

Sonata for Alto Saxophone (or Clarinet) and Piano

My Saxophone Sonata was composed in late 2004 for the saxophonist Johanne McMullan, then a final year student at Edinburgh University, for her degree recital. It is in many ways a continuation of my exploration of the interface between the "serious" and the "popular" in music, the first manifestation of which was my 2002 Piano Quintet.

The first movement (*Prelude*) is driven by a harmonic logic which is essentially quartal, and a melodic one based around the whole-tone scale. The *Chorale and Passacaglia* is derived entirely from three distinct twelve-note rows, and is an attempt to re-imagine Schoenberg's early twelve-tone discoveries through a jazz-inflected aesthetic. The *Rondo* finale is an up-tempo chromatic work-out, the tonal centre of which is continually shifting. The piece covers the entire register of the alto saxophone, thus comprehensively demonstrating the technical capabilities of the instrument. In addition, the characteristic melodies contained within the piece ably demonstrate the lyrical capacity of the alto sax.

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The first performance of the Saxophone Sonata was given on 25th May 2005 in the Reid Concert Hall, Edinburgh by Johanne McMullan (alto saxophone) and Andrew Johnston (piano).

An arrangement of the piece for **piano and clarinet** was written in 2015 for the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. The third movement of this arrangement was premièred in St Mark's Unitarian Church, Edinburgh on 25 August 2015 by Jean Johnson (clarinet) and Andrew Johnston (piano).

The part for clarinet in B-flat is included within this PDF file. (Note that the piano part is the same for both the clarinet and saxophone versions).

Further information on the composer's work is available at www.julianwagstaff.com.

Sonata for Alto Saxophone (or Clarinet) and Piano

For Johanne McMullan

Julian Wagstaff

I. Prelude

♩=60

Saxophone in E $\flat$
or Clarinet in B $\flat$
(Notated in "C")

Piano

sffp *ff*

♩=60

sffp *ff*

Ped.

A. Sax.

sffp *ff*

Pno.

sffp *ff*

Ped.

poco rall.

5

A. Sax.

sffp *ff*

poco rall.

Pno.

sffp *ff*

Ped.

A. Sax.

Pno.

7

8

♩=85

mp

mp

3

3

3

10

A. Sax.

Pno.

f

5/4

5/4

Detailed description: This image shows measures 10 and 11 of a musical score. The top staff is for the Alto Saxophone (A. Sax.) in treble clef. It begins with a whole note G4, followed by a half note A4, a quarter note B4, and a quarter note A4. A slur covers the first four notes. The bottom staff is for the Piano (Pno.) in grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The right hand plays chords: G4-A4-B4 (quarter), G4-A4-B4 (quarter), G4-A4-B4 (quarter), G4-A4-B4 (quarter), G4-A4-B4 (quarter), and G4-A4-B4 (quarter). The left hand plays: G3 (half), G3-A3 (quarter), G3-A3 (quarter), G3-A3 (quarter), G3-A3 (quarter), and G3-A3 (quarter). A slur covers the first four notes of the left hand. The piano part ends with a forte (*f*) dynamic marking. The time signature is 5/4.

12

A. Sax.

mf

Pno.

mf

This musical score is for a saxophone and piano. The saxophone part is in 5/4 time, starting with a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The piano part is in 5/4 time, with a complex texture of chords and arpeggios. The score is marked with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The saxophone part features a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The piano part features a complex texture of chords and arpeggios. The score is marked with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic.

14

A. Sax.

mp

Pno.

mp

p

16

A. Sax.

mp

Pno.

gliss.

mp

18

A. Sax.

mp

Pno.

mp

21

A. Sax.

f

6

3

Pno.

f

23

A. Sax.

mf

3

Pno.

mf *dim.*

26

A. Sax.

p

3

5

Pno.

p

29

A. Sax.

mf *f*

3 3 3 7

Pno.

mf *f*

3 3 3

31

A. Sax.

subito mf *mp*

3 3 3

Pno.

subito mf *mp*

5

34

A. Sax.

mf

Pno.

mf

3 3 3

36

A. Sax.

Pno.

36

A. Sax.

Pno.

39

A. Sax.

Pno.

p

p

42

A. Sax.

Pno.

gliss.

mp

3

9

The musical score for measures 42-43 features an Alto Saxophone (A. Sax.) and Piano (Pno.) part. The A. Sax. part has a whole rest in measure 42 and a whole note in measure 43. The Pno. part has a complex texture in measure 42, including a triplet of eighth notes, a glissando (gliss.) marked with a slur, and a 9-measure rest. The Pno. part also has a 9-measure rest in measure 43. The dynamic marking *mp* (mezzo-piano) is present in measure 43.

44

A. Sax.

mp

mf

Pno.

subito mp

45

46

A. Sax.

f

Pno.

f

mf

47

48

A. Sax.

ff

Pno.

ff

sfz

49

51 **quasi tempo I** (♩=50)

A. Sax.

Pno.

Ped.

53

A. Sax.

Pno.

f

Ped.

55

A. Sax.

Pno.

ff

Maestoso

ff

Maestoso

57

A. Sax.

Pno.

sffp *f*

sffp *f*

Ped.

60

A. Sax.

Pno.

f

Ped.

62

A. Sax.

Pno.

sfz *sfz* *sfz* *sfz*

sfz *sfz* *sfz* *sfz*

Ped.

65 $\text{♩} = 50$ *fff* *rall.* *sfz*

A. Sax.

fff *rall.* $\text{♩} = 50$

Pno.

Ped.

The musical score for measures 65-66 is written for Alto Saxophone (A. Sax.) and Piano (Pno.). The tempo is marked as quarter note = 50. The A. Sax. part begins with a long note (half note) marked *fff* and *rall.*, which is slurred and ends with a *sfz* dynamic. The Pno. part features a series of triplets in the right hand, marked *fff* and *rall.*, and a *Ped.* marking in the left hand. The score concludes with a double bar line.

II. Chorale and Passacaglia

slow and lugubrious ($\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 50$)Saxophone in E $\flat$
or Clarinet in B $\flat$
(Notated in "C")*p* very mellow and elegiac throughoutslow and lugubrious ($\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 50$)

Piano

p

8^{vb}

69

A. Sax.

mf

Pno.

mf

(8).....| loco

72

A. Sax.

p *f*

Pno.

p *f*

mf

75 **A** moving forward a little

A. Sax. *mf*

Pno. *legatissimo*

moving forward a little

77

A. Sax.

Pno.

f

3

79

A. Sax.

Pno.

mp

f

82 **B**

A. Sax.

Pno.

p

f

84

A. Sax.

Pno.

ff

con forza!

ff

86

A. Sax.

Pno.

f

sfz sfz f

88

A. Sax.

Pno.

rall. *lunga*

rall. *sfz lunga*

sfz lunga

C90 **tempo I, sombre, almost morose**

A. Sax. *p* (h) (h) # # #

Pno. *p* 8^{vb}

A. Sax. *mp*

Pno. *mp*

A. Sax. *f* *p*

Pno. *f* *p*

A. Sax. *mf*

Pno.

poco rit.

104

A. Sax.

Pno.

mf

p

poco rit.. . . .

106

A. Sax.

Pno.

pp

f

p

f

a tempo

8vb

108

A. Sax.

Pno.

p

f

p

f

(8)

110

A. Sax.

Pno.

mf

mf

3

3

112

A. Sax.

f

Pno.

f

114

A. Sax.

molto rall.

molto rall.

Pno.

116

A. Sax.

p

lunga

Pno.

p

lunga

III. Rondo

a brisk walking pace ($\text{♩}=90$)

Saxophone in E $\flat$
or Clarinet in B $\flat$
(Notated in "C")

a brisk walking pace ($\text{♩}=90$)

Piano

***f* emphatically**

***mf* emphatically**

120

A. Sax.

mf ***cresc.***

Pno.

mp ***cresc.***

122

A. Sax.

f

Pno.

mf

124

A. Sax.

Pno.

mf

mp

Measures 124-125. The A. Sax. part features a melodic line with a crescendo leading to a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The Pno. part provides a complex accompaniment with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic.

126

A. Sax.

Pno.

f

mf

Measures 126-127. The A. Sax. part features a melodic line with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The Pno. part provides a complex accompaniment with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic.

128

A. Sax.

Pno.

mf

mp

Measures 128-129. The A. Sax. part features a melodic line with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The Pno. part provides a complex accompaniment with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic.

130

A. Sax.

Pno.

subito f

subito mf

Measures 130-131. The A. Sax. part features a melodic line with a subito forte (*subito f*) dynamic. The Pno. part provides a complex accompaniment with a subito mezzo-forte (*subito mf*) dynamic.

132 poco rit

A. Sax.

Pno.

poco rit

D

134 - al poco meno mosso (♩=80) poco accel.

A. Sax.

mp mellow and lyrical

- al poco meno mosso (♩=80) poco accel.

Pno.

p lyrical, legato

137

A. Sax.

Pno.

141

A. Sax.

Pno.

145

A. Sax.

Pno.

148

A. Sax.

Pno.

cresc.

152

A. Sax.

Pno.

f

156

A. Sax.

Pno.

160 poco accel al poco più mosso (♩=90)

A. Sax. *p*

Pno. *p*

163

A. Sax. *f* *ff*

Pno. *f* *ff* *sfz*

166

A. Sax. *p* *leggero*

Pno. *p* *leggero*

168

A. Sax. *mf* *f*

Pno. *mf* *f* *8va*

170

A. Sax.

Pno.

(8)

172

A. Sax.

Pno.

(loco)

p

f

subito f

174

A. Sax.

Pno.

dim.

F

176

A. Sax.

Pno.

mp

p

mf

178

A. Sax.

Pno.

mf

180

A. Sax.

Pno.

182

A. Sax.

Pno.

G

f *mf*

184

A. Sax.

Pno.

f

186

A. Sax.

Pno.

mf

mp

188

A. Sax.

Pno.

f

f

190

A. Sax.

Pno.

p cresc.

p cresc.

192

A. Sax.

Pno.

mf

mp cresc.

mf

mp cresc.

194

A. Sax.

Pno.

f

196

A. Sax.

Pno.

ff

ff

197

A. Sax.

Pno.

sfz

sfz

sfz

Sonata for Alto Saxophone and Piano

I. Prelude

Julian Wagstaff

ARRANGED FOR CLARINET IN B $\flat$

$\text{♩} = 60$

sffp *ff* *sffp* *poco rall.*

4 *ff* *p* *ff*

7 $\text{♩} = 85$ *mp* *più mp*

11 *mf*

14 *mp* *mp*

18 *piu mp*

21 *f* *mf*

25 *p*

29 *mf* 3 *f* 3 7 3 3 3

32 *subito mf* *mp* *mf*

36 3 *f* *ff*

40 *p* *mp* 3

45 *mf* 3 5 *f*

48 *ff*

Quasi Tempo I ($\text{♩}=50$) $\text{♩}=85$

51 *f* *ff* 3 3

56 *Maestoso* *sfzp* *f* 3 5

Detailed description: This musical score is for a Clarinet in B-flat. It consists of eight staves of music. The first staff (measures 29-31) features a melodic line with triplets and a 7th-note run, marked *mf* and *f*. The second staff (measures 32-35) shows a melodic phrase with a *subito mf* to *mp* dynamic change, followed by a *mf* marking. The third staff (measures 36-39) includes a triplet and a *f* to *ff* dynamic change. The fourth staff (measures 40-44) starts with a *p* marking and ends with a triplet. The fifth staff (measures 45-47) features a triplet and a 5th-note run, marked *mf* and *f*. The sixth staff (measures 48-50) is marked *ff*. The seventh staff (measures 51-55) is marked *Quasi Tempo I* ($\text{♩}=50$) and $\text{♩}=85$, with *f* and *ff* markings. The eighth staff (measures 56-58) is marked *Maestoso* and *sfzp*, with a *f* marking and a 5th-note run.

60

3 6 7 3 3

62

3 3 sfz sfz

64

$\text{♩} = 50$ rall.

sfz sfz fff sffz

Sonata for Alto Saxophone and Piano

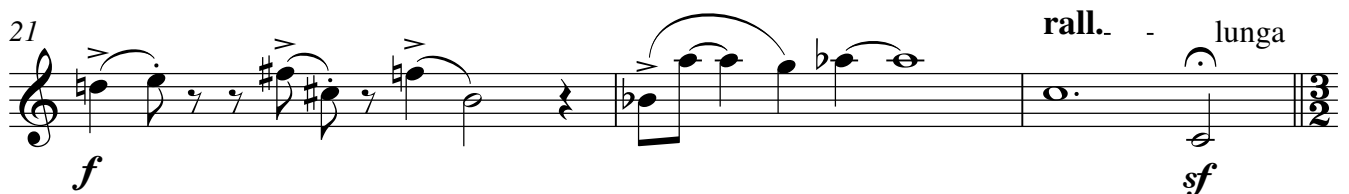
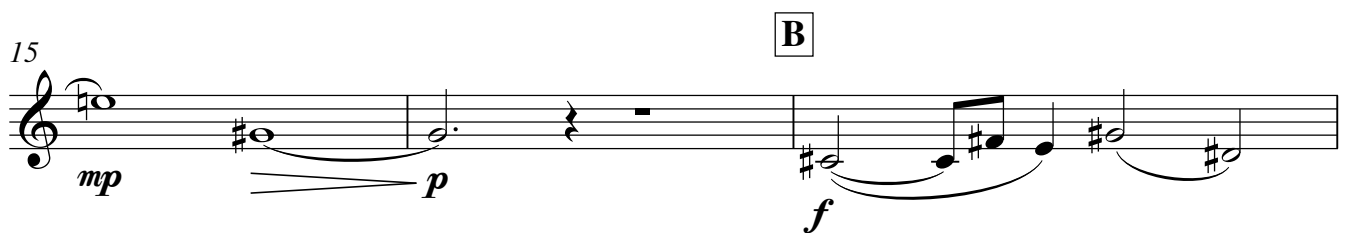
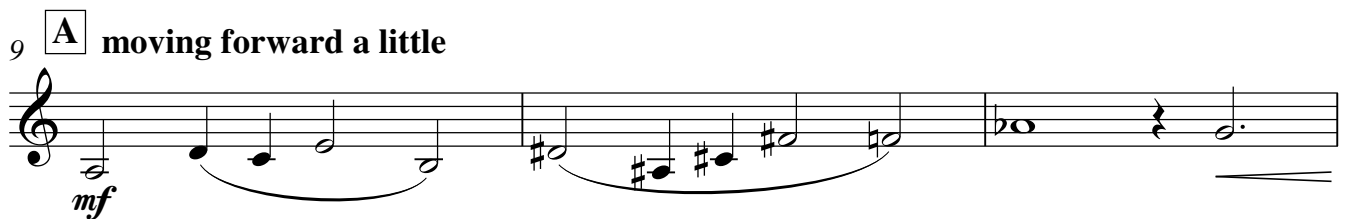
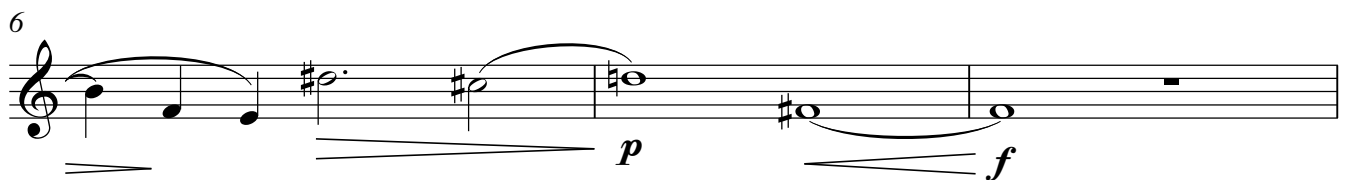
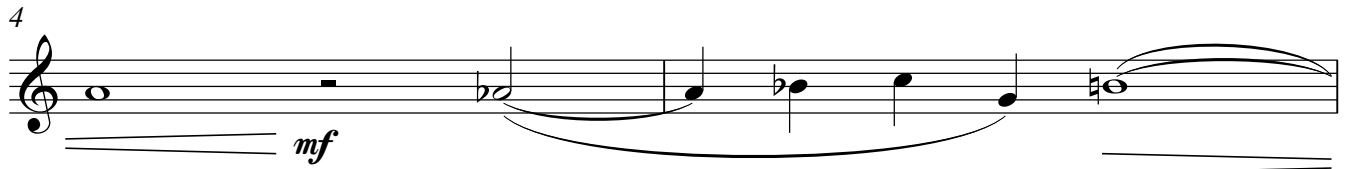
II. Chorale and Passacaglia

ARRANGED FOR CLARINET IN B $\flat$

Julian Wagstaff

slow and lugubrious (♩ =ca. 50)

very mellow and elegiac throughout



C24 **tempo I, sombre, almost morose** ($\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 50$)

24 *p*

28 *mp*

32 *f* *p*

35 *mf*

38 *p* *poco rit.* *a tempo* *p*

41 *f* *p* *f*

44 *mf*

46 *f*

48 *molto rall.*

50 *lunga* *p*

Detailed description: This is a musical score for a Clarinet in B-flat, spanning measures 24 to 50. The music is written in treble clef with a 3/2 time signature. The tempo is marked 'tempo I, sombre, almost morose' with a quarter note equal to approximately 50 beats per minute. The score includes various dynamic markings: *p* (piano), *mp* (mezzo-piano), *f* (forte), *mf* (mezzo-forte), *poco rit.* (slightly ritardando), *a tempo* (return to tempo), and *molto rall.* (very ritardando). The piece features several melodic lines with slurs, ties, and breath marks. There are also triplet markings (3) in measures 44 and 48. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The score ends with a double bar line in measure 50, which is marked 'lunga' (long) and 'p' (piano).

Sonata for Alto Saxophone and Piano

III. Rondo

ARRANGED FOR CLARINET IN B $\flat$

Julian Wagstaff

a brisk walking pace ($\text{♩}=90$)

cue (piano) **PLAY:**

f emphatically

4

mf *cresc.* *f*

7

mf

9

f

11

mf *subito f*

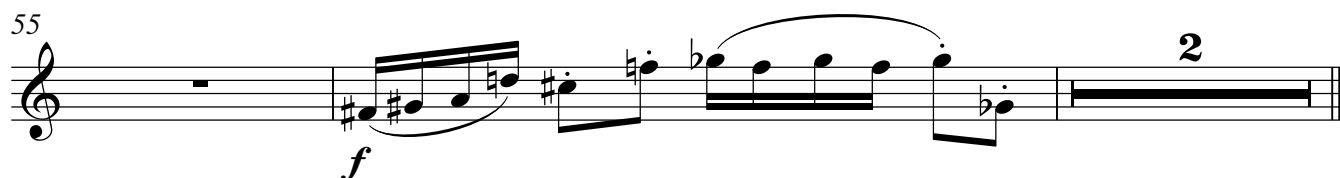
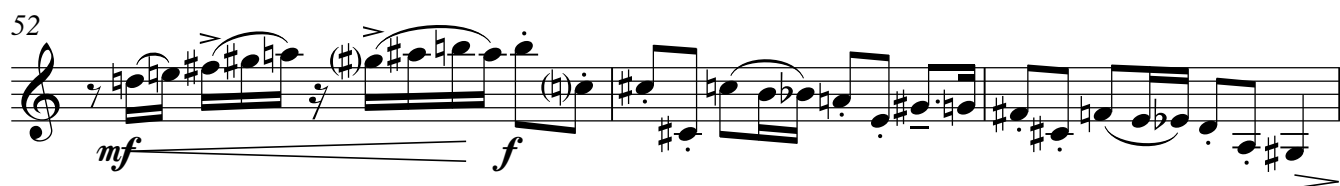
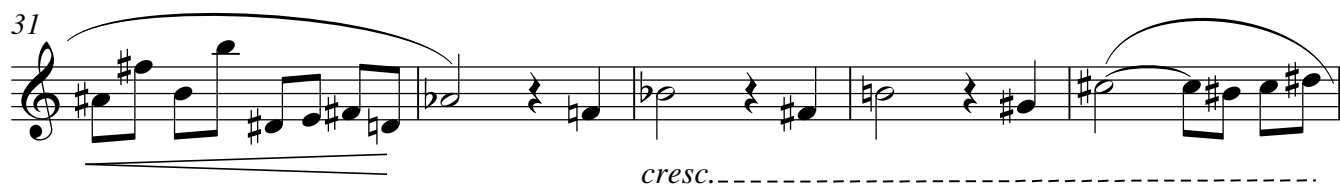
14

2 cue: *poco rit...* **A** *al poco meno mosso* ($\text{♩}=80$) *poco accel.*

play:

mp *mellow and lyrical*

19

Clarinet in B $\flat$ 

Clarinet in Bb

3

59 **C**

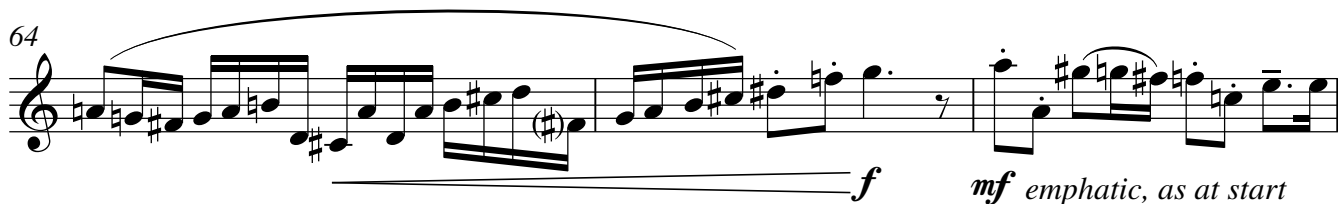


62



D

64



67



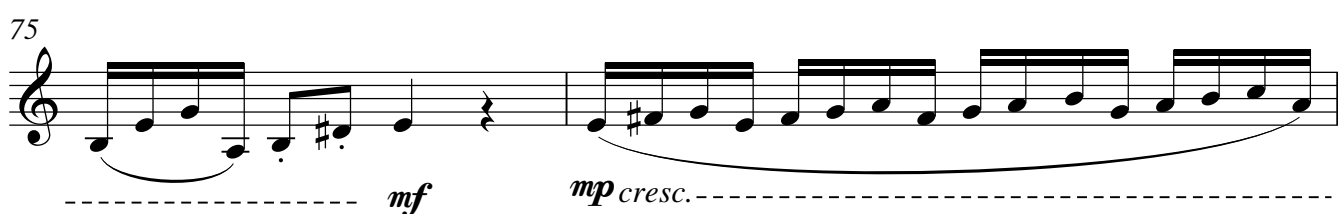
70



73



75



77



sfz