



SUMMERTIME

for Advanced Brass Quintet

Arranged by:
ALEX J. LOPEZ

featuring the Original Music of:
GEORGE GERSHWIN AND DUBOSE HEYWARD

Summertime by George Gershwin and DuBose Heyward, arranged by Alex J. Lopez
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OVERVIEW

PREFACE

Originally composed by George Gershwin for the 1935 opera "Porgy and Bess", "Summertime" has since become one of the most enduring and widely performed jazz standards. This advanced brass quintet arrangement reimagines the classic through a variety of colors, tonalities, and shifting tempos, offering both players and audiences a fresh perspective on this timeless work.

The piece opens in Adagio, establishing a lyrical, almost ethereal mood with muted trumpet and horn writing that highlights timbral contrast. Quickly, the music evolves into a swing style, passing melodic material fluidly between the trumpet and trombone, while the horn and tuba provide a supportive yet rhythmically engaging foundation. Throughout the score, performers encounter dynamic extremes—from delicate pianissimo muted passages to broad fortissimo open-brass statements—demanding both control and expressive range.

Technical challenges include frequent use of harmon and straight mutes, glissandi in the trombone, and sudden stylistic shifts such as accelerandi into brighter, up-tempo swing feels. These transitions require ensemble precision and strong internal pulse. Phrasing is equally crucial, as the arrangement frequently layers sustained harmonic textures beneath moving lines, calling for sensitive balance and blend across the quintet.

By blending Gershwin's soulful melody with inventive harmonic writing, rhythmic drive, and idiomatic brass textures, this arrangement pays homage to the operatic origin of "Summertime" while celebrating its place as a cornerstone of the jazz repertoire.

OVERVIEW

INSTRUMENTATION

BRASS

- 2 Trumpets in B-flat
- 1 Horn in F
- 1 Trombone
- 1 Tuba

Full Score

composed for the 1935 opera, "Porgy and Bess"
SUMMERTIME
for Advanced Brass Quintet

George Gershwin
arr. Alex Lopez

Adagio (♩ = 80)

Trumpet in B_b

Horn in F

Trombone

Tuba

freely

mp

mp

Tpt.

Hn.

Tbn.

Tba.

9

19 20 **Straight** 21 22 **Swing** 23

Tpt. I
Tpt. II
Hn.
Tbn.
Tba.

24 25 26 27

Tpt. I
Tpt. II
Hn.
Tbn.
Tba.

39 *accel.* 40 41 42 $\text{♩} = 108$ 43 *poco accel.* 44

Tpt.
II
Hn.
Tbn.
Tba.

45 46 $\text{♩} = 136$ *Swing* 47 48 49 *accel.*

Tpt.
II
Hn.
Tbn.
Tba.

58

59 60 61

Tpt. I
II

Hn.

Tbn.

Tba. $\text{Bass clef} \text{ B-flat key}$ mp

62

63 Straight 64 65 Swing 66

Tpt. I
II

Hn.

Tbn.

Tba. $\text{Bass clef} \text{ B-flat key}$

open **f**

open **f**

open **f**



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