The Composer

Dean Sorenson (b. 1963) is the Director of Jazz Studies at the University of Minnesota as well as a prolific and highly sought-after composer, arranger, trombonist, educator, and clinician. He received his bachelor's degree in trombone performance from the University of Minnesota and his master's degree in jazz arranging and composition from the Eastman School of Music.

Mr. Sorenson is the co-author of the highly successful *Standard of Excellence Jazz Ensemble Method*, an innovative and comprehensive method book for young jazz ensembles. The highly anticipated follow-up book, *Standard of Excellence Advanced Jazz Ensemble Method*, was released to rave reviews and continues the solid, practical techniques introduced in the first book. He is also the author of *Standard of Excellence Jazz Combo Session*, and composer of numerous pieces for concert band and jazz ensemble published by the Neil A. Kjos Music Company. As an advocate of jazz education and the expansion of the repertoire, he continues to develop creative materials and methods to help students and teachers better understand the art form. An outstanding clinician, conductor, and soloist, he is frequently featured at festivals and conventions around the country and abroad. He also maintains a full schedule of concert and recording dates as a Yamaha performing artist.

Mr. Sorenson has composed and arranged for numerous ensembles including the Glenn Miller Orchestra, the Airmen of Note, the United States Air Force Band, and for brass ensembles Proteus 7 and the Chestnut Brass Company. He is active as a commissioned composer and arranger for jazz ensemble, concert band, and chamber ensembles, and has also written several sacred choral pieces. Dean is listed in "Who's Who of America's Teachers", and holds memberships in the International Association for Jazz Education (IAJE), a member of the International Trombone Association (ITA), the American Federation of Musicians, Local 30-73 (AFM), the Music Educator's National Conference (MENC), Minnesota Music Educator's Association (MMEA), the College Music Society (CMS), the American Composer's Forum (ACF) and the Twin Cities Jazz Society (TCJS). For more information please visit www.deansorensonmusic.com.

The Composition

THE CAT'S MEOW is straight-ahead swinger in the same vein as Benny Golson's classic Killer Joe. The melody is a very simple riff that repeats at different levels over the course of the form. The cat who inspired the tune is a furry exotic Persian who took up residence in our house about two years ago named Berlioz. Like most cats, his life consists mainly of eating and sleeping. He most often resides at the top of the stairs (never bothers to try to get out of the way) and has a habit of waking us up very early in the morning.

As with all Standard of Excellence Advanced Jazz In Concert selections, THE CAT'S MEOW is designed to be played by the full jazz ensemble. The chart will, however, sound full and complete when performed by as few as nine players: 1st and 2nd Alto Saxophones, 1st Tenor Saxophone, 1st and 2nd Trumpets, 1st Trombone, Piano, Bass, and Drums. The solo section of THE CAT'S MEOW (score pages XX-XX, bars 57-72) is equally flexible and can be repeated as necessary to accommodate multiple soloists. A CD containing a demonstration recording of the chart is attached to the THE CAT'S MEOW jacket (CD Track X).

To allow as many students as possible the opportunity to experience a jazz education, THE CAT'S MEOW and all other *Standard of Excellence Advanced Jazz In Concert* selections include optional supplemental parts for flute, B♭ clarinet, French horn, and tuba. The included parts are readily adaptable for other non-standard jazz ensemble instruments (oboe, bassoon, E♭ alto clarinet, B♭ bass clarinet, baritone/euphonium, violin, viola, and cello).

Instrumentation List

1 – 1st Alto Saxophone
1 – 2nd Alto Saxophone
1 – 1st Tenor Saxophone
1 – 2nd Tenor Saxophone
1 – Baritone Saxophone
1 – 1st Trumpet
1 – 2nd Trumpet
1 – 3rd Trumpet
1 – 4th Trumpet
1 – 1st Trombone
1 – 2nd Trombone
1 – 3rd Trombone
1 – 4th Trombone
1 – Guitar
1 – Piano
1 – Bass
1 – Drums
1 – Vibes
1 – Flute
1 – Clarinet
1 – French Horn
1 – Baritone T.C. (Trombone 3 T.C.)
1 – Tuba
1 – Director Score

The Contributing Editor

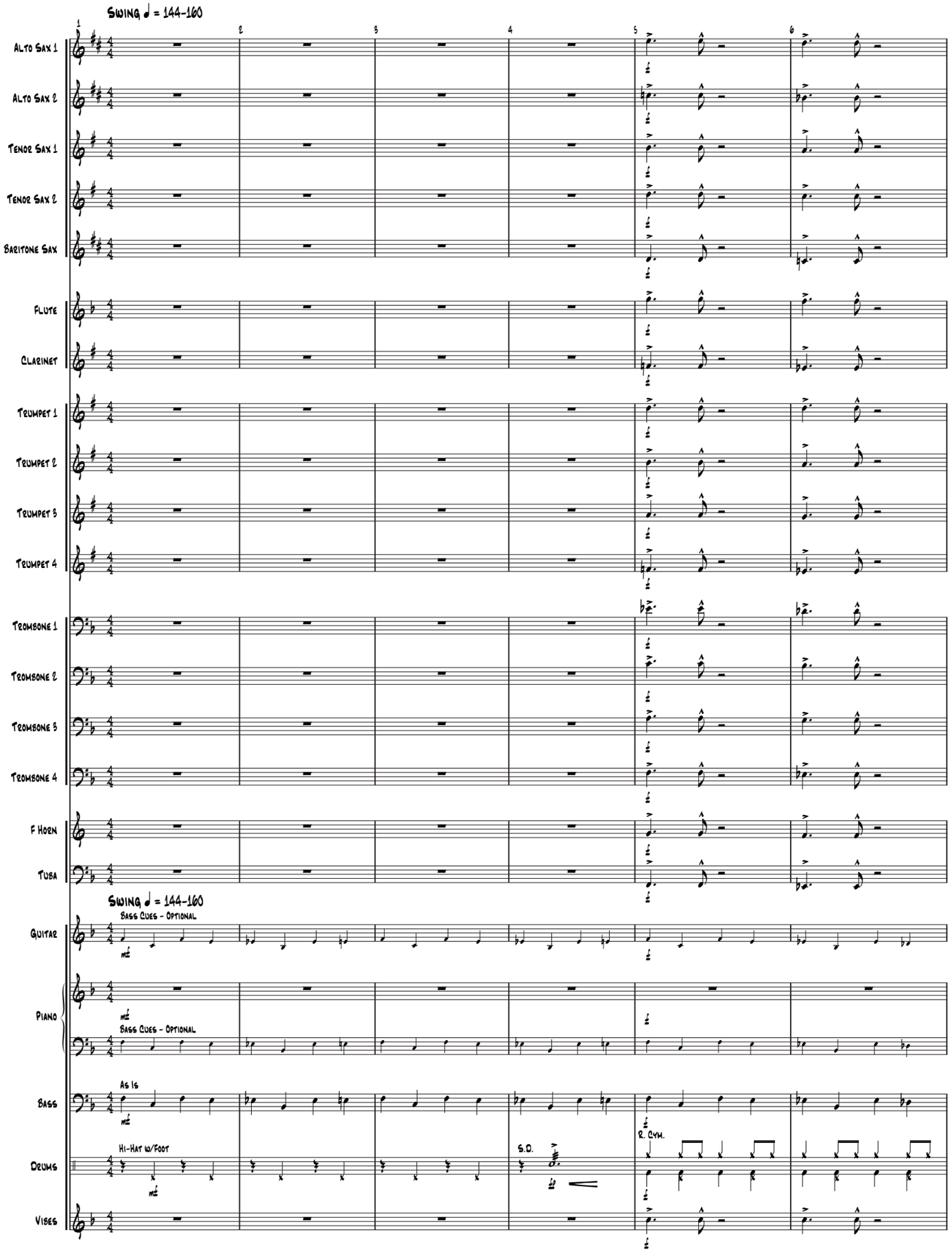
Bruce Pearson (b. 1942) is a world-renowned educator, composer, author, and conductor. A graduate of St. Cloud State University and the University of Northern Colorado, his teaching experience spans over three decades at all levels of instruction. Most recently, he served as Director of Bands and Coordinator of Instrumental Studies at Northwestern College in St. Paul, Minnesota. Bruce is the recipient of numerous honors and awards, including the prestigious Midwest Clinic Medal of Honor and the Wenger "Most Outstanding in the Field of Music Education" award for the State of Minnesota.

A prolific composer of music for concert band, Bruce is also author of the *Best in Class Comprehensive Band Method* and *Standard of Excellence Comprehensive Band Method*. As an adjudicator, clinician, guest speaker, and conductor, Bruce continually shares his talents, insights, and goodwill with both teachers and students world wide in every conceivable jazz ensemble and concert band setting.

Director Score
Approximate Performance Time - 3:50

The Cat's Meow

Dean Sorenson



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