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Three Character Pieces for Saxophone Quartet

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THREE CHARACTER PIECES FOR SAXOPHONE QUARTET

I. The Wizard

Approx duration: 3' 00"

II. The Troubadour

Approx duration: 4' 05"

III. The Jester

Approx duration: 2' 15"

Total duration: approx. 9' 30"

ORIGINAL PROGRAM NOTE

The character pieces in this fantastical saxophone quartet are portraits of medieval or legendary character tropes. We begin with “The Wizard”, a mirthful and valiant spell-caster who is probably engaged in some mythic fight. “The Troubadour” is a hopeless romantic and frequent traveler, companioned only by his solitude. Our journey ends with “The Jester”, a royal entertainer playing tricks at a not-too-distant court. I really enjoyed letting my imagination run free as I wrote this work and, as you listen and perform, I hope that yours will too.

PREMIERE

Premiered by the University of Texas Viridi Saxophone Quartet on November 12, 2018, in Austin, Texas. ~

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THREE CHARACTER PIECES FOR SAXOPHONE QUARTET

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I. The Wizard

Brightly, boldly ♩ = 126

Musical score for the first system of "The Wizard". It features four staves: Soprano Sax, Alto Sax, Tenor Sax, and Baritone Sax. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 4/4. The tempo is marked as 126 beats per minute. The Soprano, Alto, and Tenor parts begin with a sixteenth-note triplet marked with a '6' and a forte (*f*) dynamic. They then transition to a steady eighth-note pattern with a mezzo-forte (*mp*) dynamic and the instruction *leggiero*. The Baritone Sax part starts with a whole rest and then enters with a forte (*f*) dynamic and the instruction *con brio*.

Musical score for the second system of "The Wizard", starting at measure 4. A box containing the number '7' is positioned above the staff. The Soprano, Alto, and Tenor parts continue with their eighth-note patterns, with dynamics shifting to mezzo-forte (*mf*) and then mezzo-piano (*mp*) or piano (*p*). The Baritone Sax part continues with its eighth-note pattern, maintaining a piano (*p*) dynamic.

8

S. Sax. *cresc.* *f* *p* *sfz*

A. Sax. *cresc.* *mp* *p* *sfz*

T. Sax. *cresc.* *mp* *p* *sfz*

B. Sax. *cresc.* *mp* *p*

12

S. Sax. *fp* *mp*

A. Sax. *fp* *mp*

T. Sax. *fp* *mp*

B. Sax. *fp* *mp* *3*

19

16

S. Sax. *p* *fp* *cresc.* *ff* *mp*

A. Sax. *p* *fp* *cresc.* *ff* *mp* *6*

T. Sax. *p* *fp* *cresc.* *ff* *mp*

B. Sax. *fp* *cresc.* *ff* *mp*

20

S. Sax. *f*

A. Sax. *mf* *cresc.* *f*

T. Sax. *mf* *cresc.* *f*

B. Sax. *mf* *f*

23

S. Sax. *p* *f* *fp* *cresc.*

A. Sax. *f* *p* *f* *fp* *cresc.*

T. Sax. *f* *p* *f* *fp* *cresc.*

B. Sax. *p* *f* *fp* *cresc.*

26

27

S. Sax. *ff* *mp* *sf*

A. Sax. *ff* *mp* *mf* *sf*

T. Sax. *ff* *mp* *mf* *sf*

B. Sax. *ff* *fp* *fp*

30

S. Sax. *cresc.* *ff* *p*

A. Sax. *mf* *cresc.* *ff* *p*

T. Sax. *mf* *cresc.* *ff* *p*

B. Sax. *cresc.* *ff* *p*

37

35

S. Sax. *mf* *sf* *p*

A. Sax. *mf* *sf* *p*

T. Sax. *mf* *sf* *p*

B. Sax. *mf* *sf* *p*

38

S. Sax. *p*

A. Sax. *p*

T. Sax. *p*

B. Sax. *p*

45

Musical score for measures 45-48, featuring four staves: S. Sax., A. Sax., T. Sax., and B. Sax. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The score includes dynamic markings such as *fp*, *p*, *f*, and *cresc.*, along with accents and a sixteenth-note sextuplet in the T. Sax. part at measure 47.

Musical score for measures 49-52, featuring four staves: S. Sax., A. Sax., T. Sax., and B. Sax. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The score includes dynamic markings such as *f* and accents, along with a sixteenth-note sextuplet in the S. Sax. part at measure 49.

55

Musical score for measures 53-56, featuring four staves: S. Sax., A. Sax., T. Sax., and B. Sax. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The score includes dynamic markings such as *f*, *p*, *cresc.*, and *subito p*, along with accents and hairpins.

57

S. Sax. *p* *mf* *f*

A. Sax. *p* *mf* *f*

T. Sax. *p* *mf* *f*

B. Sax. *p* *f*

61

S. Sax. *p cresc.*

A. Sax. *p cresc.*

T. Sax. *p cresc.*

B. Sax. *p cresc.*

poco rit.

64 *a tempo*

S. Sax. *ff grandioso*

A. Sax. *ff grandioso*

T. Sax. *ff grandioso*

B. Sax. *ff grandioso*

67

S. Sax. *mp cresc. f*

A. Sax. *mp cresc. f*

T. Sax. *mp cresc. f*

B. Sax. *mp cresc. f*

71

S. Sax.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

74

76

S. Sax. *mp ff grandioso*

A. Sax. *mp ff grandioso*

T. Sax. *mp ff*

B. Sax. *mp ff*

79

S. Sx. *morendo* *p*

A. Sx. *morendo* *p*

T. Sx. *morendo* *p*

B. Sx. *morendo* *p*

88 (a tempo)

85

S. Sx. *f animato* *mp cresc.*

A. Sx. *mf animato* *f* *mp cresc.*

T. Sx. *mf animato* *f* *mp cresc.*

B. Sx. *mf animato* *f* *mp cresc.*

91

S. Sx. *f* *ff*

A. Sx. *f* *ff*

T. Sx. *f* *ff*

B. Sx. *f* *fp* *ff*

II. The Troubadour

Broadly, dignified ♩ = 36

95

Musical score for measures 95-98. The score is for four saxophones: S. Sax., A. Sax., T. Sax., and B. Sax. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 12/8. The tempo/mood is 'Broadly, dignified' with a quarter note equal to 36 beats. The music features a melodic line in the A. Sax., T. Sax., and B. Sax. parts, while the S. Sax. part is mostly silent. Dynamics include *p semplice* and *pp*. There are hairpins for crescendo and decrescendo in the A. Sax., T. Sax., and B. Sax. parts.

S. Sax.

A. Sax. *p semplice* *pp*

T. Sax. *p semplice*

B. Sax. *p semplice*

99

accel. *rit.*

Musical score for measures 99-102. The score is for four saxophones: S. Sax., A. Sax., T. Sax., and B. Sax. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 12/8. The tempo/mood is 'Broadly, dignified' with a quarter note equal to 36 beats. The music features a melodic line in the S. Sax., A. Sax., and B. Sax. parts, while the T. Sax. part has a rhythmic accompaniment. Dynamics include *pp*, *mf*, and *p*. There are hairpins for crescendo and decrescendo in the S. Sax., A. Sax., and B. Sax. parts. The tempo markings *accel.* and *rit.* are present above the S. Sax. staff.

S. Sax. *mf* *p*

A. Sax. *mf* *p*

T. Sax. *pp* *mf* *p*

B. Sax. *pp* *mf* *p*

a tempo

102

S. Sx. *p*

A. Sx. *p* *pp* *mf* *tr*

T. Sx. *mf*

B. Sx. *mf lamentoso*

106

S. Sx. *mf lamentoso* *f*

A. Sx. *mf* *f*

T. Sx. *mf* *f*

B. Sx. *p* *mf* *f*

accel. **Agitated** (♩. = 70)

110

S. Sx. *mp* *f* *tr* *mp* *ff*

A. Sx. *f* *ff* *mf*

T. Sx. *ff*

B. Sx. *ff*

115

Less broadly (♩ = 44)

S. Sax. *p* *mf*

A. Sax. *p* *mf*

T. Sax. *p* *mf*

B. Sax. *p* *mf*

118

S. Sax. *p cantabile*

A. Sax. *p cantabile*

T. Sax. *pp*

B. Sax. *pp*

120

S. Sax. *pp cresc.*

A. Sax. *pp cresc.*

T. Sax. *pp cresc.*

B. Sax. *pp cresc.*

122

S. Sax. *f*

A. Sax. *f*

T. Sax. *f*

B. Sax. *f*

124

126

S. Sax. *p*, *cresc.*, *mf*

A. Sax. *p*, *cresc.*, *mf*

T. Sax. *p*, *mf*

B. Sax. *p*, *mf*

127

S. Sax.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

128

S. Sx. *mf* *p cresc.* *sf*

A. Sx. *mf* *p cresc.* *sf*

T. Sx. *mf* *p cresc.* *sf*

B. Sx. *mf* *p cresc.* *sf*

132

130

S. Sx. *sf* *f* *pp* *mf*

A. Sx. *sf* *mf*

T. Sx. *sf* *f* *mf*

B. Sx. *sf* *f*

135

133

S. Sx. *mp espress.*

A. Sx. *p* *mp*

T. Sx. *p* *mp*

B. Sx. *p* *mp*

136

S. Sax. *cresc.* *f*

A. Sax. *cresc.* *f*

T. Sax. *cresc.* *f*

B. Sax. *cresc.* *f*

139

S. Sax. *cresc.* *ff* *mp* *pp*

A. Sax. *cresc.* *mf* *p* *pp*

T. Sax. *cresc.* *mf* *p*

B. Sax. *cresc.* *mf* *p*

143

S. Sax. *ppp*

A. Sax. *pp*

T. Sax. *pp*

B. Sax. *pp*

III. The Jester

Eccentric up-tempo; jokingly ♩ = 132 - 140

145

Musical score for measures 145-149. The score is for four saxophones: S. Sax., A. Sax., T. Sax., and B. Sax. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The tempo is 'Eccentric up-tempo; jokingly' with a quarter note equal to 132-140 beats per minute. The music features a variety of dynamics and articulations. Measure 145 starts with a forte (f) dynamic and a staccato accent. Measure 146 has a mezzo-piano (mp) dynamic with a 'capriccioso' marking and a triplet of eighth notes. Measure 147 has a sforzando (sfz) dynamic with a sixteenth-note triplet. Measure 148 has a forte (f) dynamic with a staccato accent. Measure 149 has a fortissimo (ff) dynamic with a staccato accent. The saxophone parts are arranged in a four-part setting, with the S. Sax. part having the most complex rhythmic patterns.

S. Sax. *f* *mp capriccioso* *sfz* *f* *ff*

A. Sax. *f* *mp* *f* *ff*

T. Sax. *f* *mp* *f* *ff*

B. Sax. *f* *mp* *f* *ff*

150

Musical score for measures 150-154. The score is for four saxophones: S. Sax., A. Sax., T. Sax., and B. Sax. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The music continues with a variety of dynamics and articulations. Measure 150 has a piano (p) dynamic with a staccato accent. Measure 151 has a piano (p) dynamic. Measure 152 has a mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic with a staccato accent. Measure 153 has a mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic with a staccato accent. Measure 154 has a mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic with a staccato accent. The saxophone parts are arranged in a four-part setting, with the S. Sax. part having the most complex rhythmic patterns.

S. Sax. *p* *mf*

A. Sax. *p* *mf*

T. Sax. *p* *mf*

B. Sax. *bruscamente* *p* *mf*

152

S. Sax. *cresc.* *subito p* *f*

A. Sax. *cresc.* *subito p* *f*

T. Sax. *cresc.* *subito p* *f*

B. Sax. *cresc.* *subito p* *f*

158

156

S. Sax. *sfz* *pp cresc.*

A. Sax. *mp* *pp* *cresc.*

T. Sax. *mp* *pp cresc.*

B. Sax. *mp* *pp cresc.*

159

S. Sax. *f*

A. Sax. *f*

T. Sax. *f*

B. Sax. *f*

163

S. Sax. *p* *sfz* *mf*

A. Sax. *mf* *sfz* *p*

T. Sax. *p* *sfz*

B. Sax. *p* *sfz* *p*

167

S. Sax. *f*

A. Sax. *f* *p*

T. Sax. *p* *mf*

B. Sax. *f* *p*

170

S. Sax. *ff* *p*

A. Sax. *ff* *p*

T. Sax. *ff* *p*

B. Sax. *ff* *p*

174

S. Sax. *f*

A. Sax. *f*

T. Sax. *f*

B. Sax. *f*

178

S. Sax. *fp*, *mp*, *f*

A. Sax. *pp*, *mp*

T. Sax. *pp*, *mp*

B. Sax. *mp*

182

S. Sax. *ff*

A. Sax. *ff*

T. Sax. *p*, *ff*

B. Sax. *f*, *ff*

185

S. Sax. *mp*

A. Sax. *mp*

T. Sax. *mp*

B. Sax. *mp*

189

S. Sax.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

193

S. Sax. *mf cresc.* *f* *ff*

A. Sax. *mf cresc.* *f* *p* *ff*

T. Sax. *mf cresc.* *f* *p* *ff*

B. Sax. *mf cresc.* *f* *p* *ff*

197

S. Sax. *mf*

A. Sax. *mf*

T. Sax. *mf*

B. Sax. *mf*

201

S. Sax.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

205

S. Sax. *f*

A. Sax. *f*

T. Sax. *f*

B. Sax. *f*

209

S. Sax. *mp* *p*

A. Sax. *mp* *p*

T. Sax. *mp* *p*

B. Sax. *mp* *p*

213

S. Sax. *f* *mp* *f* *p dim.*

A. Sax. *f* *mp* *f* *p dim.*

T. Sax. *f* *mp* *f* *p dim.*

B. Sax. *f* *mp* *f* *p dim.*

220

S. Sax. *pp* *ff* *fff*

A. Sax. *pp* *ff* *fff*

T. Sax. *pp* *ff* *fff*

B. Sax. *pp* *ff* *fff* *fin.*