

Compositions by Bruce Jackson for Exis Jaxn Band: Selected Recordings

Arrangements of Standards for the Exis Jaxn Band

[Over the Rainbow](#)

Genre: Popular Standard
Recorded 1998

This 1998 recording is from the band's second recording session. This famous popular tune composed by Harold Arlen with lyrics by E.Y. Harburg is one of a few recordings of a 9-year-old Galen as lead vocalist of the band. Since his hands were too small to play bass in his early years, he was the lead vocalist for nearly three years. In this recording, Bruce did the bass work, Kelsey (age 12) provided synthesizer solos, and Aaron (age 14) was on percussion.

[Ain't Misbehavin](#)

Genre: Jazz Standard
Recorded: 1999

Written in 1929 by Harry Brooks, Fats Waller and Andy Razaf, this famous jazz standard is typical of Exis Jaxn arrangements. This recording from 1999 introduces Galen (age 10) on a small Memphis bass guitar during the opening chorus and final section. Also featured are solos by Kelsey (age 13) on vibraphone and Aaron (age 15) on percussion.

Original Compositions for the Exis Jaxn Band

[Angel](#)

(Opus 64, no. 2)

Genre: Latin
Recorded: 1998
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The Exis Jaxn Band originally intended to emphasize vocals. Here both Galen and Kelsey harmonize vocally with Bruce on this early training piece in Latin jazz genre. This style has always been a favorite of the band. In this recording, Bruce did the bass work, Kelsey (age 12) was on synthesizer, and Aaron (age 14) played set. This recording was shortened into a demo format typical of early Exis Jaxn recordings.

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[Rain Forest, Version 1](#)

(Opus 61, no. 1A)

Genre: Environmental

Recorded: 1998

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Exis Jaxn has a number of compositions focusing on environmental issues. Based on an art rock format, the *Rain Forest* series has been reworked a number of times over the years. This recording included Galen (age 9) joining Bruce and Kelsey (age 12) on vocals. Aaron (age 14) was on percussion.

[Goin' Fishin'](#)

(Opus 57, no. 3)

Genre: Blues

Recorded: 1998

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A musical joke, this up-tempo blues was an early training piece introducing the lads to this important style. This recording omits several verses, since it was recorded for a demo. Though it incorporates a story line utterly out of the experience of the band, it is meant to be nothing more than a bit of tongue-in-cheek. In this recording, Bruce did all the vocals and bass work, Kelsey (age 12) was on synthesizer, and Aaron (age 14) was on percussion. Galen did not perform on this recording.

[Sam](#)

(Opus 58, no. 1)

Genre: Ballad

Recorded: 1999

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- Part 1. One of the early works composed for the Exis Jaxn Band, this work was a memorial to one of Galen's Sunday school friends who died suddenly of spinal meningitis. This reflective composition was an emotional project for the lads and an important teaching tool.
- Part 2. Sam includes progressions typical of Bruce's early compositions for the family band. Many of the sounds discovered here appear on later works. This recording includes Galen (age 10) on bass guitar, Kelsey (age 13) on vibraphone, and Aaron (age 15) on percussion. Bruce sings and performs on classical guitar.

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[What!](#)

(Opus 56, no. 6)

Genre: Alt. Rock

Recorded: 2000

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This message piece was part of a series of instructional compositions written by Bruce Jackson to teach the lads music and values. It has been performed many times in churches and festivals. This recording from 2000 includes Galen (age 11) on bass guitar, Kelsey (age 14) on synthesizers, and Aaron (age 16) on set. Bruce performs on guitar and vocals.

[Crusin'](#)

(Opus 59, no. 4)

Genre: Popular

Recorded: 2000

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Crusin' is a tongue-in-cheek poke at the "I don't wanna be a star" phenomena. This work, composed by Bruce Jackson, was performed at the 2000 New Years Eve Festival and for a number of regular gigs. This recording from 2000 includes Galen (age 11) on bass guitar, Kelsey (age 14) on synthesizers, and Aaron (age 16) on percussion. Bruce performs on guitar and vocals.

[Sustaining Love](#)

(Opus 62, no. 4)

Genre: Rock

Recorded: 2000

© 1998 by Exis Jaxn

Sustaining Love is typical of a series of new age message songs composed for church worship services. This work has been performed at Bethel Baptist Church and The Unity Center of Columbia. This recording includes Galen (age 11) on bass guitar, Kelsey (age 14) on synthesizers, and Aaron (age 16) on percussion. Bruce performs on guitar and vocals.