

# VJC PUBLICATIONS

## Current flexible instrumentation jazz ensemble charts (sorted by DIFFICULTY)

### Beginning-to-Intermediate difficulty:

#### **Easy Does It** (VJCP519-FBB) – comp. & arr. by **George Darrah**

Style: Bossa Nova

Additional Note: *Easy Does It* features simple rhythms and ample use of repetition to allow more novice players to lock into the groove straight away.

#### **98-144** (VJCP515-FBB) – comp. & arr. by **Dave Rivello**

Style: Medium Swing

Additional Note: The composition's title is in reference to Public Law 98-144, which established Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday as a national holiday in the United States of America.

#### **Quackenclocker** (VJCP501-FBB) – comp. & arr. by **Russell Schmidt**

Style: Boogaloo

Additional Note: This fun chart, with an infectious, toe-tapping groove, is a contrafact, based on the chord progression to the Eddie Harris' soul jazz classic *Cold Duck Time*.

#### **Saucy** (VJCP517-FBB) – comp. & arr. by **David Yackley**

Style: Str. 8ths/Rock

Additional Note: This inventive chart opens and closes with a full ensemble groove buildup during which performers explore non-traditional techniques: the drummer plays toms with hands, and the horn players clap, stomp, and tap pencils on music stands. And there are a few vocal interjections as well.

#### **Stacker** (VJCP502-FBB) – comp. & arr. by **Russell Schmidt**

Style: Rock

Additional Note: This chart makes extensive use of *additive structures*, allowing a young jazz ensemble to create music with great sonic variety while not requiring each student learn countless melodies and rhythms.

#### **Stomper** (VJCP514-FBB) – comp. & arr. by **Russell Schmidt**

Style: Half-Time Rock

Additional Note: This piece features much rhythmic repetition, allowing less experienced ensembles to build skills in other areas of musicmaking, such as articulation and dynamic detail.

#### **Victory** (VJCP503-FBB) – comp. & arr. by **Russell Schmidt**

Style: Afro-Cuban (Cha-cha-chá)

Additional Note: *Victory* features many recurring rhythms in the horn parts, making it easier for a young jazz ensemble to put together.

#### **Zero Hour Blues** (VJCP500-FBB) – comp. & arr. by **Russell Schmidt**

Style: Medium Swing

Additional Note: Recurring rhythms and short riffs abound throughout this Bb blues chart, reinforcing basic jazz phrasing concepts for young jazz ensemble.

**Intermediate difficulty:**

**Feed My Lambs** (VJCP506-FBB) – comp. by **Chuck Marohnic**/arr. by **David Yackley**

Style: Ballad (Str. 8ths)

Additional Note: This ballad is a solo feature for Tenor Saxophone.

**Framer of Thy Song** (VJCP512-FBB) – comp. & arr. by **Russell Schmidt**

Style: Funky Bossa Nova

Additional Notes: Duo feature for Alto Saxophone and Trumpet soloists. Also, *Framer of Thy Song* is a contrafact, based on the chord progression to Horace Silver's *Song For My Father*.

**Minor Changes** (VJCP504-FBB) – comp. & arr. by **Dave Rivello**

Style: Medium Swing

Additional Note: This is a minor blues chart with some modal jazz elements also present,

**No Shadow** (VJCP516-FBB) – comp. & arr. by **Dave Rivello**

Style: Ballad (Str. 8ths)

Additional Note: This ballad is a solo feature for Alto Saxophone (with an alternate Soprano Saxophone solo part provided).

**Someone to Watch Over Me** (VJCP518-FBB) – comp. by **George & Ira Gershwin**/arr. by **David Yackley**

Style: Medium Swing

Additional Note: Tenor Saxophone and Trumpet soloists are featured both on the melody and in subsequent improvisation sections.

**Intermediate-to-Advanced difficulty:**

**Aggregate** (VJCP508-FBB) – comp. by **Russell Schmidt**/arr. by **Andrew W. Alcocer**

Style: Samba

Additional Notes: Alto Saxophone and Trumpet soloists are featured both on the melody and in subsequent improvisation sections. Also, *Aggregate* is a contrafact, based on the chord progression to Jerome Kern's *All the Things You Are*.

**Onyx Dot** (VJCP509-FBB) – comp. by **Russell Schmidt**/arr. by **George Darrah**

Style: Boogaloo

Additional Notes: As arranged by George Darrah, this chart serves as a great introduction to contrapuntal writing. Also, *Onyx Dot* is a contrafact, based on the chord progression to Sonny Rollins' *Doxy*.

**Saint Walter** (VJCP510-FBB) – comp. by **Russell Schmidt**/arr. by **Jueun Seok**

Style: Medium (or Medium-Up) Calypso

Additional Notes: Chart moves between Calypso and Swing feels at various points. Also, the composition is a contrafact, based on the chord progression to Sonny Rollins' *St. Thomas*.

Intermediate-to-Advanced difficulty (continued):

**Strike Up the Band** (VJCP521-FBB) – comp. by **George & Ira Gershwin**/arr. by **Tom Davis**

Style: Medium-Up Swing

Additional Note: Arranger Tom Davis terms this chart a real “flag waver”, making it an ideal opener or closer to a set.

**VJC Blues** (VJCP511-FBB) – comp. by **Russell Schmidt**/arr. by **Billy Petito**

Style: Medium Swing

Additional Note: This swinging, riff-based blues features a catchy, singable melody.

**Well, You Could Always Ask** (VJCP520-FBB) – comp. by **Russell Schmidt**/arr. by **Jueun Seok**

Style: Medium-Up Swing

Additional Note: *Well, You Could Always Ask* is a contrafact, based on the chord progression to George Gershwin’s *I Got Rhythm* (a.k.a. Rhythm changes).

Advanced difficulty:

**Particle Effect** (VJCP522-FBB) – comp. & arr. by **Tom Davis**

Style: Contemporary Str. 8ths/Jazz-Rock Fusion

Additional Note: Constructed as an example of programmatic music, *Particle Effect* seeks to evoke images of—and perhaps even imitate—an effervescent dispersion of visual effects found in many video games.

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Additionally, VJC Publications has a pair of jazz ensemble charts out featuring full, traditional big band instrumentation. These are:

**What Next** (VJCP505-BB) – comp. & arr. by **Dave Rivello**

Difficulty level: *Intermediate*

Style: Medium Swing

Additional Notes: **Not a flex. chart** – *What Next* is written for a full, traditional big band line-up (17-18 performers). Also, the composition explores harmonic concepts originally found in Miles Davis’ *So What*.

**Echoes in the Hills** (VJCP507-BB) – comp. & arr. by **Tom Wolfe**

Difficulty level: *Intermediate-to-Advanced*

Style: Medium-Up Swing

Additional Notes: **Not a flex. chart** – *Echoes in the Hills* is written for a full, traditional big band line-up (17-18 performers). Also, the composition is a contrafact, based on the chord progression to Cole Porter’s *I Love You*.

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#### Swing:

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Style: Medium Swing

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Additional Note: The composition's title is in reference to Public Law 98-144, which established Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday as a national holiday in the United States of America.

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Style: Medium Swing

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Style: Samba

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**Ballad:**

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**Rock/Fusion/Contemporary/Boogaloo:**

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**VJCP Flexible Instrumentation Charts** are skillfully written and carefully edited to sound complete with as few as 11 pieces (for a “little big band” sound) or as many as 18 pieces (for a full jazz ensemble). The instrumentation for VJCP flex. charts is as follows:

- **Alto Sax I, Alto Sax II, Tenor Sax I, Tenor Sax II** (*opt.*), Baritone Sax (*opt.*)
- **Trumpet I, Trumpet II, Trumpet III, Trumpet IV** (*opt.*)
- **Trombone I, Trombone II, Trombone III** (*opt.*), Bass Trombone (IV) (*opt.*)
- Guitar (*opt.*), **Piano, Bass, Drums, Vibraphone** (*opt.*)

Nearly all VJCP flex. chart recordings on the Valley Jazz Cooperative YouTube channel feature the smaller instrumentation (11 pieces), allowing music educators and jazz ensemble directors to get a true and fair sense of what each piece sounds like with the bare minimum number of performers.

And these are *flex. charts without compromise*: They sound *fantastic* with the minimum instrumentation, yet will sound *even better* with a full jazz ensemble. As such, VJC Publications are exceptional investments for an ensemble library. They are wonderful to play during a jazz program’s more robust years, yet total lifesavers during the occasional lean years, too. And the generally *conservative range demands for younger brass players* also enhances the utility of these charts. We hope you will check them out.

The current roster of composers/arrangers for VJC Publications includes...

Andrew W. Alcocer  
George Darrah  
Tom Davis  
Billy Petito  
Dave Rivello  
Russell Schmidt  
Jueun Seok  
Tom Wolfe  
David Yackley

...with new releases in 2024 adding Jhoely Garay and Dr. Benjamin Hedquist to the list. And more writers joining the team in 2025!

To find the online store for VJC Publications, use *this* QR code:



To hear the charts on our VJC YouTube channel, use *this* QR code:

