
Eighth Note Publications

Miles

David Ferguson

Miles, as the name implies, is inspired by the improvisations and compositional style of Miles Davis during his “modal period”. With one masked exception, none of the themes presented here are taken from Miles Davis’ recordings. Instead, the piece is constructed (like Miles’ solos) around clearly defined rhythmic and melodic motives. These motives are explored in five sections, and are tied together with a two measure recurring vamp which invokes Miles’ questioning and searching spirit.

This piece requires a good deal of rhythmic independence from players and each person is featured in short solo and lead roles at various points throughout the piece. Range considerations in the piece are minimal, since it rarely travels far above the staff. This limited range was done to facilitate performances by trumpeters at the high school, collegiate or professional levels. The choice to use four trumpets was also made deliberately, both to ensure part independence and transparent texture, as well as to encourage directors to perform this work using the trumpet section of a school jazz band.

Close attention should be paid to articulations and dynamics. Unless noted otherwise, assume a legato feel with no vibrato. There are several mute changes which may pose a challenge if the tempo is not kept at the 60 beats per minute indicated. Attention to tempo and practice should make these mute changes more manageable.

It should also be noted that the loudest point of the piece begins on beat 3 of m. 45. Especially note the crescendo into this chord (the first major triad to appear in the piece) on the run before it. The performers should also take care that no crescendos previous to this point reach the same volume as that in m. 45.

I hope you enjoy the piece. I welcome your questions or comments. Please email me a note when you perform it.

David Ferguson dfergusn@iup.edu

David Ferguson is a native of Illinois, having received a B.M. in Music Education with Jazz Emphasis from Millikin University in Decatur, Illinois, an M.M.E. in instrumental music education and an Ed.D. in Music Education from the University of Illinois.

Before joining the IUP faculty, Dr. Ferguson was Director of Bands at Stephen Decatur High School in Decatur Illinois where he taught Marching, Symphonic, Concert, Pep Band, and Jazz Bands for 6 years. In addition to these duties, Dr. Ferguson taught elementary band and strings at several district schools. During his tenure with the Decatur schools, Dr. Ferguson also taught high school orchestra as well as 7th grade general music. Dr. Ferguson has additional experience directing church handbell choirs and vocal ensembles.

Dr. Ferguson has extensive experience as an adjudicator and clinician. He has presented at several regional conferences in Illinois, and has worked with numerous bands in both Illinois and Pennsylvania. Articles under his authorship have been published in the Illinois Music Educator, School Band and Orchestra, The Instrumentalist and the Journal of the National Band Association. He is also listed as a contributing author in the recent MENC publication, Strategies for Teaching: Technology.

Dr. Ferguson has maintained an active trumpet studio throughout his career, having taught privately in Decatur and Champaign, IL and as an instructor in the preparatory department at Millikin University. Likewise, Dr. Ferguson remains active as a performer with experience from Dixieland to Bebop, to Orchestral and chamber music. Locally, he has performed with the Johnstown, Westmoreland, and McKeesport symphonies, the IUP faculty brass quintet, and with a jazz combo fronted by his wife, Laura (also an IUP music professor).

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DIFFICULTY RATING: Medium

4 Trumpets

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MILES

David A. Ferguson

Cool and Smooth $\text{♩} = 60$
harmon mute, no stem

2 3 4

B♭ Trumpet 1

Flugel horn lead *p*

B♭ Trumpet 2 and Flugel horn *mp*

B♭ Trumpet 3 cup mute *p*

B♭ Trumpet 4 cup mute *p*

5 6 7 8

1 2 3 4

9 10 12

1 2 3 4

open *mp*

open

13 14 15 16

1 2 3 4

p to Trumpet

mf Trumpet

mf

mf

mf

The musical score is written for four B♭ trumpets. It begins with a tempo of 60 beats per minute and a mood of 'Cool and Smooth'. The first four measures show the trumpets playing in 5/4 time, with various dynamics and articulations. Measures 5-8 show a change to 4/4 time, with the first trumpet playing a lead line on the flugel horn. Measures 9-12 continue in 4/4 time, with the first trumpet playing an 'open' sound. Measures 13-16 show a change to 5/4 time, with the first trumpet playing a 'p' dynamic and then a 'mf' dynamic. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, accents, and dynamic markings.

17 18 19 lead not lead 20

1 *mp*

2 *mp*

3 *mp*

4 *mp*

21 22 24

1 *f*

2 *f*

3 *f*

4 *f*

lead

25 26 27 28

1 *mf*

2 *mf*

3 *mf*

4 *mf*

p

p

p

p

PREVIEW ONLY

29 30 31 32

1 *f*

2 *f*

3 *f*

4 *f*

p

f

p

f

33 34 35 36

1 *mp* open

2 *p* open

3 lead *p*

4 *mf* open *p*

37 38 39 40

1 *mf* Poco Piu Mosso

2 *mp*

3 not lead *mp*

4 *mp*

41 42 43 44

1

2

3

4

45 46 47 48

1 *ff* *f*

2 *ff* *f*

3 *ff* *f*

4 *ff* *f*

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