

# CONFUSED BLUES

[2007]

for jazz ensemble consisting of:

2 alto saxophones

2 tenor saxophones

baritone saxophone

4 trumpets

3 trombones

bass trombone

guitar

piano

bass

drums

*Approximately 6 minutes*

# AARON GRAD

To Michael Formanek

# CONFUSED BLUES

AARON GRAD [2007]

Free tempo (hinting at ♩ = 126)

Alto Sax. 1

Alto Sax. 2

Tenor Sax. 1

Tenor Sax. 2

Bari. Sax.

Trumpet 1 in B $\flat$

Trumpet 2 in B $\flat$

Trumpet 3 in B $\flat$

Trumpet 4 in B $\flat$

Trombone 1

Trombone 2

Trombone 3

Bass Trombone

Free tempo (hinting at ♩ = 126)

Guitar

Piano

Free improvisation, incorporating and arriving at the following material:

Bass

Drums

DRUM NOTATION KEY: Solid noteheads represent a specific sound (i.e. snare drum, cowbell)  
Diamond noteheads represent lines that should be traced in exact unison  
X noteheads represent rhythms that should be incorporated, but not necessarily matched in unison

6 A tempo ♩ = 126

A

Alto 1

Alto 2

Tenor 1

Tenor 2

Bari.

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Tpt. 3

Tpt. 4

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

B. Tbn.

A tempo ♩ = 126

A

Gtr.

Pno.

Bass

Dr.

*mf* *ff* *pp*

*f* *ff*

*ff* *ffff* *f*

assymetrical and clicky groove - lots of rims and hi-hat (a la Jim Black or Joey Baron)

*ppp* *f* *pp*

11

Alto 1 *ppp* *pp*

Alto 2 *ppp* *pp*

Tenor 1 *ppp* *pp*

Tenor 2 *ppp* *pp*

Bari. *p*

Tpt. 1 with mute *p* *pp*

Tpt. 2 with mute *p* *pp*

Tpt. 3 with mute *p* *pp*

Tpt. 4 with mute *p* *pp*

Tbn. 1 *ppp* with mute *p* *pp*

Tbn. 2 *ppp* with mute *p* *pp*

Tbn. 3 *ppp* with mute *p* *pp*

B. Tbn. *ppp* with mute *p* *pp*

Gtr. *pp*

Pno.

Bass

Dr.

16

Alto 1 *ppp* *mp* 4:3 4:3 4:3

Alto 2 *ppp* *mp* 4:3 4:3 4:3

Tenor 1 *ppp* *mp* 4:3 4:3 4:3

Tenor 2 *ppp* *mp* 4:3 4:3

Bari. *pp* *f* 4:3 4:3 *pp*

Tpt. 1 *ppp* *mp* 4:3 4:3 4:3

Tpt. 2 *ppp* *mp* 4:3 4:3

Tpt. 3 *ppp* *mp* 4:3 4:3 4:3

Tpt. 4 *ppp* *mp* 4:3 4:3

Tbn. 1 *ppp*

Tbn. 2 *ppp*

Tbn. 3 *ppp*

B. Tbn. *ppp*

Gr. *pp* *f* 4:3 4:3

Pno. *pp* *f* 4:3 4:3 4:3 *pp*

Bass 4:3 4:3

Dr. 4:3 4:3 4:3

20

Alto 1 *ppp* *mp* 4:3

Alto 2 *ppp* *mp* 4:3

Tenor 1 *ppp* *mp* 4:3

Tenor 2 *ppp* *mp* 4:3

Bari. *pp* *mp* 4:3

Tpt. 1 *ppp* *mp* 4:3

Tpt. 2 *ppp* *mp* 4:3

Tpt. 3 *ppp* *pp* *mp* 4:3 4:3

Tpt. 4 *ppp* *p* *mp* 4:3

Tbn. 1 *ppp*

Tbn. 2 *ppp*

Tbn. 3

B. Tbn.

Gr. *pp* *mp* 4:3

Pno. *mp* 4:3 4:3

Bass *mp* 4:3 4:3

Dr. 4:3 4:3

24

**Vocal Parts:**  
Alto 1: *ppp* → *p*  
Alto 2: *ppp* → *p*  
Tenor 1: *ppp* → *p*  
Tenor 2: *ppp* → *p*  
Bari.: *pp* → *p*

**Woodwinds:**  
Tpt. 1: *ppp* → *p* → *ppp*  
Tpt. 2: *ppp* → *p* → *ppp*  
Tpt. 3: *p*, open  
Tpt. 4: *p*, open  
Tbn. 1: *ppp* → *ppp*  
Tbn. 2: *ppp* → *ppp*  
B. Tbn.: open

**Strings:**  
Gr.: *pp*  
Pno.: *pp* → *f* → *pp*  
Bass: *ff*  
Dr.: *7*, *X*

29

Alto 1  
Alto 2  
Tenor 1  
Tenor 2  
Bari.  
Tpt. 1  
Tpt. 2  
Tpt. 3  
Tpt. 4  
Tbn. 1  
Tbn. 2  
Tbn. 3  
B. Tbn.  
Gtr.  
Pno.  
Bass  
Dr.

*ppp* *mp* *ppp*  
*mp*  
*ppp* *mp* *ppp*  
*mp*  
*ppp* *mp*  
*mp*  
*mp*  
*open*  
*open*  
*open*  
*with bass* *pp*  
*pp* *mp* *pp*  
*mp*  
*pp*



34

Musical score for a 12-piece band, measures 34-37. The score includes parts for Alto 1 & 2, Tenor 1 & 2, Bari., Tpt. 1-4, Tbn. 1-3, B. Tbn., Gr., Pno., Bass, and Dr. The music features complex rhythmic patterns with 4:3 time signatures and dynamic markings such as *mp*, *ppp*, and *p*.

Alto 1: *mp*, *ppp*

Alto 2: *mp*, *ppp*

Tenor 1: *mp*, *ppp*

Tenor 2: *mp*, *ppp*

Bari.: *mp*, *pp*

Tpt. 1: *mp*, *ppp*, open

Tpt. 2: *mp*, *ppp*, open

Tpt. 3: *ppp*

Tpt. 4: *ppp*

Tbn. 1: -

Tbn. 2: -

Tbn. 3: -

B. Tbn.: -

Gr.: -

Pno.: *mp*, *p*<sup>2</sup>

Bass: *mp*, *p*<sup>2</sup>

Dr.: *mp*, *p*<sup>2</sup>

39 **B**

Alto 1 *ff*

Alto 2 *ff*

Tenor 1 *ff*

Tenor 2 *ff*

Bari. *ff*

Tpt. 1 *ff*

Tpt. 2 *ff*

Tpt. 3 *ff*

Tpt. 4 *ff*

Tbn. 1 *ff*

Tbn. 2 *ff*

Tbn. 3 *ff*

B. Tbn. *ff*

**B**

Gtr. *ff*

Pno. *ff*

Bass *ff*

Dr. *ff*

heavy groove, lots of tom-toms and cymbals



48

Alto 1

Alto 2 *p sub.*

Tenor 1

Tenor 2 *p sub.*

Bari. *p sub.*

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Tpt. 3

Tpt. 4

Tbn. 1 *p sub.*

Tbn. 2 *p sub.*

Tbn. 3 *p sub.*

B. Tbn. *p sub.*

Gr. *f*

Pno. *f*

Bass

Dr.

*fff*

*fff*

*fff*

4:3 4:3 4:3

4:3 4:3 4:3

4:3 4:3 4:3

4:3 4:3 4:3

52

Alto 1 *ff*

Alto 2 *ff*

Tenor 1 *ff*

Tenor 2 *ff*

Bari. *ff*

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Tpt. 3

Tpt. 4

Tbn. 1 *ff*

Tbn. 2 *f*

Tbn. 3 *f*

B. Tbn. *f*

Gr. *ff*

Pno. *f*

Bass *f*

Dr. *f*

56

Alto 1  
*ff*

Alto 2  
*ff*

Tenor 1  
*ff*

Tenor 2  
*ff*

Bari.  
*ff*

Tpt. 1  
*ff*

Tpt. 2  
*ff*

Tpt. 3  
*ff*

Tpt. 4  
*ff*

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2  
*ff*

Tbn. 3  
*ff*

B. Tbn.  
*ff*

Gtr.  
*ff*

Pno.  
*ff*

Bass  
*ff*

Dr.

60

Alto 1

Alto 2

Tenor 1

Tenor 2

Bari.

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Tpt. 3

Tpt. 4

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

B. Tbn.

Gtr.

Pno.

Bass

Dr.

*pp*

*pp*

*pp*

*pp*

*pp*

*p* — *f*

*p* — *f*

*p* — *f*

*p* — *f*

*f*

*p*

*p*

*p*

64

Alto 1 *pp*

Alto 2 *pp*

Tenor 1

Tenor 2

Bari.

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Tpt. 3

Tpt. 4

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3 *pp*

B. Tbn. *pp*

Gtr. *f mp*

Pno. *f pp*

Bass *f mp*

Dr. *pp*

4:3 4:3 4:3

4:3 4:3 4:3

4:3 4:3 4:3

4:3 4:3 4:3

4:3 4:3 4:3



68

Alto 1 *ff* *p* *ff* *poco rit.*

Alto 2 *ff* *p* *ff*

Tenor 1 *p* *ff* 4:3 4:3

Tenor 2 *p* *ff* 4:3 4:3

Bari. *ff* *p* *ff* 4 4

Tpt. 1 *p* *ff*

Tpt. 2 *p* *ff* 4 4

Tpt. 3 *p* *ff* 4 4

Tpt. 4 *p* *ff*

Tbn. 1 *ff*

Tbn. 2 *p* *ff*

Tbn. 3 *pp* *ff*

B. Tbn. *ff* *p* *ff*

Gr. *ff* *ff* 4:3 4:3 *poco rit.*

Pno. *ff* *p* *ff* 4:3 4:3

Bass *ff* *p* *ff* 4:3 4:3

Dr. *ff* *p* *ff* *p* toms

in unison (follow contour of the line)

**C**

♩ = 108 (heavy swing)

72

Alto 1

Alto 2

Tenor 1

Tenor 2

Bari.

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Tpt. 3

Tpt. 4

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

B. Tbn.

♩ = 108 (heavy swing)

**C**

Gtr.

Pno.

Bass

Dr.

78

Alto 1

Alto 2

Tenor 1

Tenor 2

Bari.

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Tpt. 3

Tpt. 4

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

B. Tbn.

Gtr.

Pno.

Bass

Dr.

E<sup>7</sup>(alt.)

Ab<sup>9</sup>

C<sup>9</sup>

Eb<sup>9</sup>

B<sup>7</sup>(alt.)

D<sup>7</sup>(alt.)

Gb<sup>9</sup>

Bb<sup>9</sup>

Db<sup>9</sup>

A<sup>7</sup>(alt.)

D<sup>7</sup>(alt.)

Gb<sup>9</sup>

Bb<sup>9</sup>

Db<sup>9</sup>

A<sup>7</sup>(alt.)

84

Alto 1

Alto 2

Tenor 1

Tenor 2

Bari.

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Tpt. 3

Tpt. 4

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

B. Tbn.

Gr.

Pno.

Bass

Dr.

E 7(alt.)

A min7(♭9,♭13)

D 7(alt.)

G min7(♭9,♭13)

90

Alto 1

Alto 2

Tenor 1

Tenor 2

Bari.

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Tpt. 3

Tpt. 4

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

B. Tbn.

Gr.

Pno.

Bass

Dr.

E<sup>7</sup>(alt.)

Ab<sup>9</sup>

C<sup>9</sup>

Eb<sup>9</sup>

B<sup>7</sup>(alt.)

D<sup>7</sup>(alt.)

Gb<sup>9</sup>

Bb<sup>9</sup>

Db<sup>9</sup>

A<sup>7</sup>(alt.)

D<sup>7</sup>(alt.)

Gb<sup>9</sup>

Bb<sup>9</sup>

Db<sup>9</sup>

A<sup>7</sup>(alt.)

D<sup>7</sup>(alt.)

Gb<sup>9</sup>

Bb<sup>9</sup>

Db<sup>9</sup>

A<sup>7</sup>(alt.)

**D**

96

Alto 1 *p background* 3

Alto 2 *p background* 3

Tenor 1 *E*7(alt.) *A* min7(♭9,♭13)

Tenor 2 *p background* 3

Bari. *p background* 3

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Tpt. 3

Tpt. 4

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

B. Tbn.

**D**

Gr. *D*7(alt.) *G* min7(♭9,♭13)

Pno. *D*7(alt.) *G* min7(♭9,♭13)

Bass *D*7(alt.) *G* min7(♭9,♭13)

Dr. background: 3 3

101

Alto 1

Alto 2

Tenor 1

Tenor 2

Bari.

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Tpt. 3

Tpt. 4

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

B. Tbn.

Gtr.

Pno.

Bass

Dr.

E 7(alt.)

Ab<sup>9</sup>

C<sup>9</sup>

Eb<sup>9</sup>

B 7(alt.)

D 7(alt.)

Gb<sup>9</sup>

Bb<sup>9</sup>

Db<sup>9</sup>

A 7(alt.)

*p background*

*p background*

*p background*

*p background*

**E**

108

Alto 1 *p background*

Alto 2 *p background*

Tenor 1 *E 7(alt.)*

Tenor 2 *p background* 3

Bari.

Tpt. 1 *with mute* *p background* 3

Tpt. 2 *with mute* *p background* 3

Tpt. 3 *with mute* *p background*

Tpt. 4 *with mute* *p background*

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

B. Tbn.

**E**

Gr. *D 7(alt.)*

Pno. *D 7(alt.)*

Bass *D 7(alt.)*

Dr. *background:*

*G min7(9,13)*

*G min7(9,13)*

*G min7(9,13)*



113

Alto 1

Alto 2

Tenor 1

Tenor 2

Bari.

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Tpt. 3

Tpt. 4

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

B. Tbn.

Gtr.

Pno.

Bass

Dr.

*E 7(alt.)*

*Ab<sup>9</sup>*

*C<sup>9</sup>*

*mp*

*mp*

*open*

*open*

*open*

*open*

*mf*

*mf*

*D 7(alt.)*

*D 7(alt.)*

*D 7(alt.)*

*Gb<sup>9</sup>*

*Bb<sup>9</sup>*

*p*

*p*

molto rit.

♩ = 126 (straight)

118

Alto 1

Alto 2

Tenor 1

Tenor 2

Bari.

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Tpt. 3

Tpt. 4

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

B. Tbn.

Chord symbols: Eb<sup>9</sup>, B<sup>7</sup>(alt.)

Measure numbers: 118, 119, 120

Time signatures: 2/4, 4/4

Dynamics: mf, ff, f

Articulations: slurs, accents, triplets, sixteenth notes

molto rit.

♩ = 126 (straight)

Gr.

Pno.

Bass

Dr.

Chord symbols: Db<sup>9</sup>

Measure numbers: 118, 119, 120

Time signatures: 2/4, 4/4

Dynamics: f, f driving

Articulations: accents, cowbell

**F**

121

Alto 1

Alto 2

Tenor 1

Tenor 2

Bari.

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Tpt. 3

Tpt. 4

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

B. Tbn.

**F**

Gr.

Pno.

Bass

Dr.

*p*

*f*

*f* always with strong, crisp attack

*f* always with strong, crisp attack

*f* always with strong, crisp attack

*f* always with strong, crisp attack

*f* always with strong, crisp attack

124

Alto 1  
*f* always with strong, crisp attack

Alto 2  
*f* always with strong, crisp attack

Tenor 1  
*f* always with strong, crisp attack

Tenor 2  
*f* always with strong, crisp attack

Bari.

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Tpt. 3

Tpt. 4

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

B. Tbn.

Gtr.

Pno.

Bass

Dr.

127

Alto 1

Alto 2

Tenor 1

Tenor 2

Bari.

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Tpt. 3

Tpt. 4

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

B. Tbn.

Gtr.

Pno.

Bass

Dr.

*f* always with strong, crisp attack

*f* always with strong, crisp attack

*f* always with strong, crisp attack

*f* always with strong, crisp attack

130 G

Alto 1 *a little mysterious*

Alto 2 *a little mysterious*

Tenor 1 *a little mysterious*

Tenor 2 *a little mysterious*

Bari. flutter-tongue *a little mysterious*

Tpt. 1 flutter-tongue

Tpt. 2 flutter-tongue

Tpt. 3 flutter-tongue

Tpt. 4 flutter-tongue

Tbn. 1 *a little mysterious*

Tbn. 2 *a little mysterious*

Tbn. 3 *a little mysterious*

B. Tbn. *a little mysterious*

G

Gr. *a little mysterious*

Pno. *a little mysterious*

Bass *a little mysterious*

Dr.

133

Alto 1

Alto 2

Tenor 1

Tenor 2

Bari.

Tpt. 1  
*mf a little mysterious*

Tpt. 2  
*mf a little mysterious*

Tpt. 3  
*mf a little mysterious*

Tpt. 4  
*mf a little mysterious*

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

B. Tbn.

Gr.

Pno.

Bass

Dr.

136

Alto 1  
*ff with maximum intensity*

Alto 2  
*ff with maximum intensity*

Tenor 1  
*ff with maximum intensity*

Tenor 2  
*ff with maximum intensity*

Bari.  
*ff with maximum intensity*

Tpt. 1  
*ff with maximum intensity*

Tpt. 2  
*ff with maximum intensity*

Tpt. 3  
*ff with maximum intensity*

Tpt. 4  
*ff with maximum intensity*

Tbn. 1  
*ff with maximum intensity*

Tbn. 2  
*ff with maximum intensity*

Tbn. 3  
*ff with maximum intensity*

B. Tbn.  
*ff with maximum intensity*

Gr.  
*ff with maximum intensity*

Pno.  
*ff with maximum intensity*

Bass  
*ff with maximum intensity*

Dr.  
*ff with maximum intensity*



139

Alto 1

Alto 2

Tenor 1

Tenor 2

Bari.

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Tpt. 3

Tpt. 4

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

B. Tbn.

Gtr.

Pno.

Bass

Dr.

SNARE DRUM

*p*

♩ = ♩

*molto allarg.* . . . . . like a machine breaking down

**H**

Alto 1 *fff* 4:3 4:3 4:3 4:3 4:3 4:3 4:3

Alto 2 *fff* 4:3 4:3 4:3 4:3 4:3 4:3 4:3

Tenor 1 *fff* 4:3 4:3 4:3 4:3 4:3 4:3

Tenor 2 *fff* 4:3 4:3 4:3

Bari.

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Tpt. 3

Tpt. 4

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

B. Tbn.

*molto allarg.* . . . . . like a machine breaking down

**H**

Gtr.

Pno.

Bass

CRASH CYMBAL

Dr. *fff* open drum solo (reckless and wild) *fff*

A tempo (♩ = 126)

145

Musical score for brass instruments. The score is in 12/8 time and marked 'A tempo (♩ = 126)'. It begins at measure 145. The instruments are Alto 1, Alto 2, Tenor 1, Tenor 2, Bari., Tpt. 1, Tpt. 2, Tpt. 3, Tpt. 4, Tbn. 1, Tbn. 2, Tbn. 3, and B. Tbn. The music features a series of chords in the first three measures, followed by a melodic line in the fourth measure. Dynamics include *ff* and *fff*. There are various articulations such as accents and slurs.

A tempo (♩ = 126)

Musical score for the rhythm section. It includes parts for Gtr., Pno., Bass, and Dr. The score is in 12/8 time and marked 'A tempo (♩ = 126)'. The guitar part features a chord progression with a *ff* dynamic and a *D7(alt.)* chord. The piano part has a *ff* dynamic and a *D7(alt.)* chord. The bass part has a *ff* dynamic. The drum part starts with a *p* dynamic and transitions to *ff*. The score includes various articulations such as accents and slurs.