

YELLOWJACKETS FOUR CORNERS

for KEYBOARDS SAXOPHONE BASS DRUMS

YELLOWJACKETS (u)
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YELLOWJACKETS FOUR CORNERS

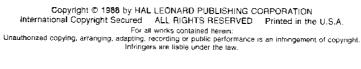


Complete Transcriptions for:

ACOUSTIC PIANO & SYNTHESIZERS
SOPRANO & ALTO SAXOPHONES
FIVE STRING BASS & FRETLESS BASS
DRUMS & PERCUSSION

Transcribed by Steven K. Tyler & Craig Hara









YELLOWJACKETS' INSTRUMENTS & EQUIPMENT

RUSS FERRANTE

Yamaha KX88 MIDI Keyboard Controller, Yamaha QX-1 Sequencer, Yamaha TX-7 Synthesizer Modules, Prophet VS Digital Synthesizer, Roland MKS20 Digital Piano Module(*used on most cuts in the album*), Roland Super JX Synthesizer, Yamaha DX7 Synthesizer, Linn Drum Machine, PPG Wave Synthesizer, plus various acoustic keyboards.

JIMMY HASLIP

For live performance: Mike Tobias 5-string, Yamaha BB5000 5-string, For studio: The same instruments plus a Yamaha BB1200S, 4-string with a parametric equalizer, Valley Arts Fender, Mike Tobias Classic 4-string.

MARC RUSSO

Selmer Mark VI 1967 alto sax, Myer mouthpiece, Rico plastic-coated #4 or #4 1/2 reeds, Yamaha power amps & monitors. Audix microphones.

WILL KENNEDY

Remo drums, Paiste cymbals, Martin drumsticks

DISCOGRAPHY

FOUR CORNERS - MCA 5994, 1987

STAR TREK IV Soundtrack - MCA 6195, 1986

SHADES - MCA 5752, 1986

SAMURAI SAMBA - Warner Bros. 25204-1, 1984

MIRAGE A TROIS - Warner Bros. 23813-1, 1983

CASINO LIGHTS/LIVE IN MONTREUX: Various artists - Warner Bros. 23718, 1982

YELLOWJACKETS - Warner Bros. 3573, 1981



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YELLOWJACKETS

YELLOWJACKETS are Russ Ferrante on keyboards, Jimmy Haslip on bass, Marc Russo on saxophones, and Will Kennedy on drums; all of whom have earned formidable reputations in the past as highly artistic musicians and composers.

Ferrante, Haslip and drummer Ricky Lawson all gigged in the rhythm section of Robben Ford's band, and they subsequently played together on Ford's album *The Inside Story*. Ferrante, who started with a classical and gospel background, moved into jazz and improvisation in his teens, and then into R&B bands in the San Francisco Bay area. He originally joined Ford's blues band to tour in the mid-70's. One leg of the tour was made with the great R&B and blues singer, Jimmy Witherspoon, an experience which Ferrante considered "a great education." He then worked with several other bands before joining Ford in L.A. in '78.

Haslip came from a musical family that played a full range of recordings at home from classical and jazz to salsa. He originally played trumpet, but found the electric bass sound appealing after hearing Latin music at school dances. His initial gigs were with combination jazz, rock and R&B musicians at local bars. Known for his flexibility, by the mid-70's he was getting many calls from well-known musicians to play and record with them. On the road with Flora Purim and Airto and their drummer Ricky Lawson, he met Ford's roommate who recommended him to Ford when they reached L.A.







Ferrante, Haslip and Lawson cut a group demo "almost for the fun of it" with Ford. They were surprised when they were signed immediately to Warner Bros. Records. YELLOWJACKETS was released in 1981 with most of the writing coming from Ferrante. The name came from a long list of possible group titles. Haslip said, "...It seems to express where the music was at - a lot of energy and colors - and it stuck."

However, Ford couldn't really be an official member of the group since he was signed to another record company. He played on part of the next Yellowjackets album, MIRAGE A TROIS, in 1983, and then embarked on his solo career. The album also featured Richard Elliot on Lyricon and guitarist Mike Miller on some cuts. On other cuts, the then new synthesis technology - sequencing - added new layers of electronic, but melodic, sound to the group's distinctive music.

After finding that the group really didn't click with the various other instrumentalists they tried, the members worked with other groups for about a year: Ferrante with Joni Mitchell, Haslip with Al Jarreau, Lawson with Stevie Wonder. Toward the end of the year, *MIRAGE A TROIS* was nominated for a grammy for "Best Jazz/Fusion Album," and the group once again was getting offers for gigs.

Working as a trio in '84, they started thinking about a new album and looking for another instrumentalist - a different sound. At a gig, playing with Marilyn Scott, who was using the Tower of Power horn section, the group heard Marc Russo, who sat in with Yellowjackets and impressed everyone.

A few months later, the high-note blowing Russo was asked to join the group. Russo's influences were the jazz/rock sounds of the late 60's/carly 70's and the jazz giant saxophonists such as Adderley, Davis, Coltrane and Parker. His high register ability stems from a gig blowing "over" a very loud disco band and hours of work perfecting the sound. In the late 70's, he toured and recorded with Narada Michael Walden and then joined Tower of Power for four years, which included touring with Huey Lewis.

The next album, *SAMURAI SAMBA*, was cut with Russo in the group. Where in the past, Yellowjackets had an R&B-tinged jazz sound, this album had more "dance grooves" and even a vocal.





Their MCA debut, *SHADES*, was recorded in '86 with a great deal of improvisation and not a lot of sequencing or drum machine. This Lp was definitely back in the jazz vein with the group's distinctive R&B touches.

SHADES was on Billboard's charts for 30 consecutive weeks and garnered the group its first Grammy Award for "Best R&B Instrumental Performance." Also in '86, the group had a wonderful time contributing musical compositions and performances to the motion picture "Star Trek IV." At this point, Ricky Lawson left the band and Will Kennedy joined at Russo's recommendation. Kennedy had played with Russo on many Latin-jazz gigs, and had just the right amount of heavy jazz and taste of rock background for the Yellowjackets. In 1987, they were named "Contemporary Jazz Group of the Year" by Cashbox magazine.

Nominated for a Grammy in 1987 for "Best Jazz Fusion Performance" and receiving a 4-star review in Downbeat, *FOUR CORNERS* with its wealth of melodic and rhythmic ideas has "...a pinpointed direction, more so than any of our former records," Haslip says. "We all grew up hearing different music, and (now) we're trying to distill it down to a cohensive statement - not a bit of this and that, but a group concept."

The upbeat mood of the band made the *FOUR CORNERS* sessions go smoothly and easily. "We didn't labor at all," Russo noted. "In the past we'd spend time refining things, but we didn't want to tamper with this. It's much more spontaneous..."

Ferrante agrees, "We're four musicians who have made the Yellowjackets our top priority. We really wanted to figure out what felt good, what our audiences liked, and what we liked. We all got in sync on this Lp - nothing has jelled quite like this."

Will Kennedy feels that "...we're playing from our hearts...this is positive music that's fun to play."

A wealth of melodic and rhythmic ideas are found in FOUR CORNERS. "Out Of Town" is an energetic piece featuring Russo's soaring sax and Ferrante's inventive keyboard work, who feels this tune is "...almost boogie or swing..." While Haslip adds that "...this takes us back to our roots - we're swinging!"

"Wildlife" has shifting polyrhythms influenced by guest percussionist Alex Acuña. "This started out as just a mood and evolved into a full song," says Kennedy. "Sightseeing" also highlights heated rhythms from Kennedy and Acuña.







"Mile High" is bright, bouyant and melodic - a radio station favorite. Written in Denver, the tune is a straight ahead shuffle.

"Past Ports" has a floating kind of feeling, a slow and a fast song at the same time. "Will is playing a fast, bop-like beat, and Jimmy is playing whole notes on bass," says Ferrante.

In the ballad department are "Room With A View" and "Open Road," which feature Ferrante's melodic, subtly textured synthesizer parts. "My goal with these tunes was to write something straightforward - simple yet pretty," he said.

"Geneva" is an ethereal mood piece with only strings and synthesizer. "This is another first for us - a piece without a rhythmic pulse," Haslip points out.

The peppy, salsa-flavored "Indigo" came out of a jam session and is the extra cut on the CD version of this group of tunes that is broadbased and international in feel. Philosophically, Haslip states, "We're trying to keep progressing...that means searching for new ways of expression, kind of stretching the boundaries of what we do, without erasing the places we've come from. We just want to bring good music to people."



OUT OF TOWN

By RUSSELL FERRANTE and JIMMY HASLIP



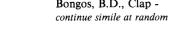
Keyboards are Roland MKS20 MIDIed to Yamaha DX7 voices.

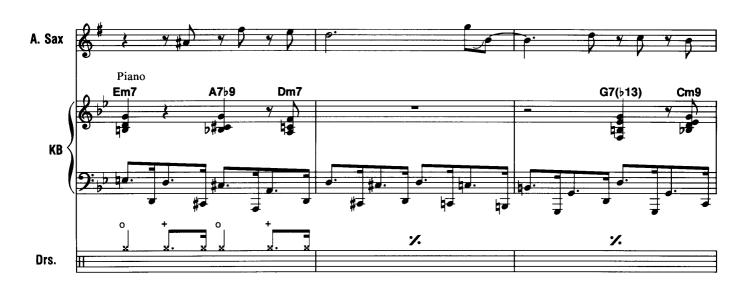


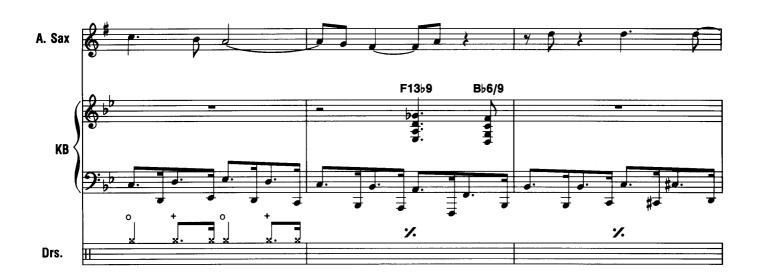
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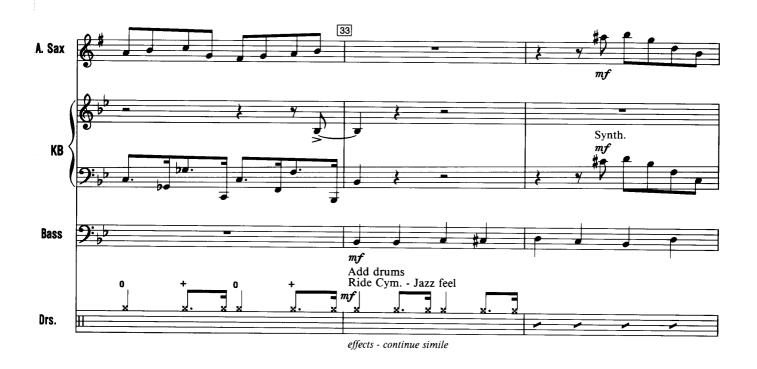


























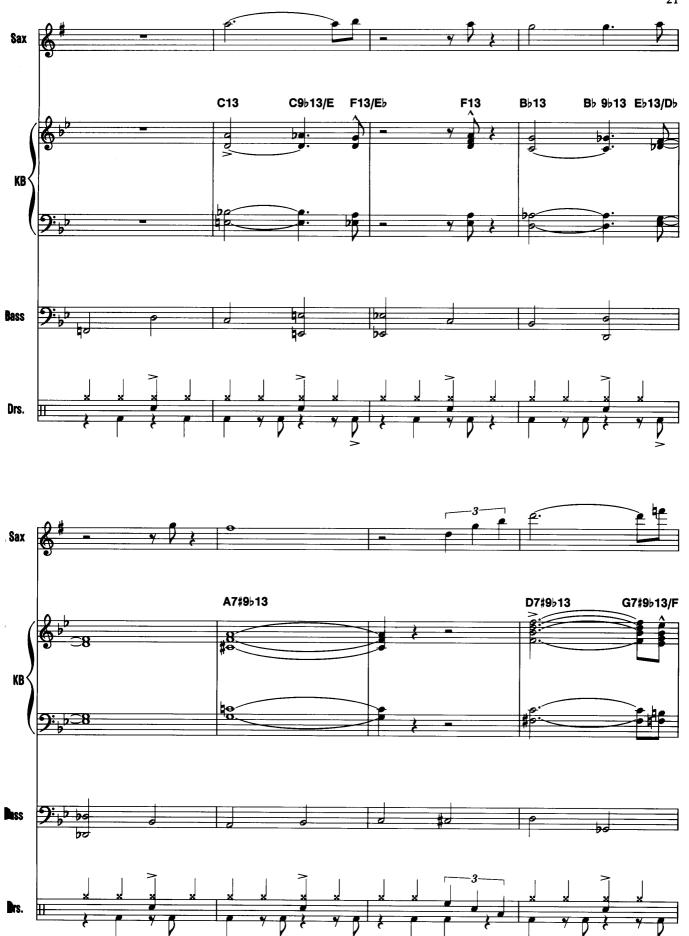














































WILDLIFE

By RUSSELL FERRANTE, JIMMY HASLIP and ALEX ACUÑA





Keyboard are Roland Super JX with sequenced 5ths at beginning. At measure 58, the African mallets sound is a DX7 sound called "utamba."











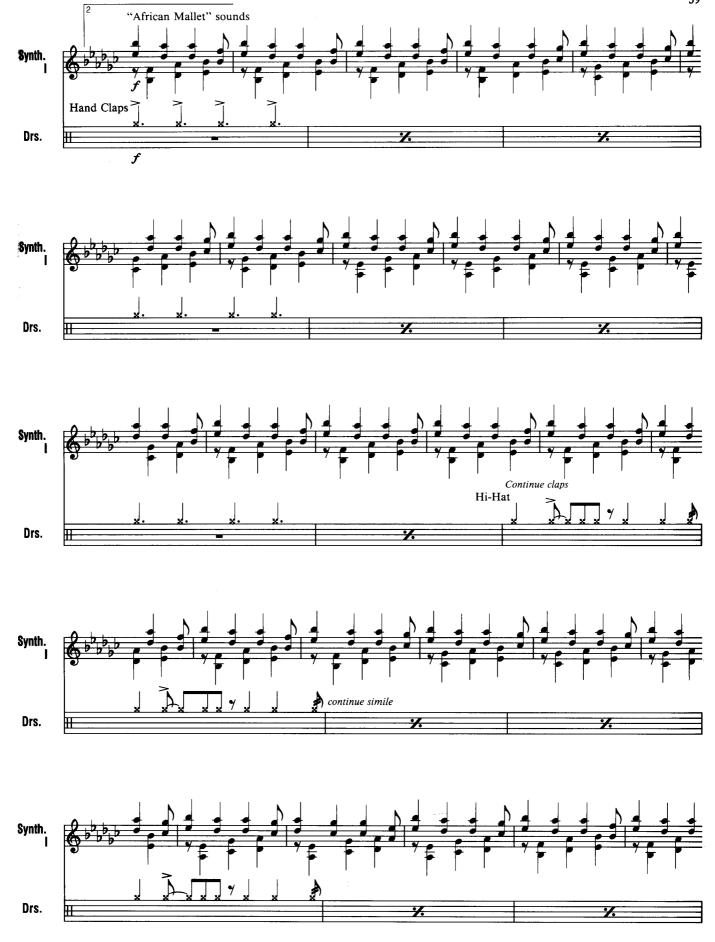






















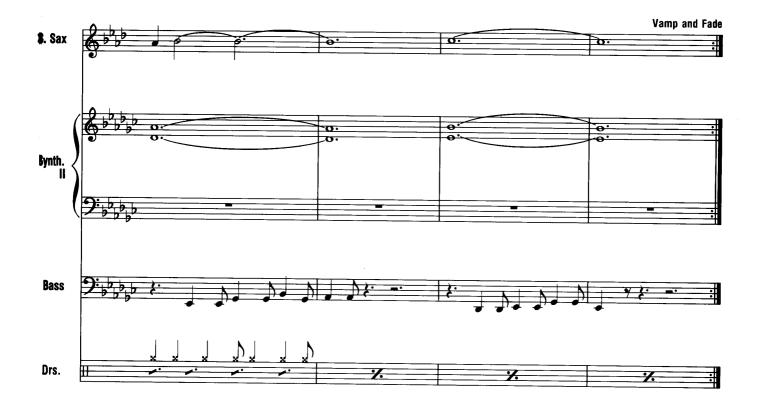






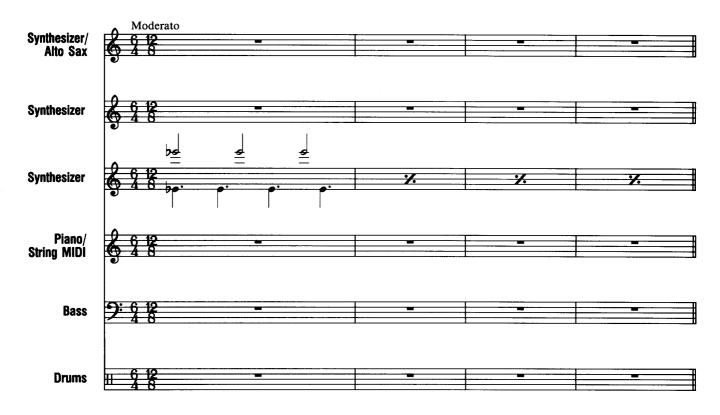






SIGHTSEEING

By RUSSELL FERRANTE and JIMMY HASLIP





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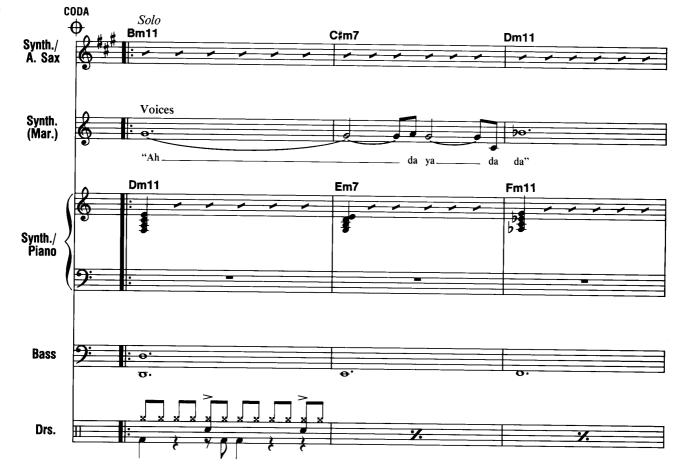


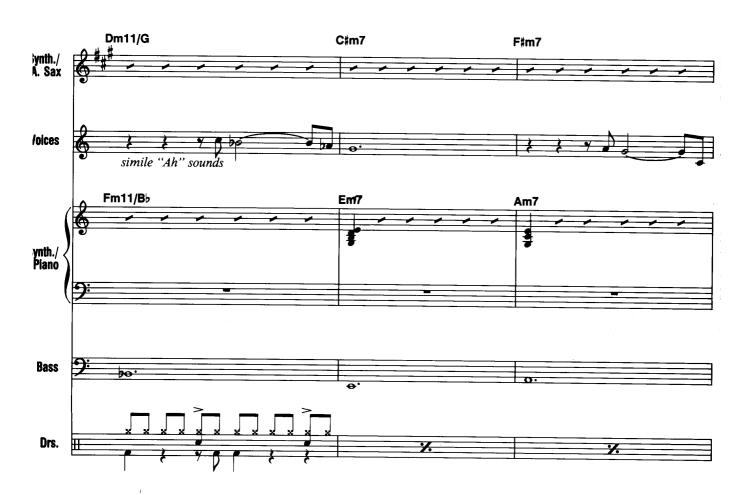












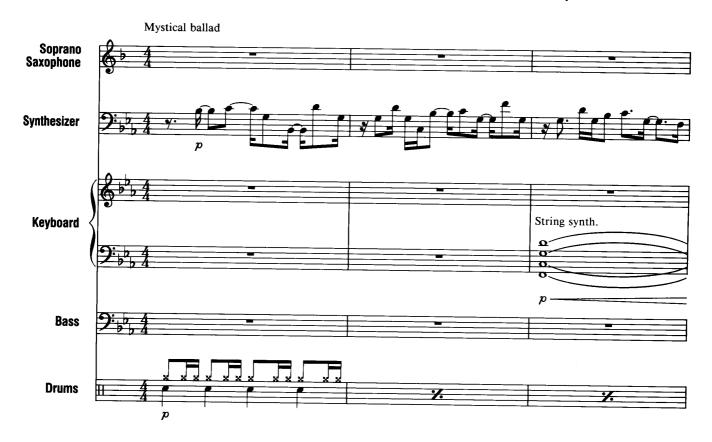


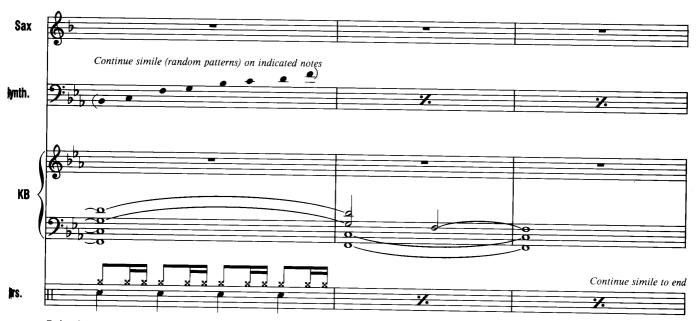




OPEN ROAD

By RUSSELL FERRANTE



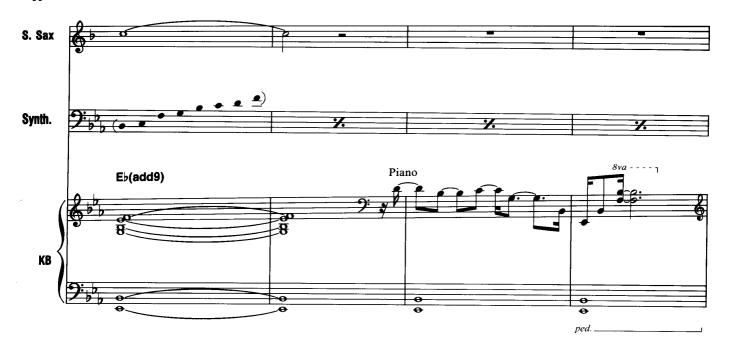


Roland MKS20 is MIDIed to 2 or 3 different synths to create pads.

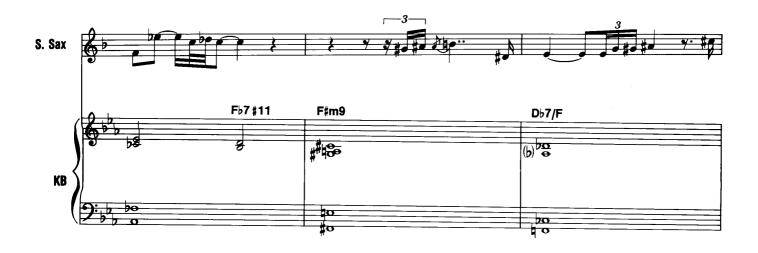






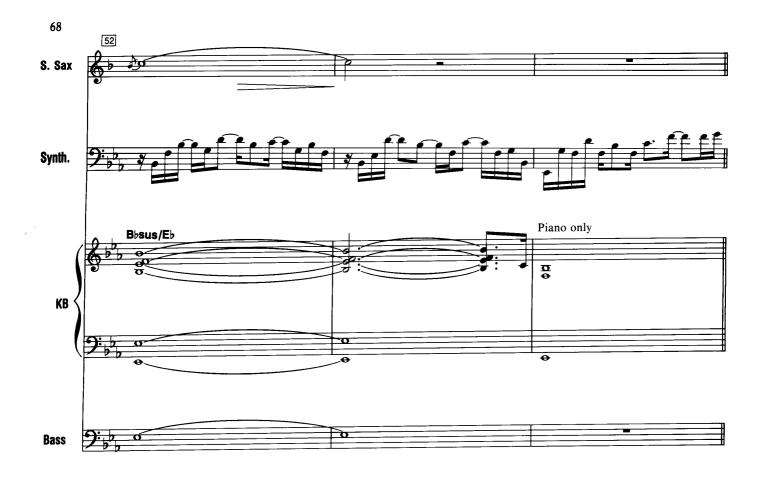


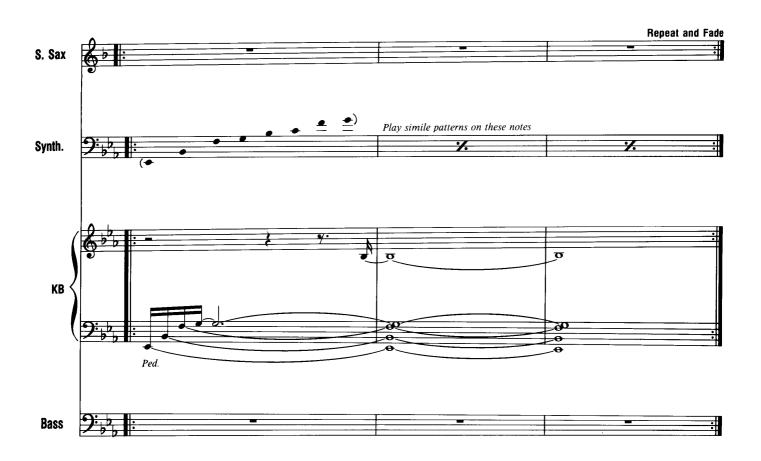












MILE HIGH

By RUSSELL FERRANTE, JIMMY HASLIP, MARC RUSSO, WILLIAM KENNEDY and BILL GABLE





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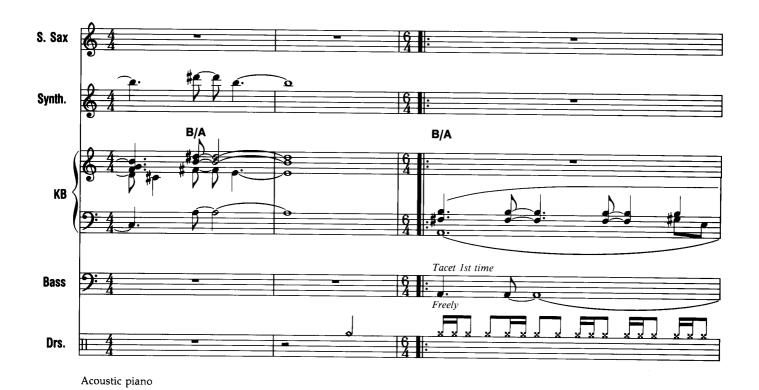




PAST PORTS

By RUSSELL FERRANTE





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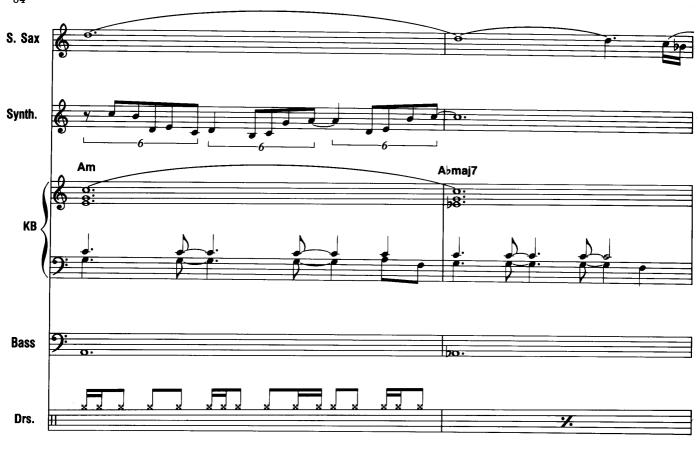
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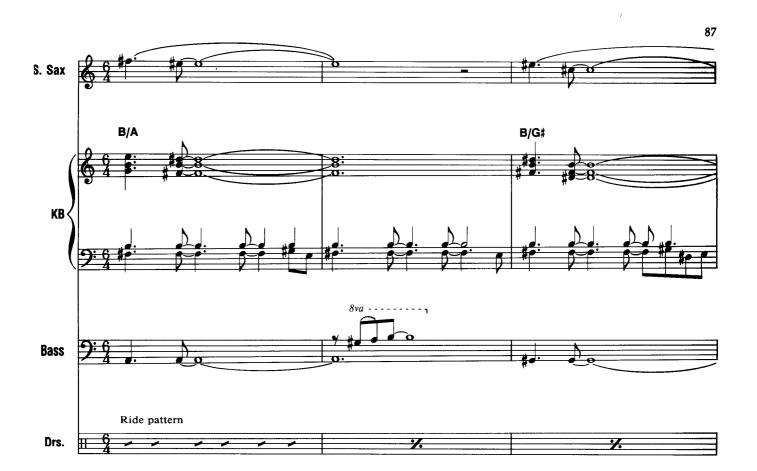








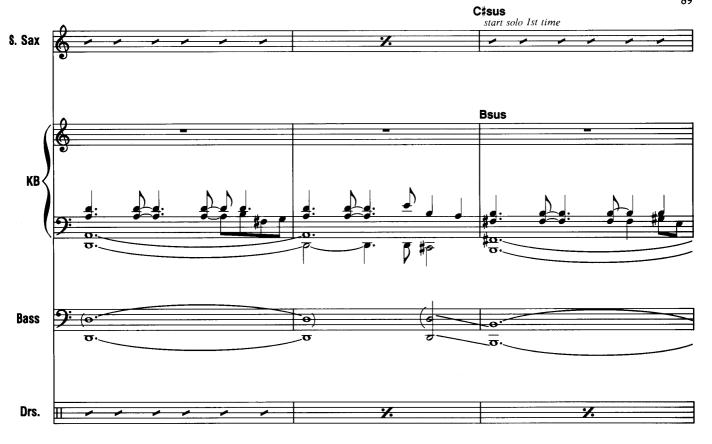


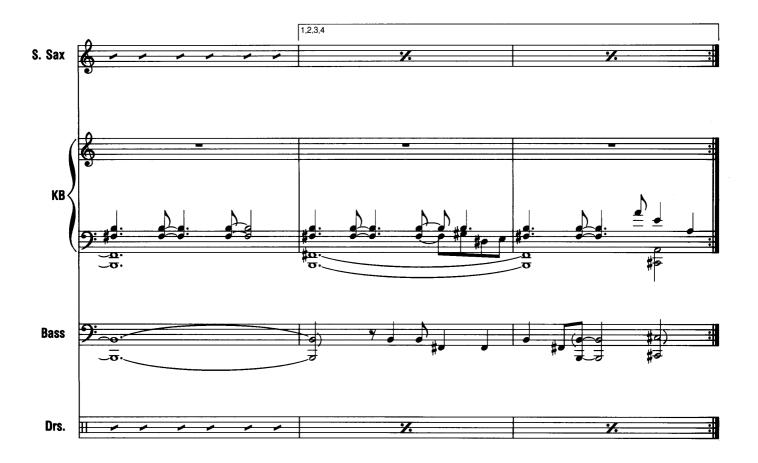






Build with each repeat - follow soloist









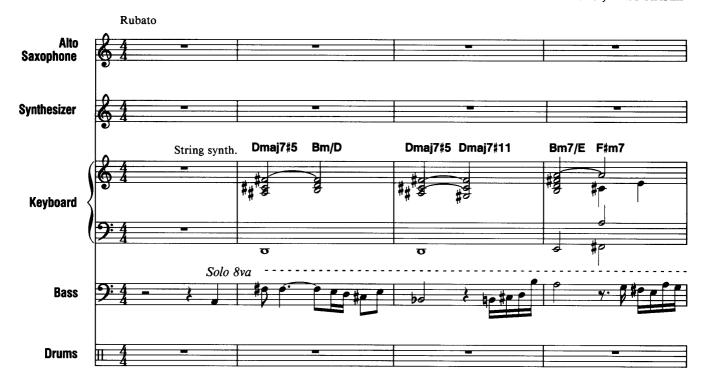






POSTCARDS

By RUSSELL FERRANTE and JIMMY HASLIP





Brass choir sound is Roland Super JX's "Euphonium choir." Sax is doubled occasionally with Yamaha TX7 "voice."





















7.

Drs.





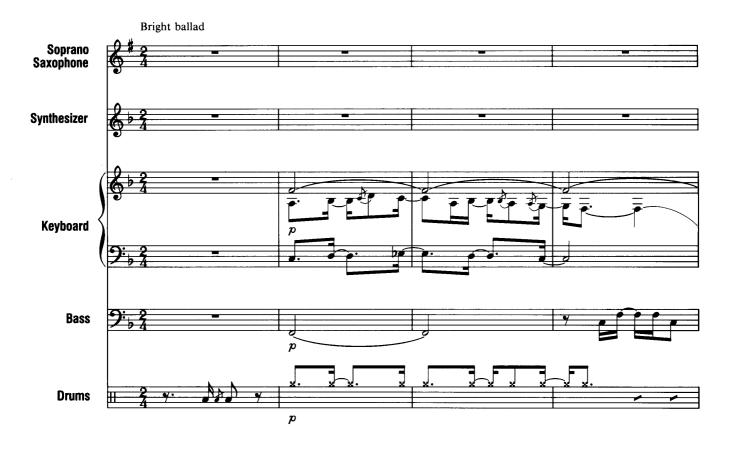


Bass

Drs.

ROOM WITH A VIEW

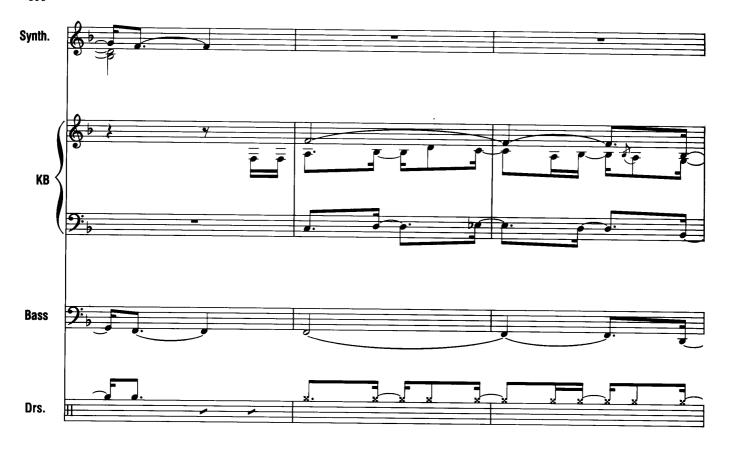
By RUSSELL FERRANTE





Roland MKS20 MIDIed to TX7 "voice/bell" sound. Synth line is a Prophet VS MIDIed to Roland Super JX "voice" sound.

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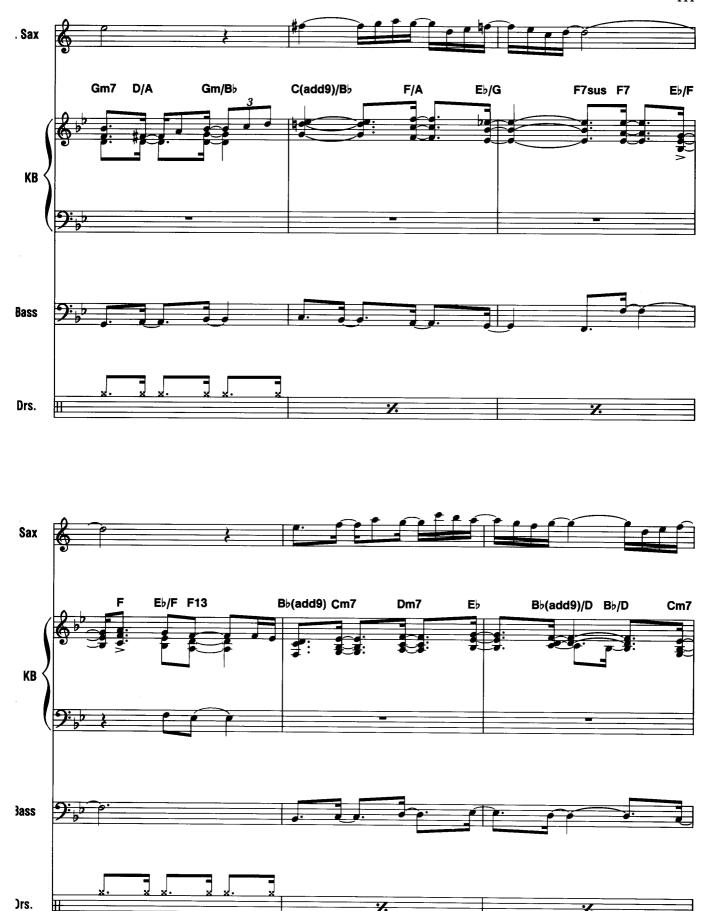


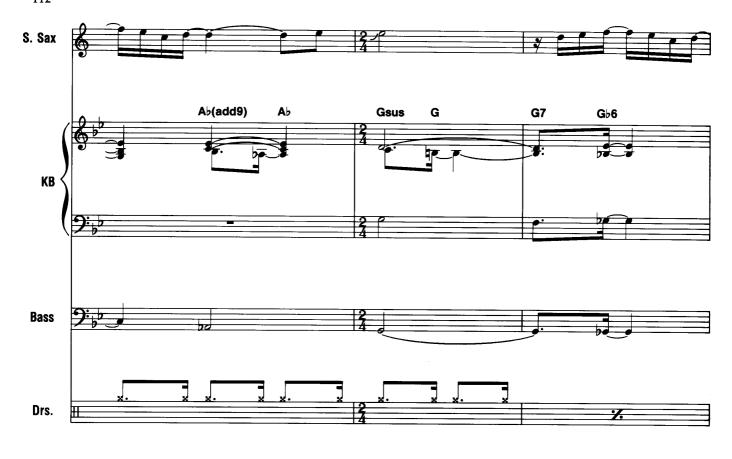












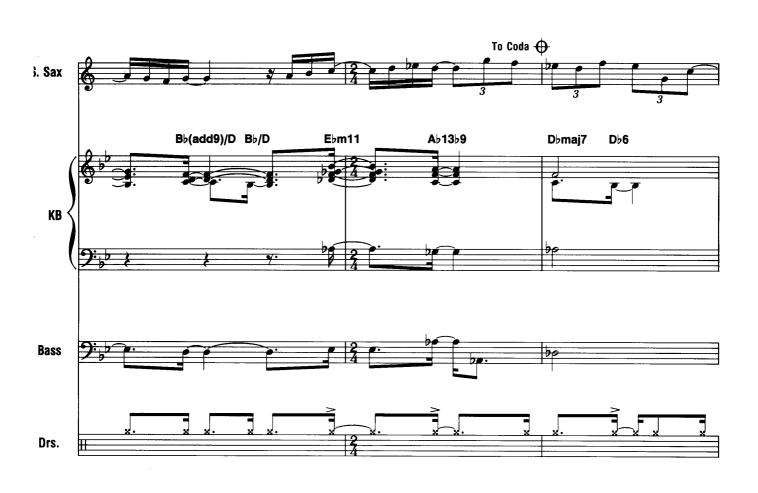


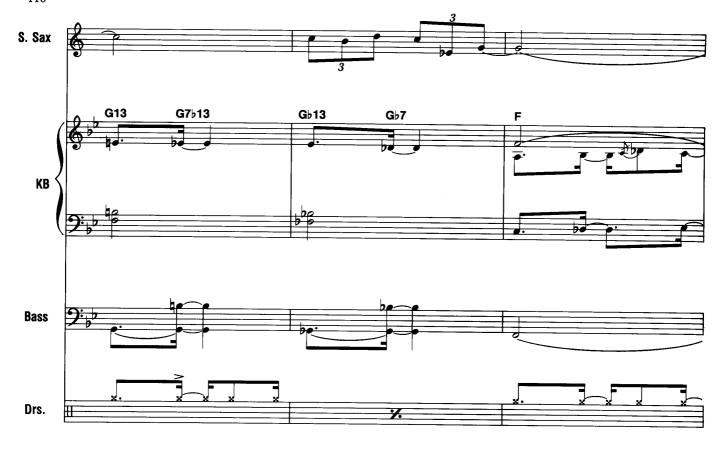


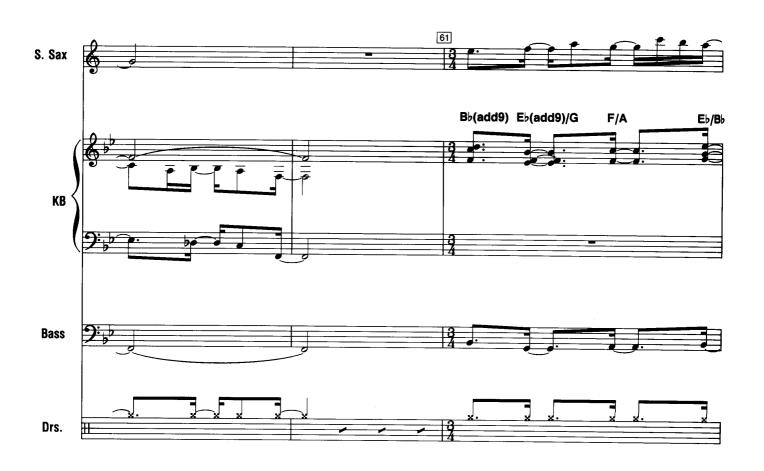


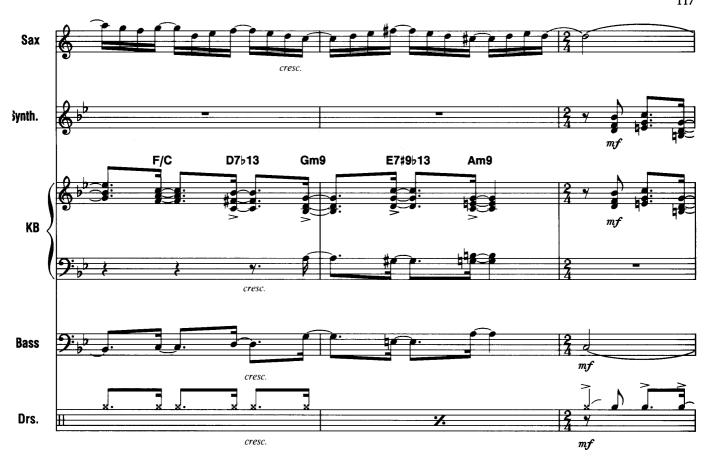






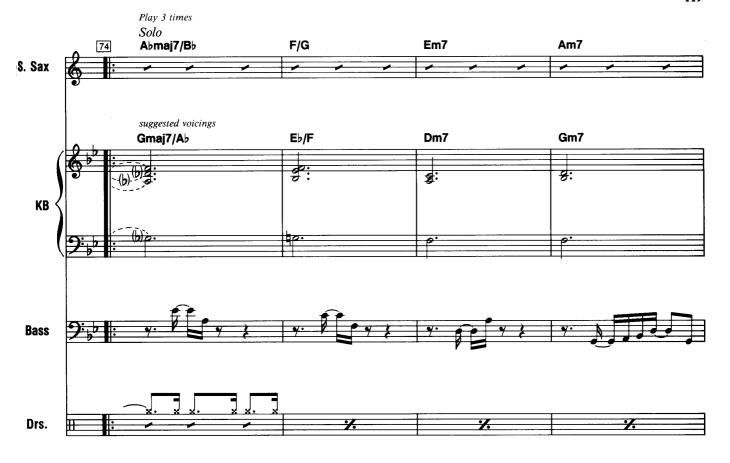


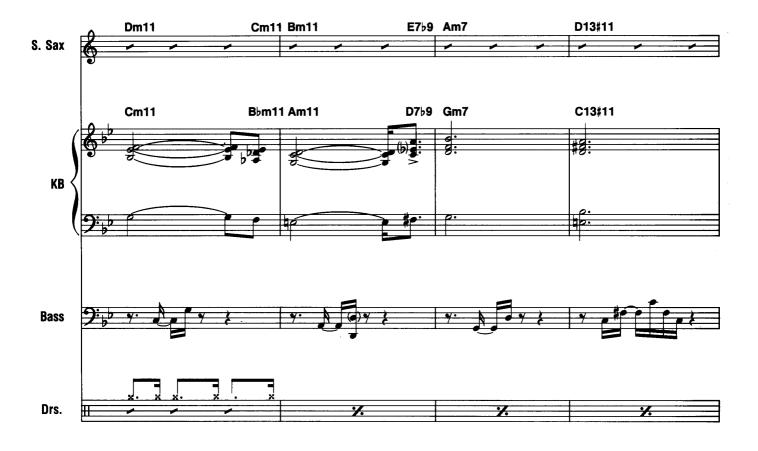




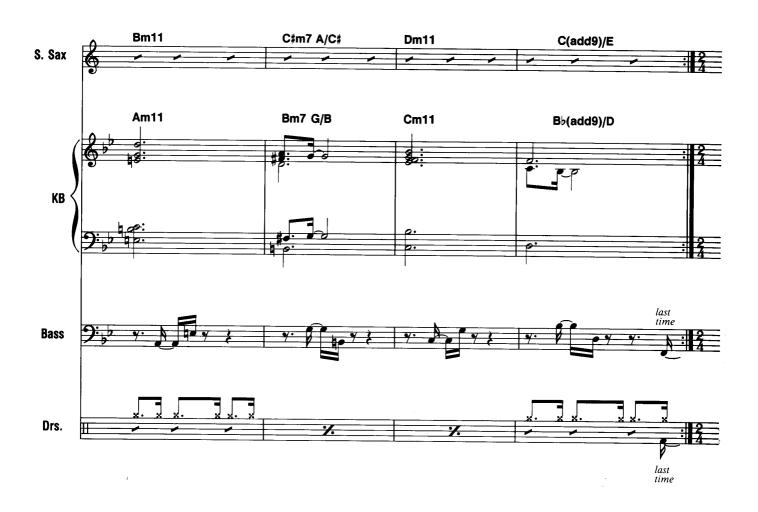


















GENEVA

By JIMMY HASLIP Rubato **Synthesizer** Melody mpHold this chord throughout piece Synth. Choir <u>Ω</u> mp 7 Synth. Mel. Synth. Choir Synth. Mel. Synth. Choir क 13 Synth. Mel. Synth. Choir

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Drs.

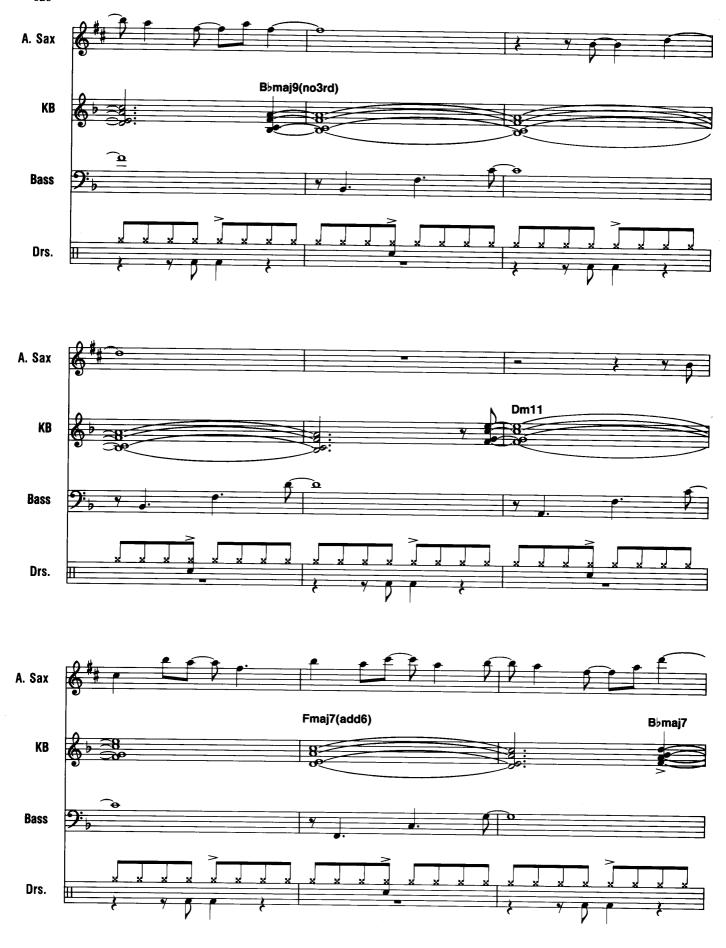
INDIGO

By RUSSELL FERRANTE, JIMMY HASLIP, MARC RUSSO and WILLIAM KENNEDY

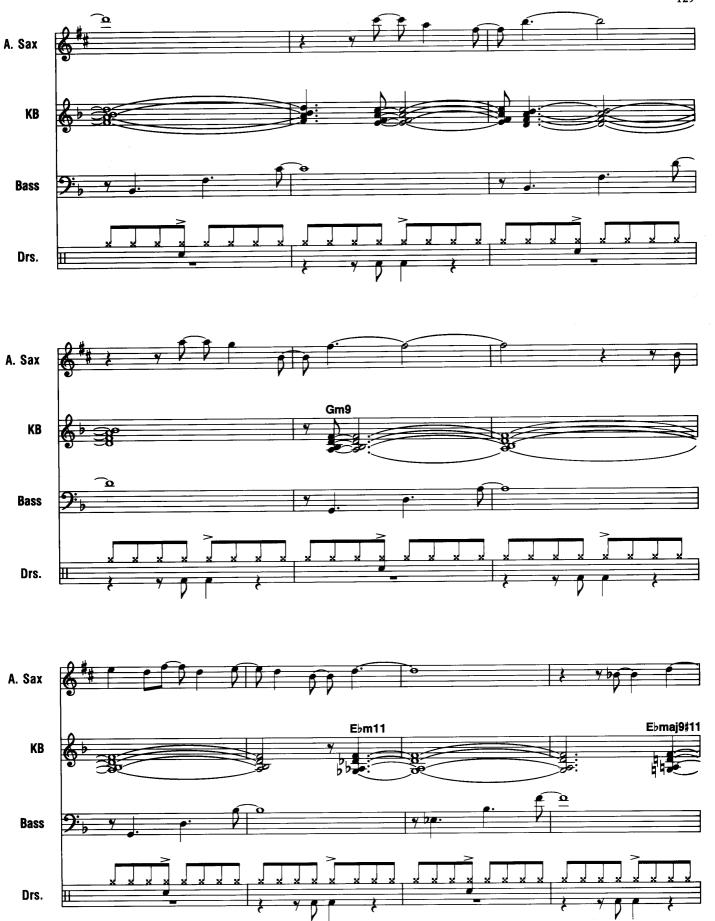


Roland MKS20 MIDIed to TX7 "voice/bell" sound. Measure 49 strings are Prophet VS and Roland Super JX.





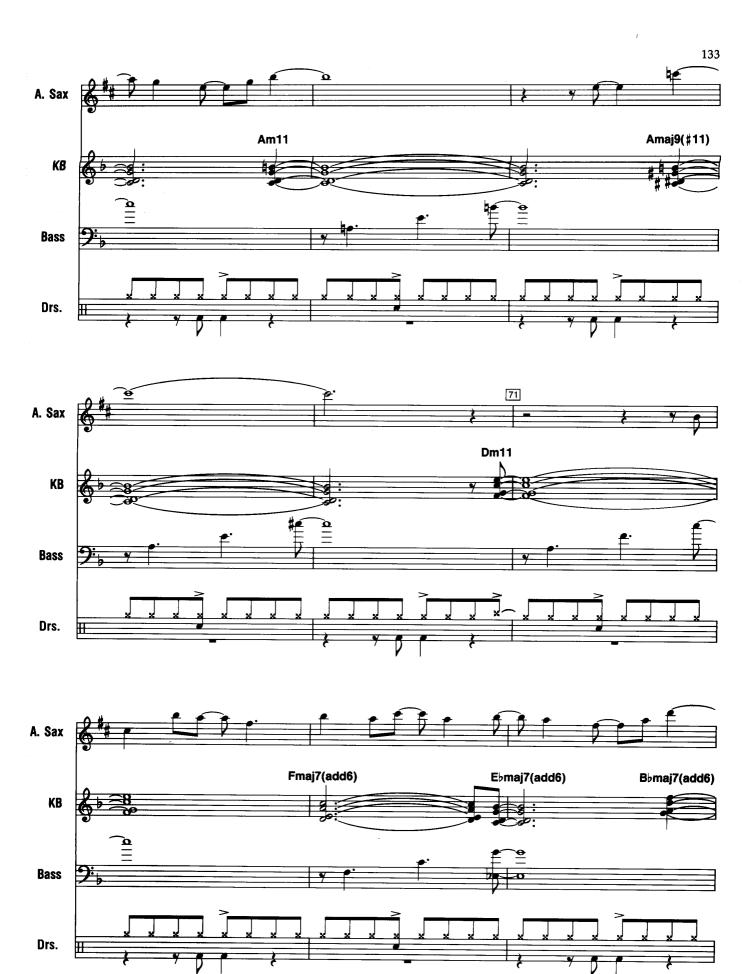






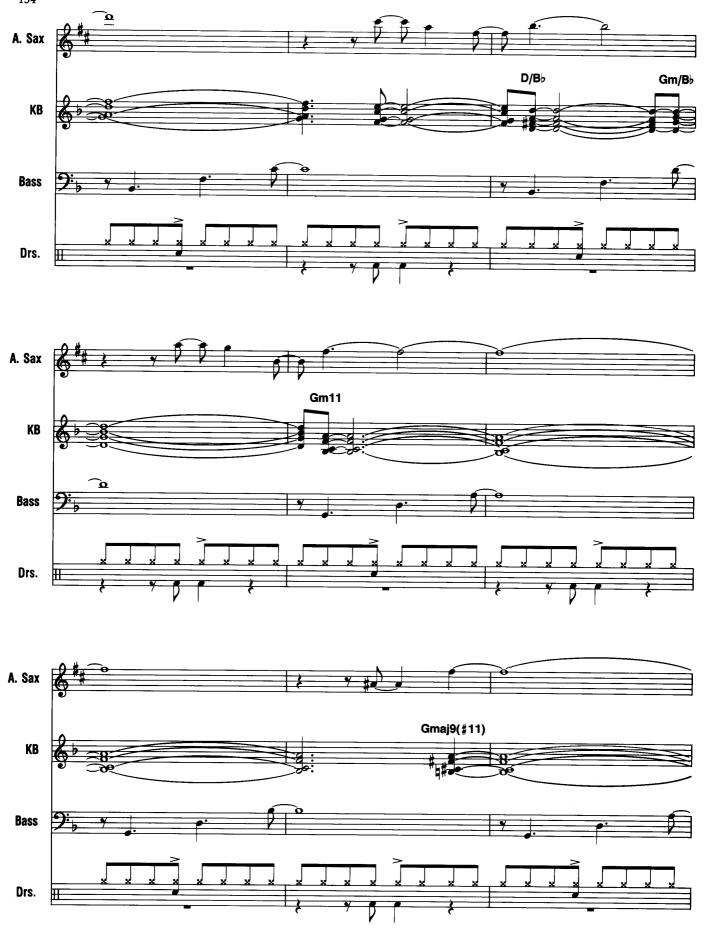








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"FOUR CORNERS" includes complete, note-for-note transcriptions of:

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SIGHTSEEING
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