

Better Get It in Your Soul

CHARLES MINGUS
Arranged by RALPH FORD

INSTRUMENTATION

Conductor	1st Trombone
1st E♭ Alto Saxophone	2nd Trombone
2nd E♭ Alto Saxophone	3rd Trombone (Optional)
1st B♭ Tenor Saxophone	4th Trombone (Optional)
2nd B♭ Tenor Saxophone	Guitar Chords
E♭ Baritone Saxophone (Optional)	Guitar (Optional)
1st B♭ Trumpet	Piano
2nd B♭ Trumpet	Bass
3rd B♭ Trumpet	Drums
4th B♭ Trumpet (Optional)	

Optional/Alternate Parts

C Flute
B♭ Clarinet
Vibraphone
Tuba (Doubles Bass)
Horn in F (Doubles 1st Trombone)
1st Baritone Horn T.C./B♭ Tenor Saxophone (Doubles 1st Trombone)
2nd Baritone Horn T.C./B♭ Tenor Saxophone (Doubles 2nd Trombone)

YOUNG
JAZZ
ENSEMBLE

NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

"Better Get It in Your Soul" was first released on the 1959 studio album *Mingus Ah Um*. When composing this tune, Mingus was influenced by the gospel singing and Pentecostal preaching style he had heard while growing up in the Watts section of Los Angeles.

In this arrangement, the tempo is marked at 170 BPM for younger musicians, but it should still be performed with a heavy gospel groove. The metronome marking is just a suggestion, especially for younger players, and may be adjusted up to 208 BPM or slightly higher, if desired. The chart kicks off with the familiar theme's original opening statement by Mingus, but instead of it being exclusively performed by the string bass, the brass performs a "squeeze" *glissando* to the saxophone statement. The "X" notation should initially be interpreted as low on the trumpet/trombone as possible (but not a pedal tone), and the glissando should smear to land nice and "phat" on beat 1 of the opening chord. Trumpets use a ½ valve technique while performing the lip gliss: holding all three valves down to the halfway point, blowing air, and lipping up to the written note. The challenge is for the entire ensemble to hit squarely on beat 1.

The altos and tenors state the main theme beginning at m. 10. The brass plays the second time only until their entrance at m. 22. The bridge at m. 32 features *tutti* writing between alto/trumpet and tenor/bari/ trombones; encourage the students to listen carefully across the band for good intonation in the unison passages.

The predominant rhythmic figures of this chart are these four measures. Consider isolating them within all sections, especially the rhythm section. It would also be good ii-V improvisation practice material.

The image shows four measures of musical notation, numbered 25 through 28. Each measure is written on a single staff. Measure 25 starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notes are: quarter note G4, quarter note A4, quarter note B4, quarter note C5. Measure 26 starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The notes are: quarter note D5, quarter note E5, quarter note F#5, quarter note G5. Measure 27 starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The notes are: quarter note A5, quarter note B5, quarter note C6, quarter note D6. Measure 28 starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The notes are: quarter note E6, quarter note F#6, quarter note G6, quarter note A6. Above each measure, there are chord symbols: F#7(9) for measures 25 and 27, and B9 for measures 26 and 28. The notation includes stems, beams, and note heads.

At measure 90, trombone grace notes are played as a quick gliss to mimic a grace note. Caution young players that the grace note is ornamentation and should not interfere with the placement of the written note. I suggest rehearsing this figure without the grace note then adding this ornamentation when the players are confident.

The solo section begins at measure 68 and is a 20-measure section based on the chord progression from the main medley or "head" of the chart. Written solos are for trombone 1 the first time through and alto 1 the second time through the solos. If you have additional soloists, or if your alto and trombone player want to extend to two choruses, adjust the background parts accordingly. For example: if each soloist plays the solo section twice, play with rhythm section alone first time and add background parts the second time for each soloist. Solos: play saxophone section backgrounds behind the trombone solo and brass backgrounds behind the alto sax solo. Backgrounds should stay dynamically under the soloists.

There are many variations available that can be achieved with creative thinking. Following the solo section, the band breaks down into a 16-measure interlude based on the introductory material and then the band is back to the bridge on the D.S.

Enjoy!

—Ralph Ford



Ralph Ford

Ralph Ford (b.1963) is a composer, arranger, conductor, educator, media creator, producer, writer, radio host, and announcer with over thirty years of experience in these various genres. He is an exclusive composer and arranger for the Belwin division of Alfred Publishing Co., with over 240 titles available worldwide for orchestra, concert band, jazz ensemble, and marching band.

He earned his undergraduate degree in 1986 and his Master of Science degree in 1988 from Troy. He was then appointed to the Troy music faculty where he taught orchestration, arranging, theory, technology, jazz studies, and applied brass followed by his appointment as director of bands, coordinator of winds and percussion, and professor of music. Ralph retired from Troy University in June 2011.

A frequently commissioned composer, his music has been premiered and performed by university, military, professional, community, and school ensembles around the world. Ralph is also in demand as a conductor, clinician, adjudicator, and guest lecturer throughout the United States and abroad.

CONDUCTOR
41168S

MEDIUM GOSPEL GROOVE ♩ = 170

BETTER GET IT IN YOUR SOUL

Composed by Charles Mingus
Arranged by Ralph Ford

The musical score is arranged for a jazz ensemble. The instruments listed on the left are: C Flute (Optional), 1st Eb Alto Saxophone, 2nd Eb Alto Saxophone, 1st Bb Tenor Saxophone, 2nd Bb Tenor Saxophone, Eb Baritone Saxophone (Optional), 1st Bb Trumpet, 2nd Bb Trumpet, 3rd Bb Trumpet, 4th Bb Trumpet (Optional), 1st Trombone, 2nd Trombone, 3rd Trombone (Optional), 4th Trombone (Optional), Guitar (Optional), Piano, Bass, and Drums. The score is in 3/4 time with a tempo of 170. The key signature has one flat (Bb). The music features a variety of rhythmic patterns, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests. There are dynamic markings such as *sfz* and *mf*. The score is divided into measures, with some measures containing multiple staves for different instruments. A large red watermark 'Preview Only - Legal Use Requires Purchase' is overlaid diagonally across the entire page.

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CONDUCTOR

BETTER GET IT IN YOUR SOUL

9 (U/SAVES)

FLUTE

ALTO 1 UNISON SOLI

ALTO 2 UNISON SOLI

TENOR 1 UNISON SOLI

TENOR 2 UNISON SOLI

BARI.

TRP. 1 1/2 VLV.

TRP. 2 1/2 VLV.

TRP. 3 1/2 VLV.

TRP. 4 1/2 VLV.

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

TBN. 3

TBN. 4

GR. F# C# G# C# F# C# G# C#

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

PLAY END TIME

8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15

CONDUCTOR

BETTER GET IT IN YOUR SOUL

FLUTE

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

BARI.

TRP. 1

TRP. 2

TRP. 3

TRP. 4

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

TBN. 3

TBN. 4

GRP.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23

PLAY BOTH TIMES

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Detailed description: This is a page of a musical score for the piece 'Better Get It in Your Soul'. The score is arranged for a large ensemble, including woodwinds (Flute, Alti, Tenors, Baritone), brass (Trumpets 1-4, Trombones 1-4), guitar, piano, bass, and drums. The page is numbered 16 through 23 at the bottom. A large, diagonal red watermark reading 'Legal Use Requires Purchase' is overlaid across the entire page. The music is written in treble and bass clefs with various time signatures and dynamic markings. A conductor's part is indicated at the top left. The title 'BETTER GET IT IN YOUR SOUL' is at the top right. The page number '- 3 -' is centered at the top.

CONDUCTOR

BETTER GET IT IN YOUR SOUL

This musical score is for the piece "Better Get It in Your Soul". It is a conductor's score, page 4 of a set. The score includes parts for the following instruments and voices:

- FLUTE
- ALTO 1
- ALTO 2
- TENOR 1
- TENOR 2
- BARI.
- TRP. 1
- TRP. 2
- TRP. 3
- TRP. 4
- TBN. 1
- TBN. 2
- TBN. 3
- TBN. 4
- GTR.
- PNO. (Grand Piano)
- BASS
- DRUMS

The score is written in 4/4 time and features a key signature of one sharp (F#). It includes first and second endings, marked with "1." and "2." above the staff. A large red watermark "Preview - Legal Use Requires Purchase" is overlaid diagonally across the page. The measure numbers 24 through 31 are indicated at the bottom of the page.

CONDUCTOR

BETTER GET IT IN YOUR SOUL

This musical score is for the piece "Better Get It in Your Soul". It is a conductor's score, meaning it contains parts for all instruments and voices. The score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The instruments and parts included are:

- FLUTE
- ALTO 1
- ALTO 2
- TENOR 1
- TENOR 2
- BARI.
- TRP. 1
- TRP. 2
- TRP. 3
- TRP. 4
- TBN. 1
- TBN. 2
- TBN. 3
- TBN. 4
- GRG. (Guitar)
- PNO. (Piano)
- BASS
- DRUMS

The score consists of 11 staves. The vocal parts (Alto, Tenor, Baritone) have lyrics written below their notes. The instrumental parts include woodwinds, brass, guitar, piano, bass, and drums. A large red watermark "Legal Use Requires Purchase" is overlaid diagonally across the entire page. At the bottom of the page, measure numbers 32 through 39 are indicated.

CONDUCTOR

BETTER GET IT IN YOUR SOUL

This musical score is for the song "Better Get It in Your Soul". It is a conductor's score, meaning it contains parts for all instruments and vocalists. The score is written in 4/8 time and the key signature has one sharp (F#). The instruments included are Flute, Alto 1 & 2, Tenor 1 & 2, Baritone, Trumpet 1-4, Trombone 1-4, Guitar, Piano, Bass, and Drums. The score is divided into measures, with measure numbers 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, and 47 indicated at the bottom. A large red watermark "Legal Use Requires Purchase" is overlaid diagonally across the entire page. The title "BETTER GET IT IN YOUR SOUL" is written in the top right corner, and the page number "- 6 -" is centered at the top.

CONDUCTOR

- 7 -

BETTER GET IT IN YOUR SOUL

This musical score is for the piece "Better Get It in Your Soul". It is arranged for a full orchestra and choir. The instruments listed are Flute, Alto 1, Alto 2, Tenor 1, Tenor 2, Baritone, Trumpet 1-4, Trombone 1-4, Guitar, Piano, Bass, and Drums. The score is written in 4/4 time and features a key signature of one sharp (F#). The conductor's part is at the top. The vocal parts (Tenor 1, Tenor 2, Baritone) have lyrics written below them. The piano part includes chord symbols such as F#9, G#9, C#11, F#6, F#9, G#9, E#7, E#9, and F#6. The drums part is written in a simplified notation with 'x' marks for hits. The page number 48 is at the bottom left, and the measure numbers 48 through 55 are at the bottom.

CONDUCTOR

BETTER GET IT IN YOUR SOUL

To CODA

FLUTE

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

BARI.

TRP. 1

TRP. 2

TRP. 3

TRP. 4

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

TBN. 3

TBN. 4

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63

CONDUCTOR

BETTER GET IT IN YOUR SOUL

67 PLAY SAX SOLOS BEHIND TEN. SOLO (1ST TIME)
A BEASS SOLOS BEHIND ALTO SOLO (END TIME)

FLUTE

ALTO 1 ALTO SOLO, PLAY END TIME

ALTO 2 PLAY 1ST TIME

TENOR 1 PLAY 1ST TIME

TENOR 2 PLAY 1ST TIME

BARI. PLAY END TIME (W/TENS.)

TRP. 1 PLAY END TIME

TRP. 2 PLAY END TIME

TRP. 3 PLAY END TIME

TRP. 4 PLAY END TIME

TEN. 1 TEN. SOLO, PLAY 1ST TIME

TEN. 2 PLAY END TIME

TEN. 3 PLAY END TIME

TEN. 4 PLAY END TIME

GTR. F#9 F7(F#9) Bb15 F6 F9 Bb9 C#11 F6

PNO. F#9 F7(F#9) Bb15 F6 F9 Bb9 C#11 F6

BASS

DRUMS

64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71

CONDUCTOR

BETTER GET IT IN YOUR SOUL

This musical score is for the piece "Better Get It in Your Soul". It is a conductor's score, meaning it contains parts for all instruments and vocalists. The score is written in 4/4 time and the key signature has one sharp (F#). The instruments included are Flute, Alto 1, Alto 2, Tenor 1, Tenor 2, Baritone, Trumpet 1, Trumpet 2, Trumpet 3, Trumpet 4, Trombone 1, Trombone 2, Trombone 3, Trombone 4, Guitar, Piano, Bass, and Drums. The score is divided into measures, with measure numbers 72 through 79 visible at the bottom. A large red watermark reading "Preview Only - Legal Use Requires Purchase" is overlaid diagonally across the entire page.

CONDUCTOR

BETTER GET IT IN YOUR SOUL

REPEAT FOR ADD. SOLOS

This musical score is for the piece "Better Get It in Your Soul". It is a conductor's score, page 11 of the set. The score is written for a large ensemble including:

- FLUTE
- ALTO 1
- ALTO 2
- TENOR 1
- TENOR 2
- SAXI.
- TRP. 1
- TRP. 2
- TRP. 3
- TRP. 4
- TBN. 1
- TBN. 2
- TBN. 3
- TBN. 4
- GTR.
- PNO.
- BASS
- DRUMS

The score is in 4/4 time and features a key signature of one sharp (F#). It includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings. A large red watermark "Preview Only" is overlaid diagonally across the page. At the bottom of the page, measure numbers 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, and 86 are indicated.

CONDUCTOR

BETTER GET IT IN YOUR SOUL

This musical score is for the piece "Better Get It in Your Soul". It is a full orchestral and vocal score, spanning measures 87 to 94. The instruments and voices included are:

- FLUTE
- ALTO 1
- ALTO 2
- TENOR 1
- TENOR 2
- BARIT.
- TRP. 1
- TRP. 2
- TRP. 3
- TRP. 4
- TEN. 1
- TEN. 2
- TEN. 3
- TEN. 4
- GRV.
- PNO.
- BASS
- DRUMS

The score is written in a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). A large red watermark reading "Preview Only Requires Purchase" is overlaid diagonally across the entire page. The conductor's part is indicated by a circled number 87 at the beginning of the first staff.

CONDUCTOR

BETTER GET IT IN YOUR SOUL

D.S. AL CODA

This musical score is for the piece "Better Get It in Your Soul" and is marked "D.S. AL CODA". It is a conductor's score, indicated by the "CONDUCTOR" label. The score is for page 13 of the work. The instruments and parts included are:

- FLUTE
- ALTO 1
- ALTO 2
- TENOR 1
- TENOR 2
- BARI.
- TRP. 1
- TRP. 2
- TRP. 3
- TRP. 4
- TBN. 1
- TBN. 2
- TBN. 3
- TBN. 4
- GRG.
- PNO.
- BASS
- DRUMS

The score is written in a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). It features a large, diagonal watermark that reads "Preview Only - Legal Use Requires Purchase". The page number "13" is centered at the top. The title "BETTER GET IT IN YOUR SOUL" and the instruction "D.S. AL CODA" are in the top right corner. The conductor's part is labeled "CONDUCTOR" in the top left. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, dynamics, and articulation marks. The page is numbered at the bottom with measures 95 through 102.

CONDUCTOR

BETTER GET IT IN YOUR SOUL

COCA

FLUTE

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

BARI.

TRP. 1

TRP. 2

TRP. 3

TRP. 4

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

TBN. 3

TBN. 4

GRP.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

103 104 105 106 107 108 109 110

CONDUCTOR

BETTER GET IT IN YOUR SOUL

FLUTE

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

BARI.

TRP. 1

TRP. 2

TRP. 3

TRP. 4

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

TBN. 3

TBN. 4

GRF.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

111

112

113

114

115

116

117

Opp. dir.

Directed

N.C.

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