

Building Walls

for alto saxophone, baritone, piano, bass, and drum set

Music: Ronald Keith Parks

Drum Set Arrangement: Adam Snow

Lyrics: Dustin M. Hoffman

Building Walls

Instrumentation:

Alto Saxophone

Baritone

Piano

Double bass

Drum set

Building Walls was written for the Out of Bounds Ensemble. The lyrics are an adaptation by Dustin M. Hoffman of his short story of the same name.

Building Walls

Forget eight hours, lunch breaks, smoke breaks, bathroom breaks. This is a fourteen hour mother. Boss Sleeth gives our crew one day to mud this house. Same windows, same bulkheads and bullnose corners, same walls we've finished so many times our hands don't need our eyes. But today we must be faster. Faster than men, than ourselves. Today is ours to get through. Our walls to build.

Bubba's first on site. Stilted up before we arrive. Won't touch ground all day. Got to finish mudding to give the walls time to dry. Time like we never get. No sun for us.

We fill five hundred screw holes and Bubba's on his stilts knocking out the ceiling. That's one less hour. It has to be.

Gordy has a ring on layaway at JC Penney. Thirteen more hours is fine for him. Just fine. That's another layaway payment. Sparkling hunk of stone. Going to give it to his gal. Only six more payments. We don't want diamonds to turn fairytale for Gordy. Fairytales make our teeth itch.

Boss Sleeth returns. Big and round and too much face to grow a mustache. He says, Daddy Sleeth is here now, boys. He says, Daddy Sleeth will help you boys finish what you need discipline to complete in a timely manner. Always milking me, you boys. But I don't have shit for you boys to milk today. See, see. He pulls his pockets inside out and leaves them hanging.

He picks up the spare trowel, heaps mud into a pan, jams mud into the cracks in the front door, seals it tight. No one leaves until we finish, he says. This door is a wall now, see, he says. These windows are not windows but just gaps in a world you can't leave until you finish.

We listen to the mud. We hear it hum, Too wet, too dry, bubbling from the inside. Mud sings, Too heavy, too light, tape's going to slide. A language in clicks and squishes, something like crickets.

Boss Sleeth is too loud to listen. He mashes corners, zigzags seams. He slops our walls. He writes the checks. What can we do?

Finally, Boss Sleeth says, There's no managing you boys. He breaks through his mudded front door. When he slams it behind him, dried mud shards fall like broken teeth. We exhale.

Sal rumbles up the hopper, untangles the hose. He clicks on the flood lamps, makes the gloaming outside turn black. Time for texture means this mother is almost done.

It means we must soon leave these walls for walls at home. Apartments and duplexes and Gordy's two story rental. Can't touch the walls at home.

Sal sprays white hell from the hopper. Gordy kneels, notches down Bubba's rusty stilts. How long until we're done? Gordy wants to ask, but he knows better.

Done when we walk out the front door, when we win against the boys from Mexico. But winning is walking through another door. Through our own doors to more walls. Walls we didn't build together. Walls that surround us, each one.

Building Walls

Lyrics by Dustin M. Hoffman
Drum Set Arrangement by Adam Snow

Music by Ronald Keith Parks

Even, Quick and light... ♩ = 124

Alto Saxophone *mf* *mf*

Baritone For-

Piano *mf*

Bass *pizz.*

Drum Set *mf*

high hat (HH) or ride cymbal (RC)
choke cymbal (CC)

bass drum
snare drum
floor tom

6

A. Sx.

Bari. get eight hours, lunch breaks, smoke breaks, bath-room breaks. This is a four - teen - hour

Pno. *Sva*

Bass

D. S.

11

A. Sx.

Bari.

moth - er. Boss Sleeth gives our crew one day to mud this house.

Pno.

Bass

D. S.

8^{va}

15

A. Sx.

Bari.

Same win - dows, same bulk - heads and bull - nose cor - ners, same walls we've fin - ished

Pno.

Bass

D. S.

(8^{va})

A. Sx.

Bari.

Pno.

Bass

D. S.

so man - y times our hands don't need our eyes.

A. Sx.

Bari.

Pno.

Bass

D. S.

But ___ to - day we must be fast - er.

A. Sax.

Bari.
 Fast-er than men, than our - selves. To-day is ours to get through. Our walls to build.

Pno.

Bass

D. S.

A

A. Sax.
 31

Bari.
 Bub-ba's first on site.

Pno.

Bass

D. S.

A. Sx.

Bari.
Stilt-ed up be-fore we ar-rive. Won't touch ground all day. Got to fin-ish mud-

Pno.

Bass

D. S.

A. Sx.

Bari.
ding to give the walls time to dry. Time like we never get. No sun for us.

Pno.

Bass

D. S.

44

A. Sx.

Bari.

Pno.

Bass

D. S.

We fill five hun-dred screw holes and Bub-ba's on his stilts —

48

A. Sx.

Bari.

Pno.

Bass

D. S.

knock-ing out the ceil - ing. That's one less hour. It has to be.

A. Sx.

Bari.

Pno.

Bass

D. S.

B

A. Sx.

Bari.

Pno.

Bass

D. S.

p

p

p

p

p

(RC)

p

60

A. Sax.

Bari.

Gor - dy has a ring on

Pno.

Bass

D. S.

65

A. Sax.

Bari.

lay - a - way _____ at J C Pen - ney. Thir - teen more hours _ is

Pno.

Bass

D. S.

71

A. Sx.

Musical staff for Alto Saxophone (A. Sx.) showing a whole rest for the first five measures.

Bari.

Musical staff for Baritone (Bari.) with lyrics: fine for him. Just fine. That's an - oth-

Pno.

Musical staff for Piano (Pno.) with right and left hand parts.

Bass

Musical staff for Bass with lyrics: fine for him. Just fine. That's an - oth-

D. S.

Musical staff for Double Bass (D. S.) with lyrics: fine for him. Just fine. That's an - oth-

77

A. Sx.

Musical staff for Alto Saxophone (A. Sx.) with lyrics: er lay - a - way pay - ment. Spar - kling hunk of stone.

Bari.

Musical staff for Baritone (Bari.) with lyrics: er lay - a - way pay - ment. Spar - kling hunk of stone.

Pno.

Musical staff for Piano (Pno.) with right and left hand parts.

Bass

Musical staff for Bass with lyrics: er lay - a - way pay - ment. Spar - kling hunk of stone.

D. S.

Musical staff for Double Bass (D. S.) with lyrics: er lay - a - way pay - ment. Spar - kling hunk of stone.

C

82

A. Sx.

Bari.

Pno.

Bass

D. S.

Go - ing to

87

A. Sx.

Bari.

Pno.

Bass

D. S.

give it to his gal. On - ly

93

A. Sx.

Bari.

Pno.

Bass

D. S.

six more pay - ments. We don't want dia - monds to

98

A. Sx.

Bari.

Pno.

Bass

D. S.

turn fai - ry - tale for Gor - dy. Fai - ry -

(bell)

103

A. Sx.

Bari.

tales make our teeth itch.

Pno.

Bass

D. S.

108

A. Sx.

Bari.

Pno.

Bass

D. S.

D

Detailed description of the musical score: The score is for measures 103 through 108. It features five instrumental parts and a vocal line. The vocal line has lyrics: "tales make our teeth itch." The piano part includes a chord symbol 'D' above the staff at measure 108. The drum part shows a consistent rhythmic pattern with 'x' marks above the notes, indicating cymbal or snare hits. The alto saxophone part has melodic lines with slurs and accents. The baritone saxophone part has a lower, more sustained melodic line. The bass part provides a steady accompaniment with slurs and accents. The piano part has a complex texture with many beamed notes and rests.

113

A. Sx.

Bari.

Pno.

Bass

D. S.

E

A. Sx.

Bari.

Pno.

Bass

D. S.

mf

mf

mf

mf

mf

Boss Sleeth re - turns.

122

A. Sax.

Bari.

Pno.

Bass

D. S.

gva-----

Big and round and too much face to

(RC) (bell)

126

A. Sax.

Bari.

Pno.

Bass

D. S.

grow a mus - tache. He says, Dad - dy Sleeth

(CC) (bell)

130

A. Sax.

Bari.

is here now, boys. — He says, Dad-dy Sleeth will help you boys — fin - ish what you need

Pno.

Bass

(bell)

D. S.

135

A. Sax.

Bari.

dis - ci - pline — to com-plete in a time - ly man - ner.

Pno.

Bass

(CC)

D. S.

140

A. Sx.

Bari.

Pno.

Bass

D. S.

Al - ways milk - ing me, you boys.

144

A. Sx.

Bari.

Pno.

Bass

D. S.

But _____ I don't have shit for you boys to

(CC)

158

A. Sx.

Bari.

Pno.

Bass

D. S.

162

A. Sx.

Bari.

Pno.

Bass

D. S.

G

A. Sax.

Bari.

Pno.

Bass

D. S.

171

A. Sax.

Bari.

Pno.

Bass

D. S.

176

A. Sx.

Bari.

Pno.

Bass

D. S.

he says. This door is a wall now, see, —

181

A. Sx.

Bari.

Pno.

Bass

D. S.

he says. *Sva* — These win - dows are not win - dows but just gaps in a

186

A. Sx.

Bari.

Pno.

Bass

D. S.

world — you can't leave un - til you — fin - ish. ———

191

A. Sx.

Bari.

Pno.

Bass

D. S.

I

A. Sax. *f* *mp*

Bari.

Pno. *f* *p*

Bass *f* *mp*

D. S. (CC) (RC) *mp*

199

A. Sax.

Bari.

Pno.

Bass

D. S.

204

A. Sx.

Bari. *mp*

We lis - ten to the mud. We hear it hum,

Pno. *mp*

Pno. *mp*

Bass

D. S. (HH)

209

A. Sx.

Bari.

Too wet, too dry, bub - bling from the

Pno.

Pno.

Bass

D. S.

214

A. Sx.

Bari.

Pno.

Bass

D. S.

in - side. Mud sings,

219

A. Sx.

Bari.

Pno.

Bass

D. S.

Too heav - y, too light, tape's go - ing to slide.

A. Sax.

Bari.

Pno.

Bass

D. S.

J

A. Sax.

Bari.

Pno.

Bass

D. S.

A lan - guage in clicks and squish - es, some - thing like crick - ets.

A. Sax.

Bari.

Pno.

Bass

D. S.

A. Sax.

Bari.

Pno.

Bass

D. S.

245

A. Sax.

Bari.

Pno.

Bass

D. S.

the checks. What can we do?

249

A. Sax.

Bari.

Pno.

Bass

D. S.

(K)

(RC)

254

A. Sx.

Bari.

Pno.

Bass

D. S.

258

A. Sx.

Bari.

Pno.

Bass

D. S.

L

262

A. Sax. *f* *pp* *f*

Bari.

Pno. *f*

Bass *f*

D. S. *f*

Fi - nal - ly, Boss Sleeth says,

267

A. Sax.

Bari.

Pno.

Bass

D. S.

M

271

A. Sax.

Bari.

Pno.

Bass

D. S.

There's

275

A. Sax.

Bari.
no man - ag - ing you — boys. He breaks through his mud - ded front door.

Pno.

Bass

D. S.

A. Sx.

Bari.

Pno.

Bass

D. S.

he — slams it be - hind him, dried mud shards fall like bro -

A. Sx.

Bari.

Pno.

Bass

D. S.

ken teeth. — We ex - hale. —

p *p*

p (RC)

p

288

A. Sx. *f*

Bari.

Pno.

Bass *f*

D. S.

N

292

A. Sx.

Bari. *f*

Pno.

Bass

D. S.

Sal rum-bles up the hop - per, un-tan-gles the

A. Sax.

Bari.

Pno.

Bass

D. S.

hose. He clicks on the flood lamps, makes the gloam - ing out -

A. Sax.

Bari.

Pno.

Bass

D. S.

side turn _____ black. _____

p

303

A. Sx. *f*

Bari.

Pno.

Bass

D. S.

Time for texture

306

A. Sx.

Bari.

Pno.

Bass

D. S.

means this moth - er is al - most done.

310

A. Sx. O

Bari.

Pno. *p*

Bass

D. S. (RC)

315

A. Sx. *p*

Bari.

Pno.

Bass *p*

D. S.

319

A. Sax.

Bari.

mp

Pno.

Bass

D. S.

It means we must soon leave

324

A. Sax.

Bari.

Pno.

Bass

D. S.

these walls for walls at home.

329

A. Sx.

Musical staff for Alto Saxophone (A. Sx.) showing a melodic line starting with a half note G4, followed by a dotted quarter note A4, and a half note B4.

Bari.

Musical staff for Baritone (Bari.) showing a melodic line starting with a half note G3, followed by a dotted quarter note A3, and a half note B3.

A - part - ments and du - plex - es and Gor - dy's two - sto - ry ren - tal. _____

Pno.

Musical staff for Piano (Pno.) showing a rhythmic accompaniment with eighth notes in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand.

Bass

Musical staff for Bass showing a melodic line with a half note G2, followed by a dotted quarter note A2, and a half note B2.

D. S.

Musical staff for Double Bass (D. S.) showing a rhythmic accompaniment with eighth notes and a bass line.

334

A. Sx.

Musical staff for Alto Saxophone (A. Sx.) showing a melodic line starting with a half note G4, followed by a dotted quarter note A4, and a half note B4.

Bari.

Musical staff for Baritone (Bari.) showing a melodic line starting with a half note G3, followed by a dotted quarter note A3, and a half note B3.

Can't touch the walls at home. _____

Pno.

Musical staff for Piano (Pno.) showing a rhythmic accompaniment with eighth notes in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand.

Bass

Musical staff for Bass showing a melodic line with a half note G2, followed by a dotted quarter note A2, and a half note B2.

D. S.

Musical staff for Double Bass (D. S.) showing a rhythmic accompaniment with eighth notes and a bass line.

A. Sx.

Bari.

Pno.

Bass

D. S.

P

A. Sx.

Bari.

Pno.

Bass

D. S.

Sal sprays white hell from the

346

A. Sx.

Bari.

Pno.

Bass

D. S.

hop - per. Gor - dy kneels, notch-es down Bub - ba's rust -

350

A. Sx.

Bari.

Pno.

Bass

D. S.

y stilts. — How long un - til we're done? —

354

A. Sax. 

Bari. 

Gor - dy wants to ask, but he knows bet - ter.

Pno. 

Bass 

D. S. 

359

A. Sax. 

Bari. 

Done when we walk out the front door, when we win a- gainst the boys from

Pno. 

Bass 

D. S. 

363

A. Sx.

Bari.

Pno.

Bass

D. S.

Mex - i - co. _____ But win - ning is walk - ing through an -

367

A. Sx.

Bari.

Pno.

Bass

D. S.

oth - er door. _____ Through our own doors to more walls. _____

The image displays a page of a musical score for the song 'Building Walls'. It features five staves: Alto Saxophone (A. Sx.), Baritone (Bari.), Piano (Pno.), Bass, and Drums (D. S.). The score is divided into two systems, starting at measure 363 and 367. The lyrics are: 'Mex - i - co. But win - ning is walk - ing through an - oth - er door. Through our own doors to more walls.' The piano part includes complex chordal textures and arpeggios. The bass line provides a steady accompaniment. The drum part consists of a consistent pattern of eighth notes.

371

A. Sax.

Bari.

Pno.

Bass

D. S.

Walls we di - dn't build to - geth - er.

(RC)

375

A. Sax.

Bari.

Pno.

Bass

D. S.

Walls we di - dn't build to - geth - er. _____ Walls that sur -

(RC)

379

A. Sax.

Bari.

Pno.

Bass

D. S.

383

A. Sax.

Bari.

Pno.

Bass

D. S.

round us, Walls that sur - round us, Walls that sur - round

us, each one.

Detailed description of the musical score: The score is for a jazz ensemble. It features five staves: Alto Saxophone (A. Sax.), Baritone Saxophone (Bari.), Piano (Pno.), Bass, and Double Bass (D. S.). The music is in a key with two flats (B-flat major or D-flat minor). The first system (measures 379-382) includes lyrics: "round us, Walls that sur - round us, Walls that sur - round". The second system (measures 383-386) includes lyrics: "us, each one." The piano part features complex chordal textures with many accidentals. The double bass part has a rhythmic pattern with many 'x' marks above the notes, indicating specific articulation or effects.

R

A. Sx.

Bari.

Pno.

Bass

D. S.

390

A. Sx.

Bari.

Pno.

Bass

D. S.

(CC)

393

A. Sax.

Bari.

Pno.

Bass

D. S.