

# Take the 'A' train

Billy Strayhorn

arranged by James Rattigan  
for 16 horns and rhythm

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## Programme note:

A legend about this song relates that Strayhorn who had already met Duke Ellington in 1938, impressed him with his ability on the piano but, despite promises that the band leader would soon contact him, heard nothing. In January 1939, Strayhorn decided to go and meet him again at a gig in Harlem. He took a composition he had prepared at home, hoping to impress the seasoned band leader. He reached Harlem, thanks to some directions from Ellington's agent's office and got to actually play for Ellington who was impressed and asked him what the title was. Strayhorn could only come up with the last thing he had heard: the directions he got from Ellington's office to reach Harlem! "Take the 'A' train". Strayhorn became a member of the band and his song became its signature tune.

## Performance note:

Part 16 requires a jazz improviser

Score in F

# Take the 'A' Train

Billy Strayhorn  
arr. J Rattigan

Horn 1

1

*legato*



Horn 2

*mf*

*legato*



Horn 3



Horn 4



Horn 5



Horn 6



Horn 7



Horn 8



Horn 9



Horn 10



Horn 11



Horn 12



Horn 13



Horn 14

1



Horn 15



Horn 16



Piano



Bass



Drums



8

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Hn. 3

Hn. 4

*mf*

Hn. 5

*mf*

Hn. 6

*mf*

Hn. 7

*mf*

Hn. 8

*mf*

Hn. 9

Hn. 10

*mf*

Hn. 11

Hn. 12

*mf*

Hn.13

8

Hn. 14

Hn. 15

Hn. 16

Pno

Bass

Drums



# A

17

Hn. 1 *fp* *molto* *f*

Hn. 2 *fp* *molto* *f*

Hn. 3 *fp* *molto* *f*

Hn. 4 *fp* *molto* *f*

Hn. 5 *fp* *molto* *f*

Hn. 6 *fp* *molto* *f*

Hn. 7 *fp* *molto* *f*

Hn. 8 *fp* *molto* *f*

Hn. 9 *fp* *molto* *f*

Hn. 10 *fp* *molto* *f*

Hn. 11 *f* *f*

Hn. 12 *fp* *molto* *f*

Hn. 13 *fp* *molto* *f*

Hn. 14 *fp* *molto* *f*

Hn. 15 *fp* *molto* *f*

Hn. 16 *fp* *molto* *f*

Pno *fp* *molto* *f* F6 F7(♯11) F7(♯11) Gmin Csus4 C7(♭9)

Bass *fp* *molto* *f* F F6 F7(♯11) F7(♯11) Gmin Csus4 C7(♭9)

Drums *fp* *molto* *f* swing... swing...

fill

**B**

Hn. 1Hn. 2Hn. 3Hn. 4Hn. 5Hn. 6Hn. 7Hn. 8Hn. 9Hn. 10Hn. 11Hn. 12Hn. 13Hn. 14Hn. 15Hn. 16

fill..

swing....

[illegible]





**D**

43

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Hn. 3

Hn. 4

Hn. 5

Hn. 6

Hn. 7

Hn. 8

Hn. 9

Hn. 10

Hn. 11

Hn. 12

Hn. 13

Hn. 14

Hn. 15

Hn. 16

Pno

Bass

Drums

swing...

v. slow slur

3

3

3

3

F $\Delta$

F $\Delta$

G7(#11)

G7(#11) 3

Gmin7

C

F#7(#11)

F $\Delta$

F $\Delta$

G7(#11)

G7(#11)

Gmin7

C

F#7(#11)

[illegible]

[illegible]

## 67

-13-

76

H

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Hn. 3

Hn. 4

Hn. 5

Hn. 6

Hn. 7

Hn. 8

Hn. 9

Hn. 10

Hn. 11

Hn. 12

Hn. 13

Hn. 14

Hn. 15

Hn. 16

Pno

Bass

Drums

**I**

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Hn. 3

Hn. 4

Hn. 5

Hn. 6

Hn. 7

Hn. 8

Hn. 9

Hn. 10

Hn. 11

Hn. 12

Hn. 13

Hn. 14

Hn. 15

Hn. 16

Pno

Bass

Drums

# J

Hn. 1Hn. 2Hn. 3Hn. 4Hn. 5Hn. 6Hn. 7Hn. 8Hn. 9Hn. 10Hn. 11Hn. 12Hn. 13Hn. 14Hn. 15Hn. 16

PnoBassDrums





102

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Hn. 3

Hn. 4

Hn. 5

Hn. 6

Hn. 7

Hn. 8

Hn. 9

Hn. 10

Hn. 11

Hn. 12

Hn. 13

102

Hn. 14

Hn. 15

Hn. 16

Pno

Bass

Drums

K

F7 F7 Gmin Gmin7 C7(13) out

F7 F7 Gmin Gmin7 C7(13) out

L

Hn. 1

108

Hn. 2

Hn. 3

Hn. 4

Hn. 5

Hn. 6

Hn. 7

Hn. 8

Hn. 9

Hn. 10

Hn. 11

Hn. 12

Hn.13

Hn. 14

108

Hn. 15

Hn. 16

Pno

Bass

Drums

116

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Hn. 3

Hn. 4

Hn. 5

Hn. 6

Hn. 7

Hn. 8

Hn. 9

Hn. 10

Hn. 11

Hn. 12

Hn.13

116

Hn. 14

Hn. 15

Hn. 16

Pno

Bass

Drums

out

drum break.. (1+4 bars)

# M

Hn. 1Hn. 2Hn. 3Hn. 4Hn. 5Hn. 6Hn. 7Hn. 8Hn. 9Hn. 10Hn. 11Hn. 12Hn. 13Hn. 14Hn. 15Hn. 16

PnoBassDrums

127

N

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Hn. 3

Hn. 4

Hn. 5

Hn. 6

Hn. 7

Hn. 8

Hn. 9

Hn. 10

Hn. 11

Hn. 12

Hn.13

127

Hn. 14

Hn. 15

Hn. 16

Pno

Bass

Drums

cresc

cresc

cresc

cresc

cresc

cresc

cresc

cresc

cresc

cresc

cresc

cresc

cresc

cresc

cresc

cresc

E♭9

E♭min7

A♭min7

Gmin7

C7(♭9)

FΔ7#11

FΔ7#11

F7(♯5)

F7(♯5)

E♭9

E♭min7

A♭min7

Gmin7

C7(♭9)

FΔ7#11

FΔ7#11

F7(♯5)

F7(♯5)

swing...

134

O

P

Hn. 1

gradually dim.

tacet 2x

sub *ff*

*ff*

Hn. 2

gradually dim.

tacet 2x

sub *ff*

*ff*

Hn. 3

gradually dim.

tacet 2x

sub *ff*

*ff*

Hn. 4

gradually dim.

tacet 2x

sub *ff*

*f p cresc molto*

*ff*

Hn. 5

gradually dim.

tacet 2x

sub *ff*

*f p cresc molto*

*ff*

Hn. 6

gradually dim.

tacet 2x

sub *ff*

*f p cresc molto*

*ff*

Hn. 7

gradually dim.

tacet 2x

sub *ff*

*f p cresc molto*

*ff*

Hn. 8

gradually dim.

tacet 2x

sub *ff*

*f p cresc molto*

*ff*

Hn. 9

gradually dim.

tacet 2x

sub *ff*

*f p cresc molto*

*ff*

Hn. 10

gradually dim.

tacet 2x

sub *ff*

*f p molto cresc*

*ff*

Hn. 11

gradually dim.

tacet 2x

sub *ff*

*f p molto cresc*

*ff*

Hn. 12

gradually dim.

tacet 2x

sub *ff*

*ff*

Hn.13

gradually dim.

tacet 2x

sub *ff*

*ff*

134

Hn. 14

gradually dim.

tacet 2x

sub *ff*

*f p molto cresc*

*ff*

Hn. 15

gradually dim.

tacet 2x

sub *ff*

*f p molto cresc*

*ff*

Hn. 16

gradually dim.

tacet 2x

sub *ff*

*ff*

Pno

Gmin7

Gmin7

C7(13)

F

Gmin

C7

improvisation?

Bass

Gmin7

Gmin7

C7(13)

F solo..

Gmin

C7

drum break..

Drums

swing...

*ff*

swing...

*ff*

*dim poco a poco*

*ff*

