS

1ST

2ND

3RD

4TH

TRBS

1ST

2ND

3RD

4TH

GIITAR

PIANO

BASS

DRUMS

SHAKER

17. 18. 19. 20. 21. 22. 23. 24.

(f)

(OPEN)

(TIME) CLOSED HI-HAT

(TIME)

2

2

2

SAXES

E♭ ALTO 1

E♭ ALTO 2

B♭ TENOR 1

B♭ TENOR 2

E♭ BARITONE

B♭ TRPTS

1ST

2ND

3RD

4TH

TRBS

1ST

2ND

3RD

4TH

GUITAR

PIANO

BASS

DRUMS

SHAKER

25. 26. 27. 28. 29. 30. 31. 32.

PREVIEW

CRSC.

f

Gm7

(RIDE CYM.)

(TIME RIDE CYM.)

2

SAXES

E♭ ALTO 1

E♭ ALTO 2

B♭ TENOR 1

B♭ TENOR 2

E♭ BARITONE

B♭ TRPTS

1ST

2ND

3RD

4TH

TRBS

1ST

2ND

3RD

4TH

GUITAR

PIANO

BASS

DRUMS

SHAKER

33. 34. 35. 36. 37. 38. 39. 40.

Cm7 *Gm7*

Rit

41

OPEN FOR SOLOS PLAY BACKGROUNDS @ (41-A) ON CUE

SOLOISTS CAN USE EITHER OR BOTH OF THESE SCALES THROUGHOUT SOLO

Score for Probable... 6, measures 41-48.

Key Signature: E major (one sharp).

Instrumentation: Eb Alto 1, Eb Alto 2, Saxes (SAXES), Bb Tenor 1, Bb Tenor 2, Eb Baritone, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th Bb Trpts (Bb TRPTS), 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th Trbns (TRBS), Guitar, Piano, Bass, Drums, Shaker.

Chord Progression:

- Measures 41-44: E_{MI} (Alto 1, Alto 2, Baritone, Trbns 1-4), A_{MI} (Saxes, Trbns 1-4), G_{MI} (Trbns 1-4).
- Measures 45-46: A_{MI} (Alto 1, Alto 2, Baritone, Trbns 1-4), D_{MI} (Saxes, Trbns 1-4), C_{MI} (Trbns 1-4).
- Measures 47-48: E_{MI} (Alto 1, Alto 2, Baritone, Trbns 1-4), A_{MI} (Saxes, Trbns 1-4), G_{MI} (Trbns 1-4).

Scale Information: E-min Pentatonic and B-min Pentatonic scales are indicated for soloists.

Performance Notes: The score includes a large "PREVIEW" watermark across the center. The Shaker part is marked with a "TIME" cue at measure 41.