

# STORMY WEATHER (KEEPS RAININ' ALL THE TIME)

*(It's Uptown With The George Benson Quartet)*

Lyric by Ted Koehler  
Music by Harold Arlen

Fig.4—Solo

George Benson's strong sense of swing pervades his brief solo on the Harold Arlen standard "Stormy Weather." He takes the first thirty-two bars (first two A's of the AABA form) to produce a tight single-note statement that contrasts with the R&B inflections of his vocal. Most of his lines are grouped in strings of eighth notes—typical of bebop phraseology at faster tempi. Benson plays his solo over a repeated B<sup>b</sup>-Gm7-Cm7-F7 progression. During its course, he suggests other chords by outlining more harmonically active changes, such as G+7 in measures 14–15. Benson plays characteristic bop substitutions in measures 12 (A diminished over F7) and 16 (E<sup>b</sup> minor over F7). Blues licks dominate measures 8–9, 21–23, and 27–28. Throughout the solo, Benson cultivates a lively bopping rhythmic feel, particularly in the bouncy staccato phrasing of chromatic lines in measures 3, 5, 7–8, 17–18, 23, and 30–31. Two versions of a favorite Benson rhythmic/melodic motive crop up in measures 11 and 29. This particular jazz cliché consists of three repeated pitches

8 Fig. 6

1:04 Moderately fast Swing ♩ = 162 (♩ = ♩♩)

Am7 Bm7<sup>b</sup>5 E7 Am7

*mf*

T 11-12 10 10 11 10 8 10  
A  
B

Bm7<sup>b</sup>5 E7 Am7 Bm7<sup>b</sup>5 E7

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