

JAZZ LINES PUBLICATIONS

Presents

THE JEFFREY SULTANOF MASTER EDITION

I'M COMING VIRGINIA

AS RECORDED BY BENNY CARTER

ARRANGED BY BENNY CARTER

EDITED BY JEFFREY SULTANOF

FULL SCORE

FROM THE ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPT

JLP-8233

WORDS BY WILL MARION COOK

MUSIC BY DONALD HEYWOOD

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I'M COMING VIRGINIA

At long last, Benny Carter's arrangements for saxophone ensembles are now available, authorized by Hilma Carter and the Benny Carter Estate.

Carter himself is one of the legendary soloists and composer/arrangers in the history of American music. Born in 1905, he studied piano with his mother, but wanted to play the trumpet. Saving up to buy one, he realized it was a harder instrument that he'd imagined, so he exchanged it for a C-melody saxophone. By the age of fifteen, he was already playing professionally. Carter was already a veteran of such bands as Earl Hines and Charlie Johnson by his twenties. He became chief arranger of the Fletcher Henderson Orchestra when Don Redman left, and brought an entirely new style to the orchestra which was widely imitated by other arrangers and bands.

In 1931, he became the musical director of McKinney's Cotton Pickers, one of the top bands of the era, and once again picked up the trumpet. Carter was one of the few musicians who could solo effectively on both the saxophone and the trumpet. Several of these solos were imitated and studied by musicians worldwide, as were his own arrangements, written for his own band and the top ensembles of the era.

Along with Coleman Hawkins, Carter went to Europe in the mid-1930s. He became an arranger with the BBC dance orchestra under the direction of Henry Hall, played and recorded with Willie Lewis' band in Paris, and led bands all over Europe. He was idolized by the European musicians he worked with, many of whom said years later that his presence among them was like going to school, and his gentlemanly manner endeared him to many.

In 1938, he returned to the United States and led his own band again. His arrangements also graced the books of the Benny Goodman, Glenn Miller, Gene Krupa, Duke Ellington and Count Basie Orchestras. Moving to the west coast in 1942, Carter entered the movie business as a saxophonist/composer/musical director, one of the first African-Americans to do so. In later years, he would compose and arrange music for television and make an occasional album. By the 1970s, however, he devoted more time to giving master classes at universities. He regularly gave seminars at Princeton University and was awarded an honorary doctorate by that university in 1974. He was awarded an NEA Jazz Masters Award in 1986. Many other honors followed in the years to come, along with tours with all-star big bands and small groups, more award-winning albums, and a satisfying home life with his wife Hilma. This great man who'd accomplished so much in his 95 years finally succumbed to bronchitis in 2003.



Benny performing in Japan, 1989

These compositions and arrangements were originally recorded for Impulse on the albums *Further Definitions (1961)*, and *Additions to Further Definitions (1966)*, and for the Musical Heritage Society on *Over the Rainbow (1989)*. This arrangement was recorded on March 7, 1938, the last recording session Carter made in Europe before he returned to New York. Perhaps because the European musicians were still adjusting to the American swing style, Carter's manuscript has swing notated as dotted eighth-sixteenth figures. Because this notation is cumbersome, this has been changed to eighth notes throughout.

Jeffrey Sultanof
- August 2010

I'M COMING VIRGINIA

SCORE

(RECORDED BY BENNY CARTER)

WORDS BY WILL MARION COOK

MUSIC BY DONALD HEYWOOD

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EDITED BY JEFFREY SULTANOF

BRIGHT SWING ♩ = 170

The musical score is arranged for a jazz ensemble. It includes staves for Alto Sax 1 & 2, Tenor Sax 1 & 2, Guitar, Piano, Bass, and Drum Set. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The tempo is marked as BRIGHT SWING with a quarter note equal to 170 beats per minute. The score is divided into four measures. The saxophones enter in measure 4 with a melody starting on G4. The piano accompaniment features a solo in measure 1, with chords C°7, B°7, and B°m6. The bass line follows the harmonic structure with notes G2, B1, and D2. The drum set part uses brushes and features a pattern of eighth notes in measures 1 and 3.

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(A)

A. Sax. 1
A. Sax. 2
T. Sax. 1
T. Sax. 2
Gtr.
PNO
BASS
D. S.

mf *mf*

F C7sus4 F Am7(b9) D7 G9 C7 F7

(PLAY TIME - SWING) (4)

5 6 7 8

A. Sax. 1
A. Sax. 2
T. Sax. 1
T. Sax. 2
Gtr.
PNO
BASS
D. S.

B^b F/A G⁷ C⁷ F D_m G_m⁷ C⁷

B^b F/A G⁷ G_m⁷ C⁷ F D_m G_m⁷ C⁷

B^b F/A G⁷ G_m⁷ C⁷ F D_m G_m⁷ C⁷

(8)

9 10 11 12

(B)

A. Sax. 1

A. Sax. 2

T. Sax. 1

T. Sax. 2

GTR.

PNO

BASS

D. S.

13 14 15 16

(4)

A. Sax. 1

A. Sax. 2

T. Sax. 1

T. Sax. 2

GTR.

PNO

BASS

D. S.

17 18 19 20

(B)