

The Banana Boat Song

Jamaican Folk Song
Arranged by Victor López (ASCAP)

INSTRUMENTATION

Conductor
1st E \flat Alto Saxophone
2nd E \flat Alto Saxophone
1st B \flat Tenor Saxophone
2nd B \flat Tenor Saxophone (Optional)
1st B \flat Trumpet
2nd B \flat Trumpet (Optional)
1st Trombone
2nd Trombone (Optional)
Guitar Chords
Guitar (Optional)
Piano
Bass
Drums

Optional/Alternate Parts

1st C Flute
2nd C Flute
1st B \flat Clarinet
2nd B \flat Clarinet
E \flat Baritone Saxophone
Vibraphone
Tuba (Doubles Bass)
Horn in F (Doubles 1st Trombone)
Baritone Horn T.C./B \flat Tenor Saxophone (Doubles 1st Trombone)
Auxiliary Percussion (Claves, Conga Drums)

JAZZ
BEGINNINGS
SERIES

NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

The Banana Boat Song originated as a Jamaican folk song. The song was probably created around the second half of the nineteenth century or the first half of the twentieth century, when there was a rise of the banana trade in Jamaica. Many different artists throughout the years have recorded the song.

This piece has many repeated patterns, making the chart easy to rehearse, learn, and teach. In order to facilitate the rehearsal, talk through the entire piece with the students, and have them find the repeated patterns. For example, the first four measures of the introduction are similar to the last four measures of the coda. Point out the two-measure call-and-response patterns during mm. 9–40.

Articulations should be played accurately and consistently. The staccatos are played short but not clipped or too short. Rooftop or *marcato* accents (▲) are detached and accented—think “daht.” During warm-up, practice staccato tonguing using scale patterns or single notes. Regarding attacks and releases, direct the band to focus playing every *tutti* attack unified, as one. Stress the concept of playing as a unit and listening to each other to hear how their particular part contributes to the ensemble sound. Releases are often overlooked with young players. Direct the winds to focus on giving full value to sustained notes and to release together. Clean releases will make every band sound more polished and mature.

In m. 33 the call-and-response technique continues with only winds and drums. This contrasting section is transparent, so stress accurate articulation for all players.

In m. 41 the saxes and clarinets are more legato than before. Direct the saxes in particular to observe the articulation.

Note that an optional percussion part has been provided with this arrangement and will complement the rhythm section. However, auxiliary percussion should enhance, not overpower, the rhythm section.

This is a fun piece to play, and I hope that the students and audience will enjoy it.

—Victor López



**Victor
López**

Victor López is a highly acclaimed educator, composer, arranger, and adjudicator. He holds music degrees from the University of Florida and Florida International University, with an Ed.D. in Educational Administration and Supervision. He has served as director of bands at the middle and senior high school levels and as an administrator in the Miami-Dade County Public Schools. He has recorded and performed with various artists and has appeared in numerous music videos. He has over 450 compositions/arrangements published as an exclusive composer, arranger, and clinician for Alfred Music.

CONDUCTOR
47511S

THE BANANA BOAT SONG

Jamaican Folk Song
Arranged by Victor López (ASCAP)

MODERATE CALYPSO ♩ = 120

1st C FLUTE (OPTIONAL)

2ND C FLUTE (OPTIONAL)

1st B♭ CLARINET (OPTIONAL)

2ND B♭ CLARINET (OPTIONAL)

1st E♭ ALTO SAXOPHONE

2ND E♭ ALTO SAXOPHONE

1st B♭ TENOR SAXOPHONE

2ND B♭ TENOR SAXOPHONE (OPTIONAL)

1st B♭ TRUMPET

2ND B♭ TRUMPET (OPTIONAL)

1st TROMBONE

2ND TROMBONE (OPTIONAL)

GUITAR (OPTIONAL)

PIANO

BASS

DRUMS

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

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This musical score is for the conductor part of 'The Banana Boat Song'. It includes staves for Flute 1 and 2, Clarinet 1 and 2, Alto 1 and 2, Tenor 1 and 2, Trumpet 1 and 2, Trombone 1 and 2, Guitar, Piano (with right and left hand parts), Bass, and Drums. The score is in 4/4 time and features a large red watermark that reads 'Preview Only Requires Purchase'. The piano part includes chord markings such as (Bb), F7/C, and Bb. The drum part shows a rhythmic pattern with accents. The page is numbered 9 through 16 at the bottom.

17

FLUTE 1

FLUTE 2

CLAR. 1

CLAR. 2

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

TRP. 1

TRP. 2

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24

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25

FLUTE 1

FLUTE 2

CLAR. 1

CLAR. 2

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

TRP. 1

TRP. 2

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32

This musical score is for the conductor part of 'The Banana Boat Song'. It spans 8 measures, from measure 25 to 32. The score includes parts for Flute 1 and 2, Clarinet 1 and 2, Alto 1 and 2, Tenor 1 and 2, Trumpet 1 and 2, Trombone 1 and 2, Guitar, Piano, Bass, and Drums. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). The piano part includes chord markings: (Bb), F7, Bb, F7/C, Bb, F7, Bb, F7/C, Bb. The drum part shows a consistent rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. A large red watermark 'Preview Requires Purchase' is overlaid diagonally across the page.

33

FLUTE 1

FLUTE 2

CLAR. 1

CLAR. 2

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

TRP. 1

TRP. 2

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

GR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

MID. TOM

33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40

41

FLUTE 1

FLUTE 2

CLAR. 1

CLAR. 2

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

TRP. 1

TRP. 2

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

GRG.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48

49

FLUTE 1

FLUTE 2

CLAR. 1

CLAR. 2

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

TRP. 1

TRP. 2

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56

57

FLUTE 1

FLUTE 2

CLAR. 1

CLAR. 2

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

TRP. 1

TRP. 2

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

57 58 59 60 61 62

CONDUCTOR

THE BANANA BOAT SONG

D.S. $\frac{3}{4}$ AL CODA

C CODA

Musical score for the first page (measures 63-64) for the following instruments:

- FLUTE 1
- FLUTE 2
- CLAR. 1
- CLAR. 2
- ALTO 1
- ALTO 2
- TENOR 1
- TENOR 2
- TPT. 1
- TPT. 2
- TBN. 1
- TBN. 2
- GTR.
- PNO. (N.C.)
- BASS
- DRUMS

63

64

Musical score for the second page (measures 65-68) for the following instruments:

- FLUTE 1
- FLUTE 2
- CLAR. 1
- CLAR. 2
- ALTO 1
- ALTO 2
- TENOR 1
- TENOR 2
- TPT. 1
- TPT. 2
- TBN. 1
- TBN. 2
- GTR.
- PNO. (N.C.)
- BASS
- DRUMS

65

66

67

68

68

