

Notes on 'High Street'

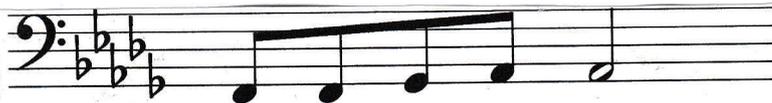
This piece is great for all brass players who are looking at doing Grade 2 or looking for a piece at about this level, as it currently features on the ABRSM syllabus (up to 2020) for all brass instruments as one of the List B pieces.

These notes work best if you listen also to the audio recording, which helps you to learn the rhythms by ear.

This is a great tune that I must warn you, is very catchy! The quavers need to be swung, rather than played straight. If you haven't played swung quavers before, you may wish to look at the lesson in the ArtForms home learning resources, listed under Green Award titled 'I can improvise in a jazz style' as this takes you through the first steps in learning how to swing quavers.

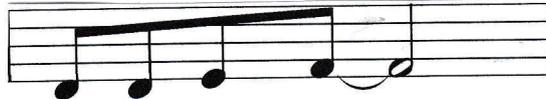
It is helpful to think of swung quavers always in groups of two, where the first quaver is made a bit longer than if it was played 'straight' and the second quaver is a bit shorter. Try saying 'Doo-ba Doo-ba Doo-ba Doo-ba'. This would be a bar of swung quavers in 4/4.

In the first bar of High Street, there are four quavers, with the last quaver tied on to a minim. First say and then play the rhythm, without the tie: Doo-ba Doo-ba DOOOOO. Remember to count two whole beats whilst playing the DOOOOO! Count yourself in for a full bar first (1-2-3-4).



Doo - ba Doo - ba Doooo

Now say and then play the first bar with the tie included: Doo-ba Doo-BAAAAA.



Doo-ba doo-Baaaaa

Now you are getting used to playing and singing swung quavers, you will be ready to learn the piece as a whole. I've written some words to help to learn the tune 'by ear'. If you can listen to the audio recording of the words and follow them on the music at the same time, this will help you to get to know the tune and the rhythms. Remember those flats in the key signature!

5

9

The sun is out, the sky is blue, there's lots of things for the people to do

Detailed description: This block shows the first four measures of a piece. The music is written in bass clef with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The notes are: G2, A2, B-flat2, C3, D3, E-flat3, F3, G3, A3, B-flat3, C4, D4, E-flat4, F4, G4. There are slurs over the first four notes and the last four notes. Accents are placed above the notes G3, C4, and G4.

13

lots of fun had by eve-ry-one *mf* it's beau-ti-ful here we're ha-ving a ball!

Detailed description: This block shows measures 13-16. The notes are: G3, A3, B-flat3, C4, D4, E-flat4, F4, G4, A4, B-flat4, C5, B-flat4, A4, G4. There are slurs over the first four notes and the last four notes. An *mf* dynamic marking is present. Accents are placed above the notes G4, C5, and G4.

17

f we're on our way Stro-llin' down the high street, Ha-ppy to-day Stro-llin' down the high street

Detailed description: This block shows measures 17-20. The notes are: G3, A3, B-flat3, C4, D4, E-flat4, F4, G4, A4, B-flat4, C5, B-flat4, A4, G4. There are slurs over the first four notes and the last four notes. An *f* dynamic marking is present. Accents are placed above the notes G4, C5, and G4.

21

That's where we are Stro-llin' down the high street Life is won-de-ful Yeah!

Detailed description: This block shows measures 21-24. The notes are: G3, A3, B-flat3, C4, D4, E-flat4, F4, G4, A4, B-flat4, C5, B-flat4, A4, G4. There are slurs over the first four notes and the last four notes. An accent is placed above the final G4 note.

Watch out for the different articulations in the piece. There are tenutos (with lines, played for their full length), staccatos (with dots, played very short) and slurs (joined together). If you want some practise on these, check out the worksheet in the Artforms learning materials under the yellow award, titled 'Playing slurs, staccato and legato'. There are also accents, which are the little arrows above or below the notes. These notes should be played a bit stronger at the start of the note.

Try to imagine that you are strolling casually down the street when playing this song, without a care in the world. It has a lovely flow to it and is very enjoyable to play.