Percussive Notes

Sound Enhanced
Hear an audio recording of “Little Friendly Giant” performed by Lalo in the Members Only section of the PAS Website (www.pas.org).

“Little Friendly Giant”

BY LALO

Performance notes: The tempo marking is fairly fast, but it is more important to play this piece with a good feel than it is to play it quickly. If your sixteenth notes start to get sloppy, slow down!

The accents in section A are very important as they create the phrasing for the melody. In addition, be sure to personalize the piece by adding dynamics, pedaling, and accents where they are not notated.

Measures 8–10 and 39–41 are suggestions for playing over the A’sus4(b9). Likewise, measure 26–29 and 61–64 demonstrate one version of playing over the G’mas6. I rarely perform these sections verbatim but instead use the written material as a guide.

To further explore the 7/8 feel at sections B and E, try moving around accents or leaving spaces in the pattern.

One approach to the solo section is to hit the bass note on the downbeat of every two measures and fill with melodic phrases in-between these hits. Try to build the solo up to forte so that it will flow smoothly into section G.

The second time through section G simply continue the crescendo that began at measure 53 and ignore the dynamics that were played the first time.

Measures 73–78 are composed of a single phrase that is repeatedly displaced by an eighth note. With practice, you will feel where the first note of the phrase lines up with the downbeat at measure 78.

A lead-sheet version of “Little Friendly Giant” is available for ensemble performance. Contact lalo@lalovibe.com for information.

Lalo is a New York based vibraphonist and composer. In addition to touring with her own group, she has recorded with jazz pianist Kenny Werner for BMG Japan, performed with Cyro Baptista’s ten-piece percussion ensemble, and regularly plays in several established New York City bands. A graduate of Berklee College of Music, Lalo frequently visits colleges and universities throughout the U.S as a performer and clinician, and often as an artist-in-residence. For more information, visit www.lalovibe.com.
*At G, play written dynamics 1st x. On repeat, continue crescendo until H.*