

BRIDGE UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Performance Notes

This piece is written for two jazz ensembles to be played simultaneously. Since the music is written to sound stereophonic, the staging of the bands is important for creating the best performance results.

Band A is the “swing” band while Band B is the “funk” band. Each band (at separate ends of the bridge being built) plays the theme in its respective style and will eventually find middle ground to come together as one ensemble, completing the bridge.

The opening to measure 19 are sounds of construction being passed between the groups.

M20 – 38 Band A plays the theme in a fast swing style.

M39 – Band B comes in as we are reminded of construction at the other end of the bridge.

M40 – A sort of “tug-o-war” starts as the styles change every two bars.

M48 – More construction sounds before Band B takes over the theme.

M50 – 68 The theme in funk style

M68 – 107 Improv sections in each band’s styles. These can be bracketed for additional solo time.

M108 – Back to the B section of the chart. This time both bands play swing and toss the tune back and forth.

M120 – 138 Drum solos. This is metered for timing and effect. Each player stays in his/her respective style, almost battling. At the fermata, Drummer B realizes the battle is fruitless and stops playing. There can be a visual between the drummers here as well.

M139 – Drummer B establishes a Latin groove (which is slightly slower than the swing groove) with Drummer A joining in with fills. These 8 bars can be extended as well. Both rhythms sections then join in.

M155 – Both bands join together playing as one unit to the end. The bridge completed.

A FEW ADDITIONAL NOTES

Unless rhythm section parts are notated, musicians may play freely (walking bass, drum set patterns, etc.) as long as ensemble kicks, etc. are followed. During sections where both bands play together, it is imperative that all rhythm section players stick to the notes.

The Latin groove that is notated may be changed by the drummers as long as they work together and are in total agreement of what will be played.

Bass B may add slaps and additional nuances to the Funk groove as long as it is not overbearing.

Piano A is acoustic. Piano B is electric.