

PUTTIN' ON THE RITZ

(Jazz Easy Swing)

Irving BERLIN

*prepared for FOUR Cello Soloists
by DAVID JOHNSTONE*

INDIVIDUAL CELLO PARTS

Notes:

"Puttin' On the Ritz" is a song written by Irving Berlin. He wrote it in May 1927 and it was first published at the end of 1929. It was then almost immediately introduced as a chorus in the musical film of the same name (1930). The title derives from the slang expression "to put on the Ritz", which then meant to dress very fashionably, unashamedly inspired by the famous Ritz Hotel in London.

In some ways it was ground-breaking - according to 'The Complete Lyrics of Irving Berlin', this was the first song in film ever to be sung by an interracial ensemble.

The song received renewed popularity in 1982 when Taco, a Dutch musician, recorded and released a new version of the song. In its original period of popularity of 1929-1930 and staying in vogue during the 1930s it was recorded by Harry Richman and by Fred Astaire.

The cello ensemble version by David Johnstone uses a quartet of parts 'vocally'; often moving together in a choral manner (therefore no general score, but bar numbers are shown for rehearsing). Having said that, the fourth part often tends to go a bit separately as if a bassist (more experienced players might try a bit more 'walking bass'!). It is conceived as 'easy swing', therefore two eighth notes get more-or-less converted into triplets (66/33). On a technical level this may be classed as 'medium' level for cellists; true the first part uses thumb position but it should not present too many problems, but all other parts are far more comfortable. One just needs to get a good rhythmic feel to bring out the piece in this cello arrangement!

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CELLO 1

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CELLO 1

Fast
Easy swing ♩ = ♩³ (♩ = c.142)

mf generally somewhat staccato



Musical notation for measures 1-4. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The tempo is marked 'Fast' and 'Easy swing' with a note equal to a triplet note, and a tempo of approximately 142 beats per minute. The dynamics are marked 'mf' and the phrasing is 'generally somewhat staccato'. The notation shows a melodic line with eighth and quarter notes.

5.



Musical notation for measures 5-8. The key signature changes to one flat (Bb). The notation includes slurs and accents.

9.



Musical notation for measures 9-12. The key signature is one flat (Bb). The notation includes slurs and accents.

13.



Musical notation for measures 13-16. The key signature changes to two flats (Bb, Eb). The notation includes slurs and accents.

17.

f



Musical notation for measures 17-20. The key signature is two flats (Bb, Eb). The dynamics are marked 'f'. The notation includes slurs and accents.

21.



Musical notation for measures 21-24. The key signature is two flats (Bb, Eb). The notation includes slurs and accents.

25.



Musical notation for measures 25-28. The key signature is two flats (Bb, Eb). The notation includes slurs and accents.

29.



Musical notation for measures 29-32. The key signature is two flats (Bb, Eb). The notation includes slurs and accents.

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CELLO 2

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CELLO 2

Fast
Easy swing ♩ = ♩³⁷
(♩ = c. 142)

mf generally somewhat staccato

5.

9.

13.

17.

f

21.

25.


29.

Cello 2 1/2.


33. *mf*



37. *v*



41. *f*



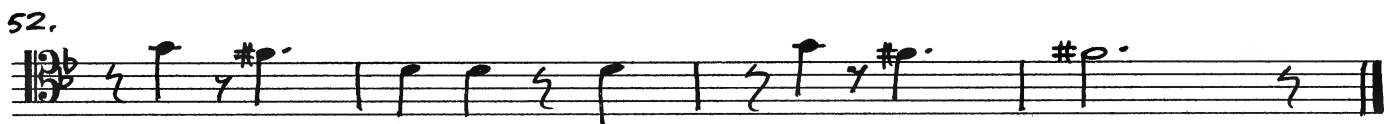
45.



49. *2^o*



52.



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CELLO 3

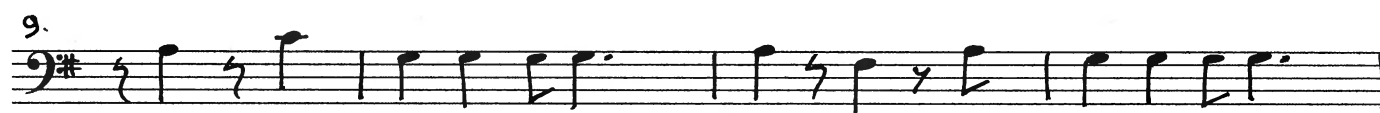
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CELLO 3

Fast
Easy swing ♩ = ♩³ ♩
(♩ = c. 142)



mf generally somewhat staccato



Cello 3 / 2.

33. *mf*

Handwritten musical notation for measures 33-36. Measure 33: whole note with a fermata, *mf* dynamic. Measure 34: whole note with a fermata. Measure 35: whole note with a fermata and a '(v)' marking above it. Measure 36: quarter note followed by a beamed eighth-note triplet.

37.

Handwritten musical notation for measures 37-40. Measure 37: quarter note with a fermata and a 'v' marking above it. Measure 38: quarter note with a fermata. Measure 39: quarter note with a flat, quarter note with a fermata, and a 'v' marking above it. Measure 40: quarter note with a flat, quarter note with a fermata, and a 'v' marking above it.

41. *f*

Handwritten musical notation for measures 41-44. Measure 41: quarter note with a fermata, *f* dynamic. Measure 42: quarter note with a fermata. Measure 43: quarter note with a fermata. Measure 44: quarter note with a fermata.

45.

Handwritten musical notation for measures 45-48. Measure 45: quarter note with a fermata. Measure 46: quarter note with a fermata. Measure 47: quarter note with a fermata. Measure 48: quarter note with a fermata.

49.

Handwritten musical notation for measures 49-51. Measure 49: quarter note with a fermata. Measure 50: quarter note with a fermata. Measure 51: quarter note with a fermata.

52.

Handwritten musical notation for measures 52-55. Measure 52: quarter note with a flat, quarter note with a fermata. Measure 53: quarter note with a fermata. Measure 54: quarter note with a flat, quarter note with a fermata. Measure 55: quarter note with a fermata.

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CELLO 4

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CELLO 4

Fast
Easy swing ♩ = ♩³₄
(♩ = c. 142)

mf generally somewhat staccato

5.

9.

13.

17.

f

21.

25.

29.

Cello 4 12.

33.

Musical staff 33: Bass clef, key signature of two flats. Four measures of quarter notes: G2, A2, B2, C3; D2, E2, F2, G2; A2, B2, C3, D3; E2, F2, G2, A2.

37.

Musical staff 37: Bass clef, key signature of two flats. Four measures: G2, A2, B2, C3; D2, E2, F2, G2; A2, B2, C3, D3; E2, F2, G2, A2. Includes a slur over the last two notes of the second measure and a 'v' marking above the first note of the fourth measure.

41.

Musical staff 41: Bass clef, key signature of two flats. Four measures of quarter notes: G2, A2, B2, C3; D2, E2, F2, G2; A2, B2, C3, D3; E2, F2, G2, A2. Includes a 'f' dynamic marking below the first measure.

45.

Musical staff 45: Bass clef, key signature of two flats. Four measures: G2, A2, B2, C3; D2, E2, F2, G2; A2, B2, C3, D3; E2, F2, G2, A2. Includes a slur over the last two notes of the first measure, a '10' marking above the first note of the second measure, and a 'v' marking above the first note of the fourth measure.

49. 2^o

Musical staff 49: Bass clef, key signature of two flats. Four measures of quarter notes: G2, A2, B2, C3; D2, E2, F2, G2; A2, B2, C3, D3; E2, F2, G2, A2. Includes a '2^o' marking above the first measure.

52.

Musical staff 52: Bass clef, key signature of two flats. Four measures: G2, A2, B2, C3; D2, E2, F2, G2; A2, B2, C3, D3; E2, F2, G2, A2. Includes a 'ffz' dynamic marking below the last measure and a 'v' marking above the first note of the last measure.

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