

**SAXOPHONE QUARTET**

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*to BEN DROUET and the SAX PISTOLS*

**FOLKDANCE:  
Big Ben's Reel**

**RICK HIRSCH**

DURATION: 4'15"

LEVEL: Advanced

**HIRSCHMUSIC PUBLICATIONS**

### **About *Big Ben***

While it is by no means a strict Irish Reel —how could it be when composed by a Jewish American with Eastern European roots?—*Big Ben's Reel* is a delightfully energetic romp of a sax quartet.

In fact, it's a bit of a multi-cultural Irish stew, with nods to Balkan (alto), Jewish (baritone), and American Funk (tenor) musics.

*Big Ben* was commissioned by Ben Drouet, a wonderful saxophone teacher in England. He had me write this for the Sax Pistols, an outstanding high-school aged quartet he coaches.

Lastly, the *Folkdance* in the title refers to a forthcoming series of works inspired by folk dances of the world. At the time of *Big Ben's* publication, the other *Folkdance* works are under development.

Enjoy!

~ Rick

### **Performance Notes and Suggestions**

1. Imagine that you're playing this music for dancers. So, be sure to create an exceptionally strong sense of rhythm. Leaning into strong melodic beats can help with this.
2. Make grace notes quick. Try accenting the notes that are embellished by grace notes.
3. Stylistically, try making short notes nice and crisp.
4. Though not marked in the score, stretching the final two notes makes for a strong ending.

### **About the Composer**

Rick Hirsch (b. 1970) is an award-winning composer, arranger, educator, and saxophonist based in State College, Pennsylvania. He specializes in writing music for saxophones. And he welcomes you to contact him directly with feedback or questions.

# FOLKDANCE: Big Ben's Reel

commissioned by BEN DROUET and the SAX PISTOLS

RICK HIRSCH (2013)

(A ROLLICKING JOLLY GOOD TIME) ♩ = 120

The musical score is arranged in three systems. The first system includes four saxophone parts: B♭ Soprano Saxophone, E♭ Alto Saxophone, B♭ Tenor Saxophone, and E♭ Baritone Saxophone. The second system includes four vocal parts: Soprano (Sop.), Alto, Tenor, and Baritone (Bari.). The third system continues the vocal parts. The score is in 4/4 time with a tempo of 120 beats per minute. It features various dynamics such as *f* (forte), *mp* (mezzo-piano), and *mf* (mezzo-forte). Performance instructions include accents (^), slurs, and specific techniques like "SUBTONE W/ LIGHT TONGUE" and "(LIGHT TONGUE)". A circled number 6 is placed above the first measure of the vocal section. A large "PREVIEW" watermark is overlaid diagonally across the page.

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14

SOP.

ALTO

TENOR

BARI.

13. 14. 15. 16.

SOP.

ALTO

TENOR

BARI.

17. 18. 19. 20.

23

SOP.

ALTO

TENOR

BARI.

21. 22. 23. 24.

(TENOR LEAD)

(SOLO) LEGATO & EXPRESSIVELY

BRING OUT

3

mp



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(SOLO) FLOWING **39**

SOP. *mf*

ALTO *mp*

TENOR *mp*

BAR. *mp*

BRING OUT

37. 38. 39. 40.

SOP. *mf*

ALTO *mf*

TENOR *mf*

BAR.

DIG IN!

41. 42. 43. 44.

SOP.

ALTO *f*

TENOR *f*

BAR. (SOLO) EXPRESSIVELY *mp*

45. 46. 47. 48.

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49

Sop. ALTO TENOR BARI.

Musical score for measures 49-52. The Soprano, Alto, and Tenor parts are mostly rests. The Bass part features a melody with accents (^) and triplets (3). Measure 52 includes the instruction "Dig In!" and a dynamic marking of *mf*.

49. 3 50. 51. 52. *mf* Dig In!

Sop. ALTO TENOR BARI.

Musical score for measures 53-56. The Soprano and Alto parts have a melody starting at measure 53 with a dynamic marking of *mp*. The Bass part continues with triplets and accents. Measure 56 ends with a dynamic marking of *mf*.

53. *mp* 54. 55. 56. *mf*

57

Sop. ALTO TENOR BARI.

Musical score for measures 57-60. All parts have a melody. The Soprano, Alto, and Tenor parts start with a dynamic marking of *f*. The Bass part starts with a dynamic marking of *f*. Measure 60 ends with a dynamic marking of *mf*.

57. *f* 58. 59. 60. *mf*

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61

SOP.  
ALTO  
TENOR  
BARI.

*G<sup>9</sup>SUS* (SOLO) AD-LIB OR AS WRITTEN *mf*

61. 62. 63. 64.

Detailed description: This system contains measures 61 through 64. The Soprano, Alto, and Baritone parts have a consistent rhythmic pattern of quarter notes with accents. The Tenor part features a solo section starting in measure 61, marked *mf*, with a triplet of eighth notes in measure 62. A large 'PREVIEW' watermark is overlaid diagonally across the page.

SOP.  
ALTO  
TENOR  
BARI.

*A<sup>9</sup>SUS*

65. 66. 67. 68.

Detailed description: This system contains measures 65 through 68. The Soprano, Alto, and Baritone parts continue with their rhythmic patterns. The Tenor part has a solo section starting in measure 65, marked *A<sup>9</sup>SUS*, featuring a triplet of eighth notes in measure 66. A large 'PREVIEW' watermark is overlaid diagonally across the page.

SOP.  
ALTO  
TENOR  
BARI.

*C<sup>9</sup>SUS*

69. 70. 71. 72.

Detailed description: This system contains measures 69 through 72. The Soprano, Alto, and Baritone parts continue with their rhythmic patterns. The Tenor part has a solo section starting in measure 69, marked *C<sup>9</sup>SUS*, featuring a triplet of eighth notes in measure 70. A large 'PREVIEW' watermark is overlaid diagonally across the page.



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73

SOP.  
ALTO  
TENOR  
BARI.

Musical score for measures 73-76. The score is for Soprano (SOP.), Alto (ALTO), Tenor (TENOR), and Baritone (BARI.) voices. The key signature is one flat (B-flat major/D minor). The tempo is marked *f* (forte). Measure 73 starts with a dynamic marking of *f*. Measure 74 has a dynamic marking of *f* and the instruction *(AS IS)*. Measures 75 and 76 continue the melody. A large watermark 'PREVIEW' is overlaid on the score.

*f* 73. 74. 75. 76.

SOP.  
ALTO  
TENOR  
BARI.

Musical score for measures 77-80. The score is for Soprano (SOP.), Alto (ALTO), Tenor (TENOR), and Baritone (BARI.) voices. The key signature is one flat. Measure 77 has a dynamic marking of *f*. Measure 80 has the instruction *BRING OUT*. A large watermark 'PREVIEW' is overlaid on the score.

*f* 77. 78. 79. 80. *BRING OUT*

SOP.  
ALTO  
TENOR  
BARI.

Musical score for measures 81-85. The score is for Soprano (SOP.), Alto (ALTO), Tenor (TENOR), and Baritone (BARI.) voices. The key signature is one flat. Measure 81 has a dynamic marking of *f*. Measure 82 has the instruction *(MOLTO RIF.)*. Measure 83 has a dynamic marking of *f*. Measure 84 has a dynamic marking of *mf* and the instruction *(SLOWLY)* with a tempo marking of  $\text{♩} = 66$ . Measure 85 has the instruction *STRETCH*. A large watermark 'PREVIEW' is overlaid on the score.

*f* 81. 82. 83. *(MOLTO RIF.)* 84. 85. *mf* *(SLOWLY)*  $\text{♩} = 66$  *STRETCH*

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(A TEMPO) (♩ = 66)

SOP. SILENCE

ALTO *mf*

TENOR SILENCE

BARI. SILENCE

86. 87. 88. 89.

(A TEMPO) (♩ = 66)

SOP. *mf*

ALTO

TENOR *mf*

BARI.

90. 91. 92. 93.

94

(MOLTO ACCEL. Poco à Poco)

SOP.

ALTO

TENOR *mf*

BARI. *mf*

94. 95. 96. 97.

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Sop. ALTO TENOR BARI.

98. 99. 100. 101.

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measures 98 through 101. It is arranged in four staves: Soprano (Sop.), Alto (ALTO), Tenor (TENOR), and Baritone (BARI.). The key signature is one flat (B-flat). Measure 98 shows the Soprano and Baritone parts with eighth notes and slurs. Measure 99 continues with similar rhythmic patterns. Measure 100 features a triplet in the Soprano part. Measure 101 concludes the section with a triplet and a final note. A large, semi-transparent watermark 'PREVIEW' is overlaid diagonally across the page.

**102** (BRISKLY) ♩ = 132 (OR FASTER)

Sop. ALTO TENOR BARI.

mf mf 102. 103. 104. 105.

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measures 102 through 105. It is arranged in four staves: Soprano (Sop.), Alto (ALTO), Tenor (TENOR), and Baritone (BARI.). The key signature is one flat. Measure 102 is marked with a tempo instruction '(BRISKLY) ♩ = 132 (OR FASTER)' and a dynamic marking of *mf*. The Soprano and Alto parts feature rapid sixteenth-note passages with slurs and triplets. The Tenor and Baritone parts have a more rhythmic accompaniment. Measure 103 continues the fast-paced melody. Measure 104 shows the Soprano and Alto parts with triplets. Measure 105 concludes the section. A large, semi-transparent watermark 'PREVIEW' is overlaid diagonally across the page.

**106** (DRIVE TO THE END →)

Sop. ALTO TENOR BARI.

f f f f 106. 107. 108. 109.

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measures 106 through 109. It is arranged in four staves: Soprano (Sop.), Alto (ALTO), Tenor (TENOR), and Baritone (BARI.). The key signature is one flat. Measure 106 is marked with a tempo instruction '(DRIVE TO THE END →)' and a dynamic marking of *f*. The Soprano and Alto parts feature a driving eighth-note melody. The Tenor and Baritone parts provide a steady accompaniment. Measure 107 continues the driving melody. Measure 108 shows the Soprano and Alto parts with a slight change in rhythm. Measure 109 concludes the section. A large, semi-transparent watermark 'PREVIEW' is overlaid diagonally across the page.

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Sop.  
ALTO  
TENOR  
BARI.

110. 111. 112. 113.

This section of the score covers measures 110 to 113. It features four vocal parts: Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Baritone. The music is in a 2/4 time signature with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The Soprano and Alto parts have a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, often beamed together. The Tenor and Baritone parts provide a harmonic accompaniment with similar rhythmic patterns. A large, semi-transparent watermark reading 'PREVIEW' is oriented diagonally across the page, partially obscuring the musical notation.

Sop.  
ALTO  
TENOR  
BARI.

114. 115. 116. 117. 118.

*sub. p* *MOLTO CRESC.* *f* *ff*

This section of the score covers measures 114 to 118. It continues with the four vocal parts. The Soprano and Alto parts have a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, often beamed together. The Tenor and Baritone parts provide a harmonic accompaniment with similar rhythmic patterns. The score includes dynamic markings: *sub. p* (subito piano), *MOLTO CRESC.* (molto crescendo), *f* (forte), and *ff* (fortissimo). A large, semi-transparent watermark reading 'PREVIEW' is oriented diagonally across the page, partially obscuring the musical notation.