

RECENT HIGH QUALITY BRITISH BIG BAND REPERTOIRE

During the last couple of years **NCBF** (www.ncbf.info) has been delighted to introduce a range of exciting Big Band/Jazz Orchestra charts by British Composers. Check these out!



Nikki Iles is a highly experienced jazz pianist, composer and educator who leads her own big band - **Nikki Iles Jazz Orchestra** - full of top professionals. Check out her website at <http://nikkiiles.co.uk>

This link to YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZYxYdC4M44c&t=919s> will let you hear her Jazz Orchestra performing at the Vortex Jazz Club.

Here you can hear 'live' extracts from '**Big Sky**' (9'47") [Grade 4] and Grade 5 level '**Red Ellen**' (15'21"), '**Hush**' and '**Wild Oak**'

A scrolling audio score of '**Wild Oak**' is to be found here

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WbXapW0FQJY>

and a **NYJO Proms performance** of '**Hush**' here

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GMhkxQjuHUc>.

Other excellent charts include **Stan Sulzmann's arrangement of Nikki's delightful slow swing number 'Westerly' at Grade 3** and '**Woody 'n' Joe' at Grade 3.5** - both wonderful charts for the developing and more advanced band, together with **Folk Jazz 'Highlands' at Grade 4.5** and **Latin original 'Grey As The Morning' at Grade 5.5**.

To view scores, find out prices and order any sets please contact Nikki direct at nikkiiles@aol.com.



Trombonist, composer, arranger, orchestrator and big band leader **Callum Au** is another new addition to our list.

Once again, check out his website <https://callumaumusic.com>

to learn more and find his Big Band sets for sale. Currently all of these are at higher levels but he is working on pieces at Grade 3-4 level for publication next year.

Callum's compositions can be heard on the superb album '**Louis and Cal's On Stage!**'. It features Louis Dowdeswell on trumpet, who Callum also runs a recording studio with. Check it out on Spotify, Apple Music, etc., to hear full performances of '**Cherok-ego**' (6) , '**Far Beyond The Stars**' (5), bass trombone feature '**Let Battle Clements**' (5) and '**Simon Says**' (5).

Linked to this album is their '**Ultimate Big Band Toolkit**', a series of e-books for each instrument to help you improve as a big band player in the comfort of your own home.

Callum's beautiful **Alto Sax Ballad 'The Stray Horn'** is included at **Grade 5.5** and his exciting **Latin/Swing Trumpet Feature 'Well Endowde'** at **Grade 6**.

While you're there, also listen to his gorgeous album with vocalist Claire Martin - '**Songs and Stories**'. You won't be disappointed!



'Heatwave' is a great **funk chart at 2.5** level composed by trumpeter/guitarist/educator **Nick Dewhurst** used for keeping things going with Walsall Music Hub (UK) during lockdown. Check it out on YouTube. Also have a look at his **Grade 3 Funk/Hip-Hop** chart '**One For Dennis**'.

You will find more of Nick's compositions on his website - nickdewhurst.com



Fellow Birmingham Conservatoire graduate **Ed Puddick** has been busy building an award winning career in big band composition/arranging while lecturing on the subject at Guildhall School of Music and Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, where he has just taken up a full-time lectureship. Charts composed for bands at a broad range of levels can be found on his website -

edpuddick.com .

We have included a number of these on our list ranging from a **Grade 3 swing** chart - '**Thornhill Bop**', through **Grade 3.5 'Sink or Samba'**, to the more complex, wonderful sounding **Grade 5 swing** number '**Crazy Days**' (the title of his latest CD with the Upper Austrian Jazz Orchestra) and contemporary ballad '**New Familiar**' . Search for Ed and the Upper Austrian Jazz Orchestra on YouTube to hear these two charts, and others, given wonderful performances by this terrific band.



Patchwork Jazz Orchestra are a London-based millennial big band that has no leader, but a collective of composers using the ensemble as a platform for fresh sounds and ideas. Wow!! Do they achieve their aim and more!!! Have a look at their website -

patchworkjazzorchestra.com

and **look them up on YouTube** for stunning performances of some of their charts. If your band is adventurous and forward looking, you need to

look at guitarist **Billy Marrows'** (billymarrows.com) **Grade 4.5 Samba**

'Genmaicha', **Grade 5 Hi-Life/Swing 'Dancing on Bentwood Chairs'** and **Contemporary New Orleans Groove 'Scenes from the Underground'**.

Then there's bassist **Misha Mullov-Abbado's** (mishamullovabbado.com) **Ballad/Funk Shuffle/Swing 'Cross Platform Interchange'** and **Latin feel 'New Insomnia'** at **Grade 4.5**, together with his **Contemporary Concert Jazz** chart '**HiWriggly**' at **Grade 5**.



Saxophonist **Tom Smith** (tomsmithsax.com) provides the gorgeous **Gospel Trombone Feature 'The Light That Shines'** at **Grade 5** and the exciting **Fast Swing** number '**Swansea Uproar**' at **Grade 5.5**. Many of the band's members are UK National Youth Jazz Orchestra (NYJO) and Royal Academy Jazz Course alumni.

Speaking of NYJO, if you head over to band leader **Mark Armstrong's** website - www.markarmstrongmusic.com - you will find

a **free - yes, I said free - arrangement of George Gershwin's 'Lady Be Good'** in a **Fast Swing setting** for those who want a challenge at **Grade 5.5!!**