

# bye bye blackbird

Words by Mort Dixon  
Music by Ray Henderson

This standard has been played by everyone from the 1920s onwards. Recordings exist by Billie Holiday, Miles Davis and John Coltrane to name but a few. Be sure to play the simple melody exactly in time with a gentle swing, and follow the slurs. Let the piano part transform it into a real jazz performance. The section from bar 37–44 is an invented melody over the existing chord sequence, as if improvised by a jazz musician.

Easy swing tempo ♩ = 120

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a tempo of 120 beats per minute. It consists of seven staves of music, each starting with a bar number. The first staff begins with a 4-measure rest, followed by a melody starting on a whole note. Dynamics include *mp* (mezzo-piano) and *mf* (mezzo-forte). The score features various articulations such as slurs, accents, and hairpins. A section from bar 37 to 44 is marked as an improvised melody. The piece concludes with a *rit.* (ritardando) marking and a *p* (piano) dynamic.

10

16

23

29

35

41

47

# distant memory

Ned Bennett

Here is an unaccompanied ballad that can be played as slowly as you wish. Although rubato is perfectly acceptable, try to play right through the phrases: the piece needs a feeling of flow, especially in the middle section. Don't swing the quavers. This piece qualifies as jazz because of the implied harmony, not because of the rhythmic content.

Freely, with expression ♩ = 60

1 *p* 3 3 3 3 3

5 *mp* 3 3 3 3 3

9 *mf* 3 3 *pp*

14 **With movement** *mp*

19 *mf*

24

28 *mp* *rit.* *p* 3 3 3 3 3

33 *mp* 3 3 3 3 3 3

38 *mf* 3 3 *pp*

# old devil moon

Words by E. Y. 'Yip' Harburg  
Music by Burton Lane

An old standard given the groove treatment, this has a shuffle feel (heavy swing) and a bluesy harmonic tint. Follow all the directions and treat the improvisation sections as a chance to play a few laid-back bluesy licks over the piano riff, rather than demonstrating the creative and artistic outpouring of your inner self! As with most jazz, a strong feel for the beat is crucial, especially in these improvisations: be careful or you'll miss the ending!

Shuffle tempo ♩ = 120

4

*mp*

8

*mf*

13

19

24

28

*mp*

33

*f*

38

44

*mp* *f*

49