

recorded by the ROB PARTON BIG BAND

# CHRISTMAS TIME IS HERE

Words by LEE MENDELSON

Music by VINCE GUARALDI

arranged by RICK HIRSCH

## JAZZ ENSEMBLE INSTRUMENTATION

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

4 Trumpets

4 Trombones (3 tenor, 1 bass)

Guitar

Piano

Bass

Drums

*Also includes Vibraphone, Flute, Clarinet, Baritone TC (Tbn. 1), French Horn (Tbn.1),  
AND optional solo parts for Vocalist and Eb, C, and Bass Clef instruments*

**IMPROVISED SOLOS:** Flugelhorn (or, optional Saxophone, Trombone or...)

**DURATION:** 3:45 minutes (3 min. with shorter solo section)

**LEVEL:** Medium

## PROGRAM NOTES

It seems everyone has great memories of *A Charlie Brown Christmas* and its most beloved song, Vince Guaraldi's *Christmas Time is Here*. This new treatment injects some subtle grooviness while retaining the warm feeling of the original.

I wrote this arrangement for Rob Parton and his great big band, and it became the title track of his album *Christmas Time is Here*. You can find it on all the streaming services — it's a great listen!

I hope your band and audiences love this chart and play it every year!

Enjoy,

*Rick Hirsch*

## REHEARSAL & PERFORMANCE NOTES

- Customize this arrangement to feature your top soloist(s), whether on Flugel Horn (as scored), saxophone, trombone, vocals (!!), or... All necessary parts are included in the set.
- If featuring your flugel horn soloist leaves you with only three trumpet players, omit the 4th part.
- Encourage students to shape all their lines, even if they're "just long notes."
- There is a fair amount of independence in the early saxophone parts. Make sure everyone is comfortable with their own lines.
- The drummer should be using soft mallets with the snares turned off for the entire chart. Help your drummer decipher the groove as need be.
- The rhythm section and soloist should build continually throughout the solo section. Encourage them to get a little busier every 8 measures.
- Definitely refer everyone to Rob Parton's recording referenced above.

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### RICK HIRSCH

Rick Hirsch is a composer, arranger, saxophonist, and educator based in State College, PA. After earning music degrees from UMass-Amherst and Northern Illinois Univ., he apprenticed with Bob Mintzer and Toshiko Akiyoshi, serving each as a personal music copyist. Drop Hirsch a line if you have any questions, or if you'd like to tell him about a performance. And be sure to check out much more music on his website.

[www.HirschMusic.com](http://www.HirschMusic.com)

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# CHRISTMAS TIME IS HERE

Words by LEE MENDELSON  
Music by VINCE GUARALDI  
arranged by RICK HIRSCH

Optional Solo Parts included  
for Eb, C, Bass Clef & Vocalist

$\text{♩} = 80-92$  EVEN  $\text{♩}'s$

The musical score is arranged in a standard orchestral format with the following parts from top to bottom:

- SOLO B $\flat$  FLUGELHORN
- E $\flat$  ALTO SAXOPHONE 1
- E $\flat$  ALTO SAXOPHONE 2
- B $\flat$  TENOR SAXOPHONE 1
- B $\flat$  TENOR SAXOPHONE 2
- E $\flat$  BARITONE SAXOPHONE
- B $\flat$  TRUMPET 1
- B $\flat$  TRUMPET 2
- B $\flat$  TRUMPET 3
- B $\flat$  TRUMPET 4
- TROMBONE 1
- TROMBONE 2
- TROMBONE 3
- BASS TROMBONE 4
- GUITAR
- PIANO
- BASS
- DRUMS

The score is in 3/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The tempo is marked as 80-92 beats per minute, with the note value being an even quarter note. The music features a variety of dynamics including *mp* (mezzo-piano), *mf* (mezzo-forte), and *p* (piano). The piano part includes a section marked "SOFT MALLETS" and "SNARES OFF". The drums part includes a section marked "SOFT MALLETS" and "SNARES OFF". The score is divided into six measures, numbered 1 through 6 at the bottom.

CHRISTMAS TIME...p.2

7

(SOLO) INTERPRET FREELY, LIKE A LEAD SHEET

The musical score is arranged in a standard orchestral layout. The Solo Flute part is the primary focus, marked with a '7' and the instruction '(SOLO) INTERPRET FREELY, LIKE A LEAD SHEET'. The vocal parts (Alto 1, Alto 2, Tenor 1, Tenor 2, Baritone) provide harmonic support with sustained notes and melodic lines. The brass section (Trumpets 1-4, Trombones 1-4, Bass Trombone) and the guitar part are mostly silent, with a 'TO HARMON' instruction for the third trumpet. The piano and bass parts provide a rhythmic and harmonic foundation. The drum part features a steady pattern with a '2' and 'TIME' marking at measure 10. The score is in 4/4 time and ends at measure 14.

7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14

CHRISTMAS TIME...p.3

16

SOLO FLUG.

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

BARI

TPT. 1

TPT. 2

TPT. 3 (HARMON)

TPT. 4

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

TBN. 3

BS. TBN. 4

GTR.

PIANO

BASS

DRUMS

15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22

This musical score is for a Christmas-themed piece, page 3. It features a vocal soloist (SOLO FLUG.) and a full band. The vocal part begins at measure 16 with a circled number '16'. The band includes four trumpets (TPT. 1-4), three trombones (TBN. 1-3), a bass trombone (BS. TBN. 4), guitar (GTR.), piano (PIANO), bass (BASS), and drums (DRUMS). The score is written in 4/4 time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). A large 'PREVIEW' watermark is overlaid diagonally across the page. The drum part shows a pattern of eighth notes in measures 15-17, followed by a double bar line and a '2' above the staff in measure 18, indicating a change in the drum pattern.

25

Solo Flug.

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

BARI

TPT. 1

TPT. 2

TPT. 3

TPT. 4

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

TBN. 3

BS. TBN. 4

GTR.

PIANO

BASS

DRUMS

*mp*

*mf*

(OPEN)

23 24 25 26 27 28 29

Musical score for various instruments including Solo Flute, Alto 1 & 2, Tenor 1 & 2, Baritone, Trumpets 1-4, Trombones 1-4, Bass Trombone, Guitar, Piano, Bass, and Drums. The score is in 4/4 time and includes dynamic markings such as *SOFTLY* and *p*. A large watermark 'PREVIEW' is overlaid on the page.

(DELICATE COMPING) THIS OR SIMILAR  
F MA7      Bbm1 (MA7)      F MA7  
F/A      Bbm1      F

41

SOLO FLUG.

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

BARI

TPT. 1

TPT. 2

TPT. 3

TPT. 4

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

TBN. 3

BS. TBN. 4

GTR.

PIANO

BASS

DRUMS

(SOLO) WARM & FULL

*mf*

(Op. TACET)

*E<sup>b</sup>7(b<sup>9</sup>)* *B<sup>ø</sup>7* *(B<sup>b</sup>ø7)* *A<sup>m</sup>7* *A<sup>b</sup>m<sup>7</sup>* *G<sup>m</sup>7* *G<sup>m</sup>7(b<sup>9</sup>)* *F<sup>M</sup>A<sup>7</sup>* *E<sup>b</sup>7(b<sup>9</sup>)* *F<sup>M</sup>A<sup>7</sup>* *E<sup>b</sup>7(b<sup>9</sup>)*

*E<sup>b</sup>7* *B<sup>ø</sup>7* *B<sup>b</sup>ø7* *A<sup>m</sup>7* *A<sup>b</sup>m<sup>7</sup>* *G<sup>m</sup>7* *F<sup>M</sup>A<sup>7</sup>* *E<sup>b</sup>7(b<sup>9</sup>)*

DIG IN A BIT MORE

37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44

CHRISTMAS TIME...p.7

(SOLO AD-LIB) TAKE YOUR TIME - IT'S A LONG, GRADUAL CRESCENDO

Musical score for SOLO FLUG. (Solo Flugelhorn) and other instruments. The score is in G major and 4/4 time. The SOLO FLUG. part is marked with a crescendo and includes the lyrics "TAKE YOUR TIME - IT'S A LONG, GRADUAL CRESCENDO". The score includes parts for ALTO 1, ALTO 2, TENOR 1, TENOR 2, BARI (with BONES), TPT. 1-4, TBN. 1-4, BS. TBN. 4, GTR., PIANO, BASS, and DRUMS. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The score is marked with a large "DRAFT" watermark.

SOLO FLUG. *GMA7* *F7(b5)* *GMA7* *Cm(MA7)* *GMA7* *F7(b5)* *GMA7* *Cm(MA7)*

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

BARI *w/ BONES*

TPT. 1

TPT. 2

TPT. 3

TPT. 4

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

TBN. 3

BS. TBN. 4

GTR.

PIANO *FMA7* *Eb7(b5)* *FMA7* *Bbm(MA7)* *FMA7* *Eb7(b5)* *AbMA7* *FMA7* *Bbm(MA7)* *AbMA7*

BASS *FMA7* *Eb7(b5)* *FMA7* *Bbm(MA7)* *FMA7* *Eb7(b5)* *AbMA7* *FMA7* *Bbm(MA7)* *AbMA7*

DRUMS

45

46

47

48

49

50

51

52

OPTIONAL REPEAT

CHRISTMAS TIME...p.8

53

SOLO FLUG. *GMA7* *Cm(MA7)* *BbMA7* 2 *GMA7* *Cm(MA7)* *F11* *GMA7* *Cm F11 Bb*

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

BARI

TPT. 1 *(PLAY BOTH X'S)* *p*

TPT. 2 *(PLAY BOTH X'S)* *p*

TPT. 3 *(PLAY BOTH X'S)* *p*

TPT. 4 *(PLAY BOTH X'S)* *p*

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

TBN. 3

BS. TBN. 4

GTR. *(COMP OR TACET)* *FMA7* *Bbm(MA7)* *AbMA7* 2 *FMA7* *Bbm(MA7)* *Eb11* *FMA7* *Bbm Eb11 Ab*

*(COMP GET GEHOORDE)* *FMA7* *Bbm(MA7)* *AbMA7* *FMA7* *Bbm(MA7)* *AbMA7* *FMA7* *Bbm(MA7)* *Eb11* *FMA7* *Bbm Eb11 Ab*

PIANO *FMA7* *Bbm* *Ab* *FMA7* *Bbm* *Ab* *FMA7* *Bbm* *FMA7* *Bbm Eb11 Ab*

BASS *mf* *FMA7* *Bbm* *Ab* *FMA7* *Bbm* *Ab* *FMA7* *Bbm* *FMA7* *Bbm Eb11 Ab*

DRUMS *mf* (S)

53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60



CHRISTMAS TIME...p.10

SOLO FLUG. *Cm11 F11 BbmA7 GMA7 Cm11 Bb F11 EbMA7 Ab7(45)*

ALTO 1 *mf* 3

ALTO 2 *mf* 3

TENOR 1 *mf* 3

TENOR 2 *mf* 3

BARI *mf*

TPT. 1 *mf* 4

TPT. 2 *mf* 4

TPT. 3 *mf* 4

TPT. 4 *mf* 4

TBN. 1 *mf*

TBN. 2 *mf*

TBN. 3 *mf*

BS. TBN. 4 *mf*

GTR. *Bbm1 Eb11 AbMA7 FMA7 Bbm1 Ab Eb11*

PIANO *Bbm1 Eb11 AbMA7 FMA7 Bbm1 Ab Eb11*

BASS *Bbm1 Eb11 Ab FMA7 Bbm1 Ab Eb11 DbMA7 Gb7(45)* *f*

DRUMS (3) *f*

66 67 68 69 70

CHRISTMAS TIME...p.11

SOLO FLUG.

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

BARI

TPT. 1

TPT. 2

TPT. 3

TPT. 4

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

TBN. 3

BS. TBN. 4

GTR.

PIANO

BASS

DRUMS

*EbmA7* *Ab7(b5)*

*DbmA7* *Gb7(b5)* *Ami7* *Eb7* *Dmi7* *Ab7* *Gmi7* *Ami7*

*f*

71 72 73 74 75



Solo Flug.

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

BARI

TPT. 1

TPT. 2

TPT. 3

TPT. 4

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

TBN. 3

BS. TBN. 4

GTR.

PIANO

BASS

DRUMS

The musical score is arranged in a standard orchestral layout. It begins with a 'Solo Flugelhorn' part, followed by vocal parts for Alto 1, Alto 2, Tenor 1, Tenor 2, and Baritone. The brass section consists of four trumpets (TPT. 1-4) and four trombones (TBN. 1-4, including Bass Trombone). The guitar (GTR.) part features triplet patterns. The piano accompaniment includes both right and left hand parts. The bass line and drum part are also present. The score is marked with measures 82 through 87. A large, semi-transparent 'PREVIEW' watermark is overlaid diagonally across the entire page.

RUBATO 90

Musical score for Christmas Time...p.14, measures 88-93. The score includes parts for Solo Flute, Alto 1, Alto 2, Tenor 1, Tenor 2, Baritone, Trumpets 1-4, Trombones 1-3, Bass Trombone 4, Guitar, Piano, Bass, and Drums. A large 'PREVIEW' watermark is overlaid on the score.

Measures 88-93 are shown. The score includes parts for Solo Flute, Alto 1, Alto 2, Tenor 1, Tenor 2, Baritone, Trumpets 1-4, Trombones 1-3, Bass Trombone 4, Guitar, Piano, Bass, and Drums. A large 'PREVIEW' watermark is overlaid on the score.

Chord changes for measures 90-93:

Measure	Chord
90	B <sup>ø</sup> 7
91	B <sup>b</sup> 7
92	A <sup>m</sup> i7
93	A <sup>b</sup> m <i>i7</i>

(FACET\* ONLY PLAY IF NO PIANO)

88 89 90 91 92 93