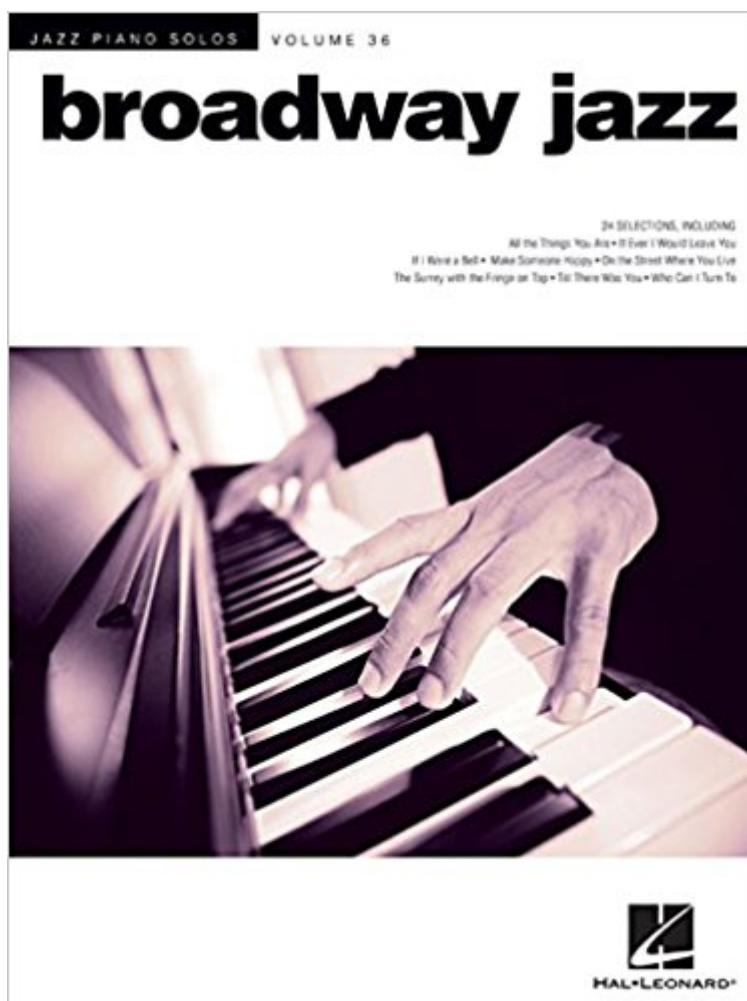




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Broadway Jazz: Jazz Piano Solos Series Volume 36



Synopsis

(Jazz Piano Solos). Jazzy arrangements of 24 Broadway favorites, including: All the Things You Are * Body and Soul * I Could Write a Book * If I Were a Bell * Lullaby of Broadway * Make Someone Happy * My Funny Valentine * My Romance * On a Clear Day (You Can See Forever) * On the Street Where You Live * This Can't Be Love * Till There Was You * You and the Night and the Music * and more.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Founded in 1947, Hal Leonard Corporation has become the worlds largest print music publisher, representing some of the greatest songwriters and artists of all time. We are proud to publish titles of interest to all musicians as well as music lovers, from songbooks and instructional titles to artist biographies and instrument price guides to books about the music industry and all the performing arts.

A while back, I bought a book from this series called Christmas jazz and immediately fell in love with it. It was millions of miles ahead of many other Christmas solos I own. It was arranged by Brent Edstrom (possibly someone related to the founder of Hal Leonard Publication since he has a similar last name). Since that, he has become one of my favorite arrangers since his solos sound so professional and different. I am a travel nurse who often ends up in small towns USA. During my last

assignment, I was excited to find an un-tuned old Steinway in the hospital's staff room. I was just overjoyed to be able to play during my lunch breaks to escape boredom. In the middle of a hot summer, the co-workers were drawn to the sounds of my Christmas book. People can tell amazing from generic. I was always complemented on pieces by two arrangers: Edstrom and Dan Coates. I never tell them I cannot arrange, but they probably did not care. Now back to this book. Halfway through playing it, I recognized Edstrom. Although not as perfect as the Christmas book it is still worth getting if you care for Broadway or cocktail piano. Most arrangements are a bit easier than Christmas book, level low advanced-intermediate. I wish it would have included my favorites: I'll take Manhattan and My Blue Heaven. I've been looking for these arrangements for some time, and for some reasons these songs just not being printed anymore. Songs make you want sing or just snap your fingers. My favorite one is You Took Advantage of me by Rodgers--swing-stride. Most of the other songs are not super hard and the chord symbols are included. If you want to listen before you buy, go to [sheet music direct dot com](http://sheetmusicdirect.com)-(remove spaces) search for separate songs listed below, find symbol picture that came from this book. The short audio sample of the beginning of every song, however keep in mind that each song beings as "straight" tune, and then goes into jazzy 'interlude-arrangements" that you won't get to hear; and that's, in my opinion is the best part. Most of the songs here are a little easier than his Christmas book, but still seem to sound just right. Here is the complete list of all songs, as is not listing them all:ll The Things You Are (from VERY WARM FOR MAY)Body And Soul (from THREE'S A CROWD)Falling In Love With Love (from THE BOYS FROM SYRACUSE)I Could Write A Book (from PAL JOEY)I Love You (from MEXICAN HAYRIDE)If Ever I Would Leave You (from CAMELOT)If I Were A Bell (from GUYS AND DOLLS)Little Girl Blue (from JUMBO)Lullaby Of Broadway (from GOLD DIGGERS OF 1935)Make Someone Happy (from DO RE MI)My Funny Valentine (from BABES IN ARMS)My Romance (from JUMBO)Old Devil Moon (from FINIAN'S RAINBOW)On A Clear Day (You Can See Forever) (from ON A CLEAR DAY YOU CAN SEE FOREVER)On The Street Where You Live (from MY FAIR LADY)Speak Low (from the Musical Production ONE TOUCH OF VENUS)The Surrey With The Fringe On Top (from OKLAHOMA!)This Can't Be Love (from THE BOYS FROM SYRACUSE)Thou Swell (from A CONNECTICUT YANKEE)Till There Was You (from Meredith Wilson's THE MUSIC MAN)Who Can I Turn To (When Nobody Needs Me) (from THE ROAR OF THE GREASEPAINT - THE SMELL OF THE CROWD)You And The Night And The Music (from REVENGE WITH MUSIC)You Took Advantage Of Me (from PRESENT ARMS)Younger Than Springtime (from SOUTH PACIFIC)

I have a good number of volumes from this Excellent Jazz Piano Series which is arranged for the

most part by the very talented Brent Edstrom. In fact the entire series in my opinion is the finest I have ever encountered. I was very excited when this volume of Broadway Solos was announced and pre-ordered it. Though it has some excellent arrangements I find it to be a bit of a mixed bag and not as good as most of the other volumes in this series. Most any good songbook will contain a couple of arrangements that a pianist may not like as well as the other arrangements in the book and that's to be expected and I don't let that detract from my overall opinion of the book. However in this book I'm disappointed with a greater number of arrangements. The two very well known Rodgers and Hammerstein songs included in this book, "Younger Than Springtime" and "The Surrey With The Fringe On Top" seem very uninspired. Perhaps the first of these songs just doesn't easily translate into a jazz arrangement and wasn't a good choice to be included. However "The Surrey With The Fringe On Top" is very well suited for a jazz arrangement but the included arrangement is weak and sounds very simplistic. This is one song where including the catchy intro verse would have worked very well but it isn't incorporated anywhere in the arrangement instead there is a solo portion added in that doesn't enhance the arrangement at all. Another disappointment was "Old Devil Moon" which is another song that is well suited for a jazz arrangement but this one also sounds simplistic and does not do justice to the great song it is. There are also a couple of other arrangements that are mediocre but I think I've included enough criticism here. All of the above being said, compared to other jazz books not from this series, this book still has enough very good arrangements to surpass the others. There is an interesting arrangement of "Little Girl Blue" that is based on an Oscar Peterson arrangement. For me it seems like the most challenging number in the book but from my initial run through I can tell it will be worth the work to learn it. Some of the other arrangements that I like include: "Lullaby Of Broadway", "Till There Was You", "My Funny Valentine" and "I Could Write A Book" which has a well placed key change mid way through (C major to D flat major) that's very pleasing. I wish this volume was as good as the others in the series but I have no regrets having purchased it. I'll enjoy the arrangements I like and look forward to future releases in this series.

Great arrangements

I'm giving it a 5 star review even though I haven't ordered it yet. But it's more for the entire series and for Brent Edstrom. I own more than 30 titles from this series, and though they are not all suitable for my purposes, all the musical arrangements are superb and reflect the style of the particular volume. I'm a well-trained pianist (Bach. of Music degree) who is also a very good

sight-reader. I love jazz but I don't have the chops or the years of practice it would require to come even close to the perfection of Edstrom's arrangements. This series is what I wish I had had 25 years ago. Up until then it was hit and miss, and good jazz arrangements usually came from vintage publications. This music, if played well and with style, can go up against the finest jazz pianist. I don't mean Oscar Peterson, Fats Waller and Art Tatum: I have plenty of transcriptions by those geniuses and they are difficult in the extreme--I've never been able to pull off a Tatum arrangement. Edstrom makes you sound like a professional, and a really good professional at that. I also like Dan Coates a great deal. I also recommend the series "Piano Stylings of the Great Standards", six volumes by various arrangers, mostly on the advanced level of difficulty. These are nice in that they also have the complete original song score, helpful if you sing, as I do. Now I'm off to purchase "Broadway Jazz" and can't wait to play "Lullabye of Broadway". Thanks, Hal Leonard!

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