

# HAVE YOURSELF A MERRY LITTLE CHRISTMAS

**Words and Music by HUGH MARTIN and RALPH BLANE**  
**Arranged by VICTOR LOPEZ**

## NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

This wonderful holiday standard works very well for the younger player. The melodic contours provide natural dynamics and the phrasing should be legato as marked. As the brief solos occur, soloists may take liberties and embellish or simply play as written. Any embellishment should be tasteful and kept within the lyrical style of the arrangement. This simple and familiar melody provides a good opportunity to discuss embellishment as a type of improvisation. In addition to the discussion and demonstration of melody, rhythm, and harmony, you may want to make students aware that even minor embellishment of the written melody or rhythm can often enhance a solo.

At measure 21, the saxophones should play with a full sound with good support, giving this unison section accurate intonation. Regarding releases, a good suggestion is to dictate to the ensemble when to release sustained notes. Try having the students mark their parts with "off on 4" or "4" for example. This chart will produce a good solid ensemble sound with minimum rehearsal time. Please enjoy!

—Victor Lopez