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Title

Confluences

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Confluences

Ethan Wickman

Alto Saxophone + Bassoon

Stratified Publications

NOTE

Confluences, for alto saxophone and bassoon, attempts to find the various ways in which the two instruments can converge in performance. Throughout the course of the work, these confluences are expressed in tessitura (as instruments match color in shared registers), motive (as they intermittently share melodic and rhythmic material), and space (as they explore diverse places on the stage or performing space). Of course, these convergences are given even greater meaning through various dramatic moments of divergence.

Each movement takes inspiration from some aspect of astronomy or observed interstellar space for its respective title. The first movement, “Rogue,” is named after the phenomenon of rogue planets, or heavenly bodies that do not conform to traditional, predictable orbits. In this movement, saxophone and bassoon are always slightly out of sync, as one is constantly in the process of breaking free of the influence, or ‘gravity,’ of the other.

The second movement, “Receding Orbits,” begins with a plaintive melody derived from permutations of a seven-note row (F#-A-F-C#-D-D#-A#--a conflation of the names “Javier” and “Sean,” respectively, the bassoonist and saxophonist of the Post-Haste Duo to whom the work is dedicated) in the saxophone. This melody repeats in fixed fashion as the bassoon enters articulating its own, independent melody. Each line evolves and develops, seemingly indifferent to the other, the rhythmic relationship between each becoming increasingly strained. At a key moment the instruments erupt into dramatic unity. The movement ends as its principle material descends gently in scale form, as the fragments of a cosmic explosion.

The final movement, “beneath a canopy of angels... a river of stars,” aims to explore the more poetic notions of the night sky. True convergence ensues from the beginning of the movement. After a lyrical interlude, opening motives return under increased rhythmic and harmonic strain, only to find their way to ultimate confluence.

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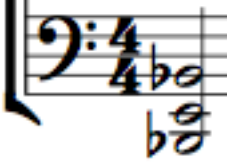
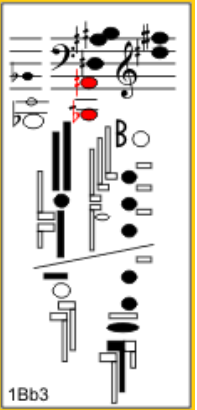
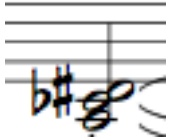
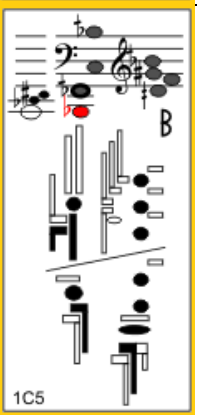
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PERFORMANCE NOTES

Saxophone growl	
Bassoon multiphonic	
Accelerate to as fast as possible, then decelerate, irrespective of tempo	
Play figure once, without respect to given tempo. Listed note values are relative.	
Saxophone plays in altissimo register, sliding between relatively indicated pitches	
Variable bassoon multiphonics over a note. Player should alter multiphonic while maintaining low B-flat in fingering.	

BASSOON MULTIPHONICS

(from www.leslieross.net)

	 1Bb3
	 1C5

Duration: 10 minutes

For the Post-Haste Reed Duo

Confluences

I. Rogue

Ethan Wickman

Brisk and Angular ♩ = 120

Alto Saxophone

Bassoon

Alto Sax.

Bsn.

Alto Sax.

Bsn.

Alto Sax.

Bsn.

Alto Sax.

Bsn.

*Multiphonic 1Bb3
from Leslie Ross site

pp < sfz pp < sfz pp sfz p f

pp < f pp < f pp < f p < p <

5 p p < f sfz p

f p f sfz p f sfz p

9 f sfz p < f p < f

f sfz p p < f

13 sfz p < p < p < p < sfz

15 sfz p < sfz p sfz p

sfz p sfz p

Alto Sax.

Bsn.

35

38

p *sfz*

p *sfz*

3

Alto Sax.

Bsn.

39

40

pp *mf*

Detailed description: This image shows a musical score for two saxophones. The top staff is for the Alto Saxophone (Alto Sax.) and the bottom staff is for the Baritone Saxophone (Bsn.). The music is in 4/4 time. Measure 39 (labeled '39' above the staff) features the Alto Saxophone playing a continuous eighth-note pattern: G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F#5, G5, A5, B5, C6, D6, E6, F#6, G6, A6, B6, C7. The Baritone Saxophone plays a whole note G2. Measure 40 (labeled '40' above the staff) continues the Alto Saxophone pattern. The Baritone Saxophone plays a half note G2, followed by a half note F#2, and then a quarter note E2. A dynamic marking 'pp' (pianissimo) is placed below the Baritone Saxophone staff at the start of measure 40, and 'mf' (mezzo-forte) is placed at the end of measure 40. A bracket connects the two staves across measures 39 and 40.

41

Alto Sax.

cresc.

poco

Bsn.

This musical score shows measures 41 through 48 for the Alto Saxophone and Bassoon. The Alto Saxophone part begins in measure 41 with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. It features a series of eighth-note patterns, with a crescendo marking in measure 41 and a 'poco' marking in measure 45. The Bassoon part, in bass clef, provides a rhythmic and harmonic accompaniment, including some triplets and rests. The score is written on a grand staff with a brace connecting the two parts.

Alto Sax.

Bsn.

43

a

poco

Alto Sax.

Bsn.

45

ff

ff

Alto Sax.

Bsn.

47

Alto Sax.

Bsn.

51

p

p

Alto Sax.

Bsn.

54

mf

ff

mf

ff

Alto Sax.

Bsn.

56

sfz

p

sfz

p

Alto Sax.

Bsn.

59

sffz

*A last minute-surprise.
Sax player should have lowered his instrument
as if the movement is over. Bassoon,
turning to sax player, 'attacks'
with this obnoxious figure.

Confluences

II. Receding Orbits

With detached independence ♩ = 72

Players should begin to face away from one another from mm. 1-25

Alto Saxophone

Bassoon

p *poco* <

Alto Sax.

Bsn.

p 3

Alto Sax.

Bsn.

mf 3 *mf* *più* <

Alto Sax.

Bsn.

mf 3 *p* *mf* 3

Alto Sax.

Bsn.

f 3 *f* *p*

Spiritedly

Alto Sax. 26 *f* *fp* *f* *fp* *f*

Bsn. *f* *sfz* *p* *f* *sfz* *p* *f*

Alto Sax. 29 *f* *fp* *f* *fp* *f*

Bsn. *fp* *f*

Alto Sax. 33 *p* *f* *p*

Bsn. *p* *f* *p*

Alto Sax. 36 *f* *fp*

Bsn. *f* *fp*

Alto Sax. 37 *f* *fp*

Bsn. *f* *fp*

39

Alto Sax.

Bsn.

3

6

3

3

41

Alto Sax.

Bsn.

p

sfz p

6

6

6

6

6

6

43

Alto Sax.

Bsn.

ff

ff

6

6

6

ff

ff

44 Ecstatically

Alto Sax.

Bsn.

3

3

3

3

3

3

46

Alto Sax.

Bsn.

3

6

6

6

6

6

Alto Sax.

Bsn.

47

5 5 6 9

6 6 7 9

fff

fff

Alto Sax.

Bsn.

49

5 5 3

p

p

54 Placidly

Note values are relative, and not to be interpreted strictly by the given tempo.

Players begin walking slowly to outer stands, arriving before m. 59

Alto Sax.

Bsn.

54

Alto Sax.

Bsn.

55

56

Alto Sax.

Bsn.

57

Alto Sax.

Bsn.

poco

a

poco

a

58

Alto Sax.

Bsn.

poco

cresc.

poco

cresc.

59

Alto Sax.

Bsn.

f

multiphonic with 1C5 fingering (Leslie Ross site)

60

Alto Sax.

Bsn.

pp

The image shows a musical score for two instruments: Alto Saxophone (Alto Sax.) and Baritone Saxophone (Bsn.). The Alto Saxophone part is written on a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). It begins with a measure containing a whole note on the staff line (F#4). The Baritone Saxophone part is written on a single staff with a bass clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). It begins with a measure containing a whole note on the staff line (F#2), which is circled and has a '2' written below it. A slur connects this note to a second whole note on the staff line (F#2) in the next measure. The dynamic marking *pp* (pianissimo) is placed below the second measure of the Baritone Saxophone part. The score ends with a double bar line.

Confluences

III. beneath a canopy of angels... a river of stars

Seamlessly fleeting ♩ = 54

Alto Saxophone

Bassoon

p

Having begun the movement upstage, players begin to walk slowly back to the stands downstage. Do not move on from this repeat until you are back at the original stands, have repeated this a couple of times, and are comfortable moving on.

Alto Sax.

Bsn.

Alto Sax.

Bsn.

Alto Sax.

Bsn.

Alto Sax.

Bsn.

mp

Alto Sax. *14*

Bsn. *mp*

mf

Alto Sax. *17*

Bsn. *mf*

p

Alto Sax. *20*

Bsn. *mp*

mf

Alto Sax. *23*

Bsn. *poco f*

poco f

Alto Sax. *26*

Bsn. *più f*

più f

29

Alto Sax.

Bsn.

mf

mp

32

Alto Sax.

Bsn.

p

mf

p

mf

35

Alto Sax.

Bsn.

p

p

38

Alto Sax.

Bsn.

41

Alto Sax.

Bsn.

44

Alto Sax.

Bsn.

3

3

3

3

3

3

47

Alto Sax.

Bsn.

mp

p

3

3

3

3

3

3

50

Alto Sax.

Bsn.

mp

f

mf

3

3

3

3

3

3

53

Alto Sax.

Bsn.

p

mp

mf

3

3

3

3

3

3

56

Alto Sax.

Bsn.

mp

p

3

3

3

3

3

3

59

Alto Sax.

Bsn.

mp

mf

62

Alto Sax.

Bsn.

f

65

Alto Sax.

Bsn.

p

rall. Slower (♩ = 90)

69

Alto Sax.

Bsn.

mf

72

Alto Sax.

Bsn.

mf

Freely and lyrically

75

Alto Sax.

Bsn.

f

3 3 6 3 3 3

78

Alto Sax.

Bsn.

p

3 3 6 3

81

Alto Sax.

Bsn.

f *p*

3 3 3 3

85

Alto Sax.

Bsn.

Tempo 1 ♩ = 54

f *p* *mf*

3 3 3

90

Alto Sax.

Bsn.

f *p* *f* *p*

3 3 3 3

93

Alto Sax.

Bsn.

p *f*

Measures 93-95. Alto Saxophone: Measure 93 has two triplet eighth notes (F#4, G#4) and a quarter note (A4). Measure 94 has two triplet eighth notes (B4, C5) and a quarter note (D5). Measure 95 has a quarter rest, a quarter note (E5), and a quarter note (F#5). Bassoon: Measure 93 has a quarter rest, a quarter note (F#3), and a quarter note (G#3). Measure 94 has a quarter note (A3), a quarter note (B3), and a quarter note (C4). Measure 95 has a quarter note (D4), a quarter note (E4), and a quarter note (F#4). Dynamics: *p* for measures 93-94, *f* for measure 95.

96

Alto Sax.

Bsn.

Measures 96-98. Alto Saxophone: Measure 96 has two triplet eighth notes (F#4, G#4) and a quarter note (A4). Measure 97 has two triplet eighth notes (B4, C5) and a quarter note (D5). Measure 98 has a quarter rest, a quarter note (E5), and a quarter note (F#5). Bassoon: Measure 96 has a quarter note (F#3), a quarter note (G#3), and a quarter note (A3). Measure 97 has a quarter note (B3), a quarter note (C4), and a quarter note (D4). Measure 98 has a quarter note (E4), a quarter note (F#4), and a quarter note (G#4). Dynamics: *p* for measures 96-97, *f* for measure 98.

99

Alto Sax.

Bsn.

p

Measures 99-101. Alto Saxophone: Measure 99 has two triplet eighth notes (F#4, G#4) and a quarter note (A4). Measure 100 has two triplet eighth notes (B4, C5) and a quarter note (D5). Measure 101 has a quarter rest, a quarter note (E5), and a quarter note (F#5). Bassoon: Measure 99 has a quarter note (F#3), a quarter note (G#3), and a quarter note (A3). Measure 100 has a quarter note (B3), a quarter note (C4), and a quarter note (D4). Measure 101 has a quarter note (E4), a quarter note (F#4), and a quarter note (G#4). Dynamics: *p* for measures 99-100, *f* for measure 101.

102

Alto Sax.

Bsn.

f

Measures 102-104. Alto Saxophone: Measure 102 has two triplet eighth notes (F#4, G#4) and a quarter note (A4). Measure 103 has two triplet eighth notes (B4, C5) and a quarter note (D5). Measure 104 has a quarter rest, a quarter note (E5), and a quarter note (F#5). Bassoon: Measure 102 has a quarter note (F#3), a quarter note (G#3), and a quarter note (A3). Measure 103 has a quarter note (B3), a quarter note (C4), and a quarter note (D4). Measure 104 has a quarter note (E4), a quarter note (F#4), and a quarter note (G#4). Dynamics: *p* for measures 102-103, *f* for measure 104.

105

Alto Sax.

Bsn.

p *f*

Measures 105-107. Alto Saxophone: Measure 105 has two triplet eighth notes (F#4, G#4) and a quarter note (A4). Measure 106 has two triplet eighth notes (B4, C5) and a quarter note (D5). Measure 107 has a quarter rest, a quarter note (E5), and a quarter note (F#5). Bassoon: Measure 105 has a quarter note (F#3), a quarter note (G#3), and a quarter note (A3). Measure 106 has a quarter note (B3), a quarter note (C4), and a quarter note (D4). Measure 107 has a quarter note (E4), a quarter note (F#4), and a quarter note (G#4). Dynamics: *p* for measures 105-106, *f* for measure 107.

107

Alto Sax.

Bsn.

110

Alto Sax.

Bsn.

ff

113

Alto Sax.

Bsn.

116

Alto Sax.

Bsn.

118

Alto Sax.

Bsn.

121 19

Alto Sax.

Bsn.

*change multiphonic at random
by adjusting fingering over
Bb pedal

125

Alto Sax.

Bsn.

pp *fff*

pp ³ *fff*

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