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Arrangiate (VI)! Un manuale che vi guiderà alla scoperta del favoloso mondo dell'arrangiamento. Con video in streaming

(Arrangiate (VI)! A manual that will guide you to discover the fabulous world of arranging. With streaming video)

Massimo Morganti in Collaborazione con Paolo Del Papa

Volontè & Co, Milano, 2022 (463 pages)

Massimo Morganti has yet again produced an impressive multi-faceted work. Massimo's third publication since 2018 with Volontè & Co, (Milano, Italy) is an *epic work* coming in at nearly 500 pages with over 300 hundred (300!) excellent, high-quality audio and video examples bringing the written notes, examples and pages to life. The outstanding student musicians from the Rovigo Conservatory that Morganti has brought together for the video and audio clips represents a comprehensive tonal palette for the interested arranger to study, feast upon, and further explore for future use. This is truly a team effort in every way possible, with students from the conservatory, support from the administration, and an A+ video team. Paolo Del Pappa's role with this massive undertaking by Morganti deserves credit as the extra set of eyes and ears pertaining to notation layout, graphic layouts, edits, studio assistance and text. In short, I'm sure the students of the Rovigo Conservatory found this to be a moving and very useful experience.

In the world of jazz arranging books, for example there are classic arranging books such as **Inside the Score** (Rayburn Wright), **Instrumental Jazz Arranging**, (Mike Tomaro & John Wilson), and **Jazz Arranging Techniques** (Gary Lindsay), that come to mind when looking for reliable and excellent resources to assist the student to advanced jazz arranger. Massimo Morganti certainly belongs in that group by displaying an encyclopedic knowledge of an array of arranging techniques. Morganti takes us on a musical journey of his own by using a simple eight-bar diatonic melody as the *main thread* throughout the book. Showing his knowledge and experience as an accomplished composer/arranger (and from personal experience a trombonist *par excellence*), Morganti *arranges* this melody in numerous musical ways. There is much detail throughout the book that covers the importance of musical *nuance* - the finer musical details that often get overlooked by the less experienced composer or arranger. A brief list of examples (with mp4 clips) includes attention to rhythmic development, effects, range, backgrounds, accompaniment, soli writing, articulation, dynamics, meter, reharmonization of the melody, numerous melodic variations of the main theme, and more. Before jumping into the large ensemble (big band) format, the initial melody is crafted and harmonized with a host of arranging and harmonic techniques that assist the arranger in *creating, understanding and hearing* 2-note, 3-note, 4-note, 5-note voicings, available tensions, closed/open/dropped position voicings, spread voicings, clusters, the ever-

tricky passing chords, counterpoint etc. There are excellent and clear audio and written examples of how to write for the jazz rhythm section, which is often overlooked when dealing with different instruments under the umbrella of the so-called *rhythm section*. Even the classic Fender Rhodes piano is dealt with in terms of range and effects that contrast with the acoustic piano. There are pages and pages of how to arrange *beyond* a traditional big band instrumentation; for and with strings (very important), woodwinds (even including oboe, English horn), complete brass, use of mutes, and what is possible and particular to every instrument such the often neglected and in some bands the disappearing trombone! Vocalists and vocal teachers will also be pleased to see how Morganti devotes attention to how to incorporate the voice in a number of different formats thus moving beyond the standard vocal solo role by using and incorporating vocals as an important integral ensemble voice and additional texture.

This book by Morganti is truly comprehensive and in so many ways! For example, with the ever-important (often climatic) big band *Shout Chorus*, there are **nine (9)** examples (esempio 193-201) showcasing different Shout Choruses or ways to wrap up a piece presented for the arranger to experience and enjoy. These are displayed in fully detailed concert scores with each example using different arranging techniques, tempos, styles meters, etc. This alone is worth the price of the book! This book proves to be a treasure trove for *any* arranger regardless of *any* level.

All who took part in this mammoth work must again be complimented. Non-Italian readers will have no problems understanding the text as there are clear professionally written musical examples (with helpful piano reductions when advancing to multiple part scores), graphs, tables and charts that correlate easily when registered or signed into the website. Volontè & Co, has done an outstanding job with the final layout and printing of the book therefore making it easy to read from both the arranger's point of view to the interested player. The over 300 audio and video mp4 clips are of excellent quality and demonstrate the unselfish labor of love by Massimo Morganti and all involved. I firmly believe this publication is now the *standard* by which all other arranging books *and* future publications will be judged. Regardless of where in the world you live, **Arrangiate (VI)!** is a *must* have and should be at the side or on the stand of any interested arranger. This book should also be required as a main textbook in any serious Jazz Studies program. Get it now!!!

Mike Rossi

American born Mike Rossi is a Professor Emeritus in Jazz and Woodwinds at the University of Cape Town, South Africa. He regularly performs at jazz clubs and jazz festivals and conducts workshops and master-classes in Africa, Europe and the United States. He was President of the South African Association for Jazz Education (SAJE) from 2012 to 2016. His achievements include numerous recordings, and international stage appearances as leader, soloist, and sideman with Tony Bennett, Dave Liebman, Darius Brubeck, Winston Mankunku Ngozi, George Russell, Clark Terry, Patrick Bebelaar, Massimo Morganti, and Alessio Menconi, amongst others. He is an exceptional saxophone and woodwind player, and artist for Rampone & Cazzani Handmade Italian saxophones. He has performed around the globe in small and large ensembles and gives workshops worldwide. As a composer and performer he has appeared on numerous jazz and classical recordings, and has written a series of method books on jazz improvisation, with translations in other languages, along with many compositions, all published by Advance Music, Schott Music and Edition Gruber. *Roots & Routes* (containing 12 of his compositions) was published in 2022 by Edition Gruber. He has taken bands to other parts of Africa where he introduces audiences to South African standards and also plays mainstream jazz. In 2018 he became a Knight of the Order of the Star of Italy (Cavaliere dell'Ordine della Stella d'Italia). In 2019 he was recognised for his exceptional work in promoting jazz education in South Africa by the Standard Bank Joy of Jazz Festival. For the past three years he has been involved with the Kanazawa Jazz Clinic and Kanazawa Jazz Street Festival in Japan. Rossi now resides in Fermo, Italy with his wife Diane.

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