Alan
MATHESON

Two Songs for Solo Trumpet

1. For Bix Beiderbecke

2. For Woody Shaw

Two Songs for Solo Trumpet was commissioned by Trumpeter Brennan Westerman when he was a graduate student at the University of British Columbia where he studied with Mr. Larry Knopp (Principal trumpeter with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra). Brennan wanted an unaccompanied piece that had a jazz flavour and I took the opportunity to compose a tribute to a pair of musicians who have influenced my own playing and writing a great deal.

The first song **For Bix Beiderbecke** is a blues-based, elegiac salute to one of the first lyrical jazz brass players who also created a unique musical language in his short life by combining his love of jazz (especially that of Louis Armstrong) with his interest in the music of the Impressionists such as Debussy and Ravel. Although Bix did not record many songs in the blues form, he had a distinct approach to this classic jazz form which is reflected in the melodic and rhythmic writing.

Although there is a given tempo marking for this tribute to Bix, the performer can also apply some *poco rubato* throughout to add their own personality to this movement.

The second song **For Woody Shaw** pays a tribute to one of the masters of modern-jazz playing. In his compositions and improvisations, Shaw was very fond of using large intervals (such as minor and major 7ths) along with melodic lines based on the perfect 4th. I have included this sound in the melodic lines of this movement along with some "hybrid" scales to reflect Woody Shaw's harmonic adventurousness.

Woody Shaw was also a classically trained trumpeter, and this aspect of his playing is briefly touched on in the rubato introduction which can be approached in a similar manner to the "Posthorn" solo in Mahler's Third Symphony. Other than the opening fanfare, it is best to play the rest of this movement in tempo. This song can also be played on flugelhorn if desired.

Cherry Classics Music

Two Songs for Solo Trumpet

Trumpet in B♭

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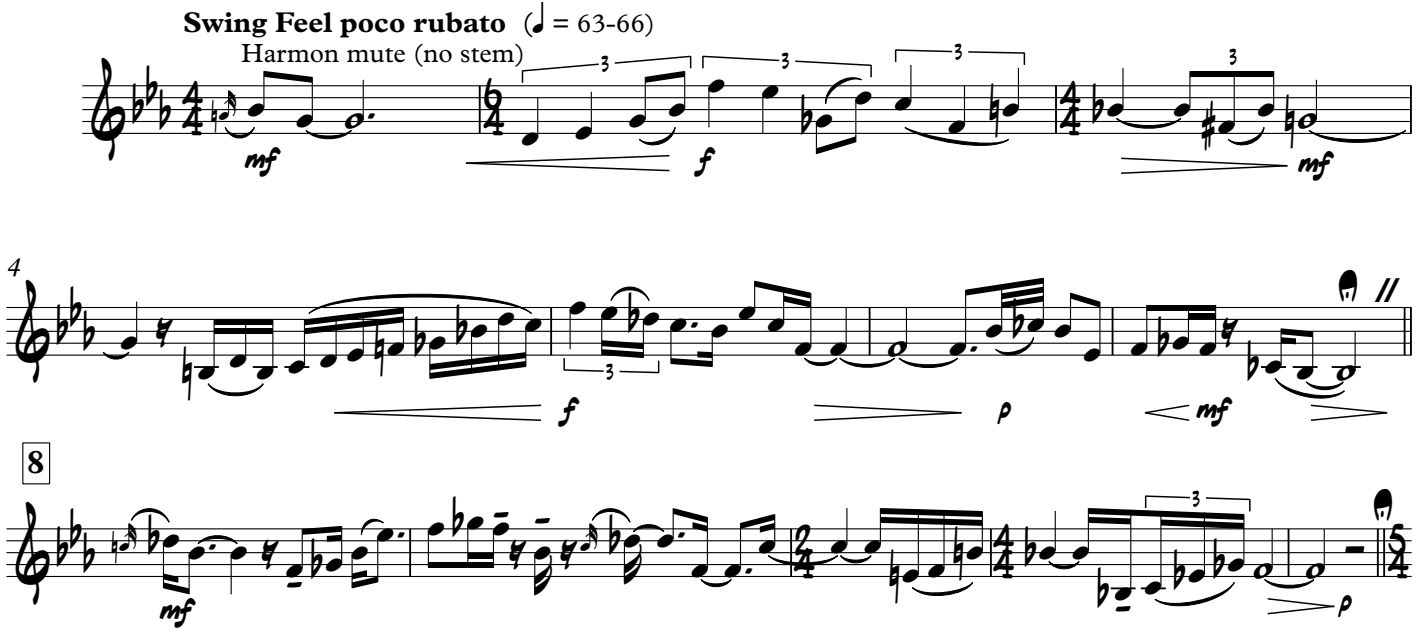
1. For Bix Beiderbecke

Swing Feel poco rubato (♩ = 63-66)

Harmon mute (no stem)



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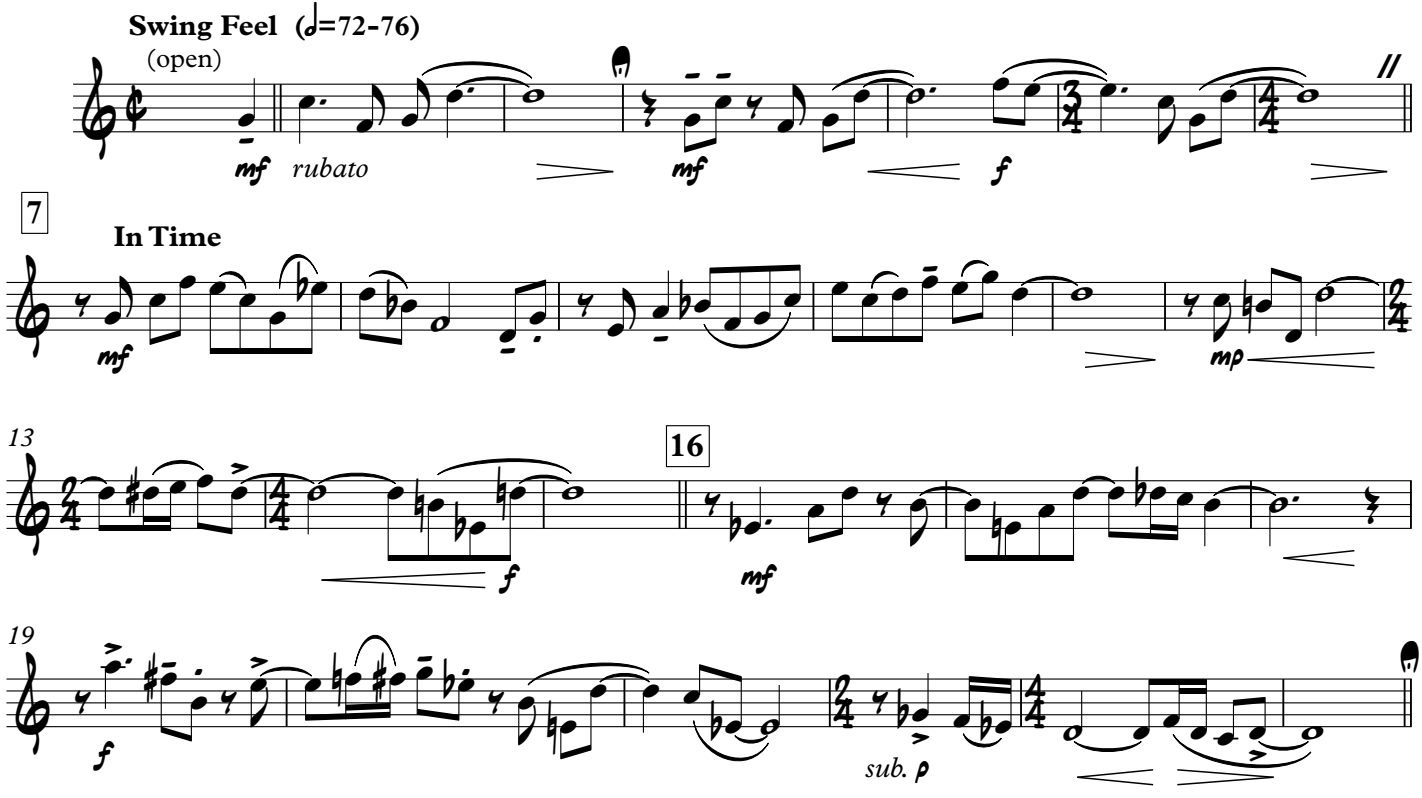
2. For Woody Shaw