

Notes on Begin the Beguine

The beguine (also spelled biguine) is an Afro-French-Caribbean social dance that reached modest worldwide popularity in the 1930s. Cole Porter borrowed the genre's name for "Begin the Beguine," a number he contributed to the 1935 Broadway musical "Jubilee." Artie Shaw and His Orchestra recorded a popular big-band swing version in 1938. It has since been recorded by dozens of jazz, swing, pop, and other artists.

Our NESI Arkestra score is adapted for squeezeboxes from a big band arrangement of the Artie Shaw recording by Brian Einstein Lassiter. You can listen to and practice along with the Artie Shaw version here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zNcPnEc99UE>

Everyone, not just accordionists, is welcome to play in the Arkestra. You can select one of the 4 parts to practice at home, or just show up unrehearsed as many do (but please print your part at home if you can). We will rehearse the number during a scheduled Saturday workshop and perform it at the Saturday night concert. The 4 parts are fairly equal in difficulty.