

George Gershwin's Embraceable You: A Timeless Masterpiece for Saxophone Quartet



"Embraceable You" is a classic composition by George Gershwin, one of the most renowned American composers of the 20th century. It was written in 1930 for the musical "Girl Crazy" and has since become a beloved standard, performed and recorded by countless musicians worldwide. This arrangement for saxophone quartet captures the essence of Gershwin's original masterpiece, allowing players to explore the rich harmonies and infectious melody that have made this song so enduring.

George Gershwin Embraceable You (from "Girl Crazy") for saxophone quartet: arranged by Giovanni Abbiati

by Giovanni Abbiati

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

Language : English



File size : 1568 KB
Screen Reader : Supported
Print length : 262 pages



Form and Structure

"Embraceable You" follows a verse-chorus form, with a brief instrumental and a contrasting middle section. The opening verse presents the main melody, a haunting and poignant tune that is immediately recognizable. The verse is followed by the chorus, which offers a more upbeat and affirmative message, with the lyrics "Embraceable you, desirable you" expressing a sense of joy and longing.

The middle section provides contrast through its slower tempo and more subdued melodic material. This section allows for expressive playing and improvisation by the saxophonists, showcasing the instrument's versatility. The arrangement then returns to the chorus, followed by a coda that gradually fades away, leaving the listener with a lingering sense of the song's beauty.

Harmonic Analysis

The harmonic structure of "Embraceable You" is both sophisticated and accessible. Gershwin employs a variety of chords, including major, minor, and extended harmonies, creating a rich and varied soundscape. The key

of the song is F major, but it frequently modulates to other keys, providing a sense of harmonic movement and variety.

The use of extended chords, such as seventh and ninth chords, adds depth and complexity to the harmony. These chords create a sense of tension and release, which drives the song's emotional impact. The arrangement for saxophone quartet allows the players to explore these harmonies in a balanced and idiomatic manner.

Melodic and Rhythmic Features

The melody of "Embraceable You" is lyrical and expressive, with a wide range of intervals and rhythmic variations. The saxophonists are given ample opportunity to showcase their technical skills and musicality, as the melody requires smooth articulation, precise intonation, and a keen sense of phrasing.

The rhythms in "Embraceable You" are equally diverse, ranging from flowing syncopations to more straightforward rhythms. The interplay between the different saxophones, with their contrasting timbres and ranges, creates a dynamic and engaging rhythmic texture.

Performance Considerations

When performing "Embraceable You" as a saxophone quartet, it is essential to capture the essence of Gershwin's original composition. The saxophonists should strive for a balanced and unified sound, with each part contributing to the overall musical expression.

Particular attention should be paid to the dynamics and phrasing of the melody. The opening verse should be played with a sense of longing and

melancholy, while the chorus should contrast with a more upbeat and assertive delivery. The middle section provides an opportunity for expressive playing and improvisation, allowing the saxophonists to showcase their individual talents.

"Embraceable You" is a timeless masterpiece that has captivated audiences for generations. This arrangement for saxophone quartet allows players to experience the beauty and complexity of Gershwin's music in a unique and rewarding way. Whether performed in a concert hall or a more intimate setting, "Embraceable You" is sure to leave a lasting impression on listeners and musicians alike.



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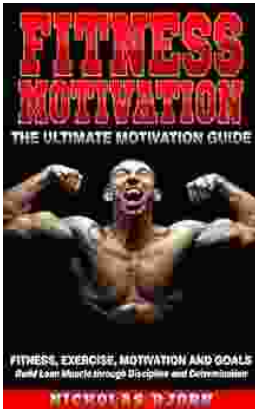
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