Where and when was the first performance of this piece? Which families of instruments were written for in the score?

The song was composed in mid-December 1926 by Irving Berlin. It was first performed by George Olsen and his Orchestra for the Rodgers and Hart musical Betsy later that

Within this piece, there are 3 different families of instruments. There are the trumpets and trumbones, which are member of the brass family. There are alto, tenor and baritone saxonlones which are part of the woodwind family There is a piano present and also drums and other percussion which is part of the percussion family. The guitar and bass featured are members of the string family.











How did the instruments function within the selected

morka?

By V.N

The instruments all compliment each other to create a cohesive sound. The instruments that play the melody are the alto saxophones, taking the lead and paving the path for the remaining instruments. The saxophones are the melody in this particular rendition as there are no present vocals. Of course, the percussion, specifically the drums, are the rhythm of the piece, keeping all the other instruments in time with each other. There are 4 solos within this piece, but all these instruments are accompanied by percussion, unless it is a percussion solo, emphasizing the importance of the chythms function within the piece. Nost if not all of the solos were ad lib, which means improvised. The whole piece is played within a variety of minor scales.

What do you like about this piece?

This piece is very lively and fun. The recurring melody is catchy and dynamic. It has a steady beat and we especially like the harmony between the various instruments

The harmony between the instruments (1:25 to 1:35) is something that stands out. Combining the lower brass instruments with the higher ones to play an interesting tune is an excellent way to link the main melody back into the song.

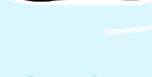
The saxophone solo (1:40 to 2:10) is a nice contrast to the continued track playing in the background by the rest of the orchestra. The single saxophone player is playing a variation of the main tune, while the others continue with the backing beat of the song. When they reach the main tune, the saxophone joins in, still playing a slightly different melody. Towards the end (2:50), the prchestra seems to play a small canon, repeating the tune a group of the instruments is playing. They slow down at the end, finishing by holding a long note.

Why did the composer write this piece of music in this way?

The song was written as a last minute addition to Rodgers and Hart musical, Betsy. Irving Berlin originally wrote it for his first daughter. There are no specifications as to why the music was written in it's particular style or way, but Berlin was a renown composer of many jazz pieces similar to this on Irving Berlin was originally from Russia, but fled to New York where his musical talents and interests really began to bloom. He was heavily influenced by









By Vicki N. and Rhea I.





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By Vicki N. and Rhea I.





Blue Skies Irving Berlin

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