



HINDUSTAN

BY HAROLD WEEKS AND OLIVER G. WALLACE, 1918

Lead sheet

For use with lessons #3, #11, and #15

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“Hindustan” is an old pop song that has become a “standard tune” for traditional jazz. It received its first significant recorded jazz interpretation in 1939 by Bob Crosby’s Bob Cats.

The melody (minus the seldom-played verse) is a very simple one, and works well as a vehicle for different styles of traditional jazz. In the Teacher’s Guide and Lesson Plans, the students are challenged to interpret this tune in three styles: New Orleans Brass Band, New Orleans Revival, and Chicago. The printed version included here is a “lead sheet”, such as is found in a “fake book”. This lays out the basic melody in concert key (B \flat in this instance), with chord names above the bars. Only your trumpeter/cornetist should play the melody (loosely) in ensemble passages; the other horns should improvise around that line. The rhythm section should improvise an accompaniment to the ensemble and soloists based on the chord structure of the piece and the movement of the melodic line.

Learning to play from a lead sheet is a basic skill that any aspiring jazz musician should master. B \flat instruments (trumpet/cornet, clarinet, tenor) will need to mentally transpose up a full step from the lead sheet, while the trombonist doesn’t need to transpose but will be seeing the melody in treble clef. The goal—especially for a tune as structurally simple as this one—should be for the students to learn the tune after practicing from the lead sheet, and to be able to improvise over it without visual reference to the chord names or printed melody. To fashion a performance from a lead sheet requires that the ensemble either pre-determine a sequence of events (order of soloists etc.), or that the routine be improvised as well, with a designated “floor leader” giving real-time instructions to the band (pointing to soloists etc.).

The basic chord pattern of “Hindustan” is one of the most common patterns in traditional jazz, showing up in dozens of other tunes commonly associated with the genre. These include “Tiger Rag” (third strain), “Bill Bailey”, “Washington and Lee Swing”, “Bourbon St. Parade”, and “Milenberg Joys”. Some of these tunes contain a place where an alternative chord is substituted in the basic pattern; in the case of “Hindustan”, such a place is the bVI chord occurring in measure 27.

Tempo: Quarter note = 184-208

C LEAD SHEET

HINDUSTAN

HAROLD WEEKS/OLIVER G. WALLACE

♩=184-208

Musical score for Hindustan in C major, 4/4 time, measures 1-32. The score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The tempo is marked as ♩=184-208. The score consists of eight staves, each containing four measures. The notes are as follows:

- Staff 1: Measure 1 (Bb), Measure 2 (Bb), Measure 3 (F+), Measure 4 (Bb). Chords: Bb, F+, Bb.
- Staff 2: Measure 5 (Bb), Measure 6 (Bb), Measure 7 (Bb), Measure 8 (Bb). Chords: F0, F7.
- Staff 3: Measure 9 (Bb), Measure 10 (Bb), Measure 11 (Bb), Measure 12 (Bb). Chords: Bb0, F7.
- Staff 4: Measure 13 (Bb), Measure 14 (Bb), Measure 15 (Bb), Measure 16 (Bb). Chords: Bb0, F7, Bb, F7.
- Staff 5: Measure 17 (Bb), Measure 18 (Bb), Measure 19 (Bb), Measure 20 (Bb). Chords: Bb, F+, Bb.
- Staff 6: Measure 21 (Bb), Measure 22 (Bb), Measure 23 (Bb), Measure 24 (Bb). Chords: Bb7, Eb.
- Staff 7: Measure 25 (Bb), Measure 26 (Bb), Measure 27 (Bb), Measure 28 (Bb). Chords: C7, Ebmi, Bb, Gb7.
- Staff 8: Measure 29 (Bb), Measure 30 (Bb), Measure 31 (Bb), Measure 32 (Bb). Chords: Cmi7, F7, Bb.

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