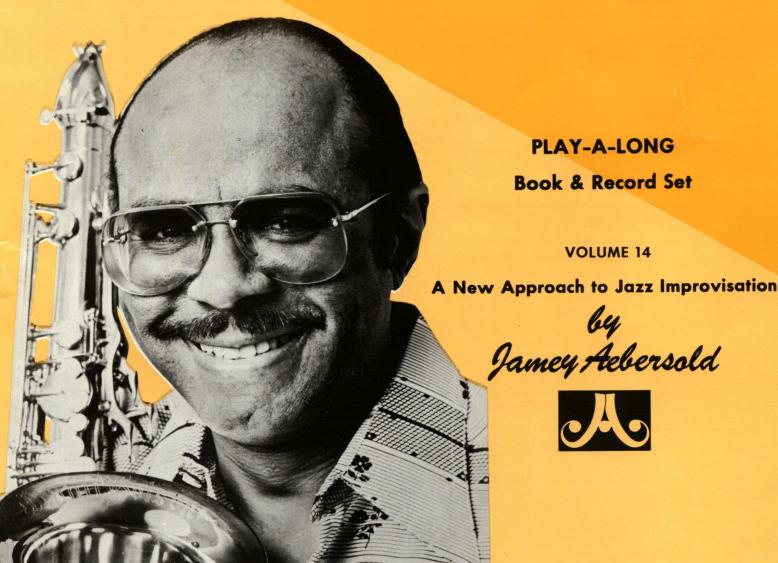
for YOU to play . . .

BENNY GOLSON

Eight JAZZ Classics



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INTRODUCTION

It is one of the great ironies of music that jazzmen have by and large had to look outside the jazz milieu for song materials - only a scant handful of songwriters working within jazz have achieved much recognition as composers. To that select group belongs Benny Golson, whose compositions have been widely recorded by other jazzmen - indeed, some have had lyrics added to them so the singers could do them too.

First coming to prominence in the 50s as a tenor saxophonist as well as a writer, Golson worked with such groups as the Dizzy Gillespie and Lionel Hampton big bands and Art Blakey's Jazz Messengers as well as the Jazztet, a six-man group he co-led with flugelhornist Art Farmer. Today, Golson is busy writing motion picture and television scores, in addition to his jazz endeavors.

The tunes on this album are mostly from the 50s. Most jazz trumpeters who grew up then are familiar with I Remember Clifford, written in memory of Clifford Brown, who was also on the Hampton band in the early 50s. The melody has a soaring quality, and the changes lend themselves to improvisation. Blues March is just that, though the tempo might be a bit quick for marching. Especially interesting from an improviser's point of view is the chord sequence in the fifth and sixth bars. Easy Way Walk is taken at a deceptively easy tempo with a bluesy feel. Swinging at this slow a tempo will provide a good test of your time sense. On the other hand, Stablemates comes along at a pretty bright tempo, and the fast-changing chords will provide a different kind of challenge. This tune has particularly interested jazzmen because although the "A" strain is 14 bars long, this unusual length doesn't sound contrived. Are You Real is a medium tempo tune which keeps you guessing what key it's in. Along Came Betty, taken in shuffle tempo, has a number of passages where the chords move chromatically, providing a still different challenge. Whisper Not is a relaxed, minor-keyed tune whose tonal center keeps shifting. Killer Joe has been a cornerstone of the jam session repertoire for a decade or so, though many players find the bridge very tricky.

Incidentally, purists will be interested to know that Golson himself supervised the recording of these tracks.

CONCERT KEY CHORD PROGRESSIONS

Killer Joe

Side 1, Track 1

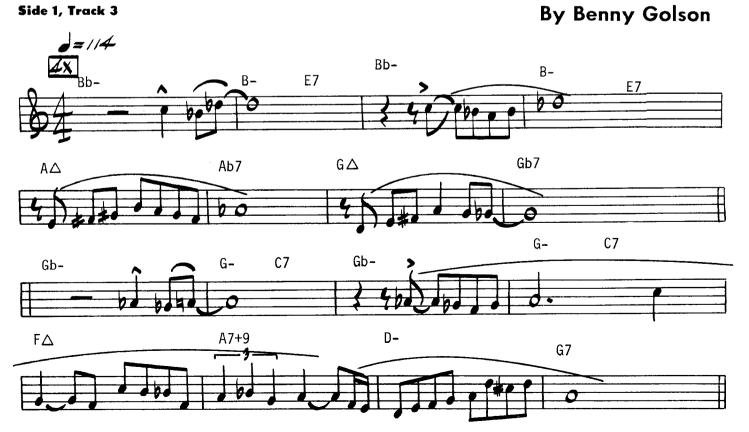


Ease Away Walk



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Along Came Betty







Side 1, Track 4

Are You Real





Whisper Not



Side 2, Track 2

I Remember Clifford



I Remember Clifford







Side 2, Track 3

Stablemates



Stablemates







Blues March

Side 2, Track 4

