

Concerto for Soprano Saxophone and Orchestra

reduction for saxophone and piano

Neal Endicott

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Concerto for Soprano Saxophone and Orchestra

I. Quick — Dreamlike
II. Serene — Energetic
III. Intense

(2016-2017)

Premiered March 22, 2019
by the Michigan State University Symphony Orchestra, with
Evan Harris, Soloist
Evan Harger, Conductor
As the winning composition in the 2018 MSU Honors Competition in Composition

Duration: circa 15 minutes

Program Notes

Over the last several years I have struggled to find my own personal voice as a composer. How do I integrate my myriad interests into a cohesive body? How can I fuse jazz harmony and melodic idiom with the dissonant harmonic language and metric instability of my more modernist impulses? How do I balance my output between my poetic tendencies and desire for aesthetic accessibility? How do I integrate influence from the musics of other cultures and eras without creating a musical farce, pastiche, or westernized appropriation? Is it possible to effectively incorporate elements of my non-musical passions into my compositions?

Can I do any of these things without coming off like a pompous, pedantic ass? Strike one, I suppose.

Ignoring the last query, this concerto serves as a sort of “ah-ha!” moment in my pursuit of my personal voice. It is an integration of my influences into what I consider to be a cohesive and well-structured whole, while also serving as a showpiece for the instrument on which I learned most of what I know about music and continues to be an important vehicle for my own expression. Within the piece I endeavor to showcase the characteristics of the soprano saxophone that enamor me so much: its agility, its dynamism, its expressivity, and its ability to weave in and out of any number of textures and soar over an entire orchestra, as well as musical elements reflective of the saxophone’s history.

About the Composer

Neal Endicott is a composer, saxophonist, and educator based out of the Lansing, Michigan area. Neal’s music, which ranges from solo piano works to large-scale symphonic wind and orchestra compositions, is informed by his background in jazz, his modernist harmonic vocabulary, and a zeal for rhythmic and metric complexity. Notable performances of Neal’s work include the premiere of his chamber orchestra composition “*Digress*” by the Lviv Philharmonic as a finalist in the 2016 KLK New Music Orient/Occident Composition Competition and the premiere of his string quartet “*Against the Dying of the Light*” at the 2016 Region VI Conference.

Neal is the Adjunct Professor of Music Composition at Saginaw Valley State University and is currently pursuing his Doctorate in Composition at Michigan State University where he studies with Dr. David Biedenbender and Dr. Alexis Bacon.

Concerto for Soprano Saxophone

reduction for saxophone and piano

Neal Endicott (ASCAP)

I. Quick - Dreamlike

Quick; Delicate ♩ = 120

Soprano Sax

Piano

p

una corda

S. Sax.

Pno.

mp *p* *mp*

una corda

S. Sax.

Pno.

mf *pp* *mp*

una corda

S. Sax.

Pno.

pp *pp*

16

16

S. Sx.

Pno.

una corda

mp *mf* *pp*

mf *p*

mp

fp *mf*

mp

f *rit.*

f *rit.*

Rea.

rit.

35 Playful
a tempo

S. Sx.

Pno.

38

42

46

mp

f

p

mf

fz

ffz

f

p

cresc.

S. Sx. 51 *ff*

Pno. 51 *ff*

S. Sx. 53

Pno. 55 *sfz* *ff*

58 Delicate

S. Sx. *sfz* *pp* 8^{va}

Pno. 58 Delicate *sfz* *p* *pp*

S. Sx. 62 *mp* *pp* *mf*

Pno. 62 (8^{va}) *mp* *pp* *mf*

68 Slower; Dreamlike ♩ = 84

S. Sx.

Pno.

66

68 Slower; Dreamlike ♩ = 84

8^{va}

pp

mp

pp

72

72

pp

mp

pp

78

78

mf

pp

mf

pp

mp

pp

mf

pp

mf

84

84

f

mp

mp

f

mp

pp

89 Suddenly Ominous

S. Sx. *f* *ff* *pp* *mp*

Pno. *f* *ff* *pp*

As before (Dreamlike)

89 Suddenly Ominous

93 *mf* *pp* *mp* *pp* *mf*

Pno. *mf* *pp* *mf*

S. Sx. *pp*

Pno. *pp* *mf* *pp*

105

S. Sx.

Pno. *mp* *pp*

sus.

FOR PAPER ONLY

S. Sx.

Pno.

109

mp

pp

3

112 Floating; Ethereal

S. Sx.

Pno.

112 Floating; Ethereal

mf

6

6

6

6

pedal ad lib

S. Sx.

Pno.

114

p

3

6

6

6

6

S. Sx.

Pno.

116

pp

mp

p

3

6

6

6

6

6

6

S. Sx.

Pno.

The musical score for S. Sx. and Pno. spans measures 118 to 124. The vocal part (S. Sx.) is written on a single staff with a treble clef. The piano part (Pno.) is written on two staves, treble and bass. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The time signature changes from 4/4 to 3/4 at measure 122 and back to 4/4 at measure 124. Dynamics include *mf* (mezzo-forte) and *p* (piano). The piano part features complex rhythmic patterns, including sixteenth and thirty-second notes, and rests. The vocal part has a melodic line with some triplets and rests.

S. Sx.

120

p *mf* *p* *sf*

Pno.

120

p *mf* *p*

The image shows a musical score for a scene from 'The Marriage of Figaro'. It features two staves: a vocal staff for 'S. Sx.' (Soprano) and a piano accompaniment staff for 'Pno.' (Piano). The score is in 3/4 time and begins at measure 122. The vocal line starts with a half note G4, followed by a half note A4, and then a half note B4. The piano accompaniment consists of a continuous eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a continuous eighth-note pattern in the left hand. The tempo is marked 'Allegretto' and the key signature has one sharp (F#).

S. Sx.

Pno.

126 Dark; Ominous ♩ = 120

S. Sx.

126 Dark; Ominous ♩ = 120 *mf* *p*

Pno. *ff* *mf* *p*

130

S. Sx.

Pno. *mf*

134

S. Sx.

Pno. *ff*

SUS.

138 Delicate, but still Forboding

S. Sx.

138 Delicate, but still Forboding *mp* *mf* *pp*

Pno. *pp*

143

S. Sx.

145

Pno.

mf

mp

f

p

148

S. Sx.

148

Pno.

p

f

p

152

S. Sx.

mp

pp

152

Pno.

mp

pp

3

II. Serene - Energetic

Soprano Sax

Serene ♩ = 72

Piano

pp *p* *pp*

simile

pedal ad lib

S. Sax.

Pno.

mf *pp* *mp*

S. Sax.

Pno.

pp *f* *pp*

The musical score is for a piece titled "II. Serene - Energetic". It is written for Soprano Sax, Piano, and S. Sax. The score is divided into three systems. The first system shows the Soprano Sax and Piano parts. The Piano part has dynamics *pp*, *p*, and *pp*, and a tempo marking of "Serene ♩ = 72". The second system shows the S. Sax and Piano parts. The Piano part has dynamics *mf*, *pp*, and *mp*. The third system shows the S. Sax and Piano parts. The Piano part has dynamics *pp*, *f*, and *pp*. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings.

S. Sx.

Pno.

14

19

23

27

p *mp* *pp* *f* *mf* *pp* *mf* *pp* *mf* *pp* *f* *p*

The musical score is written for Soprano Saxophone (S. Sx.) and Piano (Pno.). The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The score is divided into four systems, each with a measure number in a box at the beginning of the piano part: 14, 19, 23, and 27. The Soprano Saxophone part consists of melodic lines with various dynamics. The Piano part provides a harmonic and rhythmic foundation, featuring complex textures, including triplets and dense chordal structures. Dynamic markings are used throughout to indicate volume changes. A large, diagonal watermark reading 'FOR PERSAL ONLY' is overlaid on the right side of the page.

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

Pno. *f* *p* *mp*

38 With Building Intensity

S. Sax. *p* *CRSC.*

38 With Building Intensity

Pno. *p*

S. Sax. *f* *sfz* *f*

Pno. *f* *sfz* *f*

Sus. _____

Less Intense (tempo unchanged)

S. Sax. *p*

Less Intense (tempo unchanged)

Pno. *p* *mp*

pedal ad lib

S. Sx. 49

Pno. 49

pp *mf*

S. Sx. 51

Pno. 51

p *f*

S. Sx. 55

Pno. 55

p *f* *mf*

S. Sx. 61 With a Sense of Arrival and Fulfillment

Pno. 61 With a Sense of Arrival and Fulfillment

mf *ff*

S. Sx.

Pno.

62

mf *f*

S. Sx.

Pno.

65

S. Sx.

Pno.

68

S. Sx.

Pno.

71

With Energy; Triumphant ♩ = 116

ff *p*

S. Sax. Pno.

76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100 101 102 103 104 105 106 107 108 109 110 111 112 113 114 115 116 117 118 119 120 121 122 123 124 125 126 127 128 129 130 131 132 133 134 135 136 137 138 139 140 141 142 143 144 145 146 147 148 149 150 151 152 153 154 155 156 157 158 159 160 161 162 163 164 165 166 167 168 169 170 171 172 173 174 175 176 177 178 179 180 181 182 183 184 185 186 187 188 189 190 191 192 193 194 195 196 197 198 199 200 201 202 203 204 205 206 207 208 209 210 211 212 213 214 215 216 217 218 219 220 221 222 223 224 225 226 227 228 229 230 231 232 233 234 235 236 237 238 239 240 241 242 243 244 245 246 247 248 249 250 251 252 253 254 255 256 257 258 259 260 261 262 263 264 265 266 267 268 269 270 271 272 273 274 275 276 277 278 279 280 281 282 283 284 285 286 287 288 289 290 291 292 293 294 295 296 297 298 299 300 301 302 303 304 305 306 307 308 309 310 311 312 313 314 315 316 317 318 319 320 321 322 323 324 325 326 327 328 329 330 331 332 333 334 335 336 337 338 339 340 341 342 343 344 345 346 347 348 349 350 351 352 353 354 355 356 357 358 359 360 361 362 363 364 365 366 367 368 369 370 371 372 373 374 375 376 377 378 379 380 381 382 383 384 385 386 387 388 389 390 391 392 393 394 395 396 397 398 399 400 401 402 403 404 405 406 407 408 409 410 411 412 413 414 415 416 417 418 419 420 421 422 423 424 425 426 427 428 429 430 431 432 433 434 435 436 437 438 439 440 441 442 443 444 445 446 447 448 449 450 451 452 453 454 455 456 457 458 459 460 461 462 463 464 465 466 467 468 469 470 471 472 473 474 475 476 477 478 479 480 481 482 483 484 485 486 487 488 489 490 491 492 493 494 495 496 497 498 499 500 501 502 503 504 505 506 507 508 509 510 511 512 513 514 515 516 517 518 519 520 521 522 523 524 525 526 527 528 529 530 531 532 533 534 535 536 537 538 539 540 541 542 543 544 545 546 547 548 549 550 551 552 553 554 555 556 557 558 559 560 561 562 563 564 565 566 567 568 569 570 571 572 573 574 575 576 577 578 579 580 581 582 583 584 585 586 587 588 589 590 591 592 593 594 595 596 597 598 599 600 601 602 603 604 605 606 607 608 609 610 611 612 613 614 615 616 617 618 619 620 621 622 623 624 625 626 627 628 629 630 631 632 633 634 635 636 637 638 639 640 641 642 643 644 645 646 647 648 649 650 651 652 653 654 655 656 657 658 659 660 661 662 663 664 665 666 667 668 669 670 671 672 673 674 675 676 677 678 679 680 681 682 683 684 685 686 687 688 689 690 691 692 693 694 695 696 697 698 699 700 701 702 703 704 705 706 707 708 709 710 711 712 713 714 715 716 717 718 719 720 721 722 723 724 725 726 727 728 729 730 731 732 733 734 735 736 737 738 739 740 741 742 743 744 745 746 747 748 749 750 751 752 753 754 755 756 757 758 759 760 761 762 763 764 765 766 767 768 769 770 771 772 773 774 775 776 777 778 779 780 781 782 783 784 785 786 787 788 789 790 791 792 793 794 795 796 797 798 799 800 801 802 803 804 805 806 807 808 809 810 811 812 813 814 815 816 817 818 819 820 821 822 823 824 825 826 827 828 829 830 831 832 833 834 835 836 837 838 839 840 841 842 843 844 845 846 847 848 849 850 851 852 853 854 855 856 857 858 859 860 861 862 863 864 865 866 867 868 869 870 871 872 873 874 875 876 877 878 879 880 881 882 883 884 885 886 887 888 889 890 891 892 893 894 895 896 897 898 899 900 901 902 903 904 905 906 907 908 909 910 911 912 913 914 915 916 917 918 919 920 921 922 923 924 925 926 927 928 929 930 931 932 933 934 935 936 937 938 939 940 941 942 943 944 945 946 947 948 949 950 951 952 953 954 955 956 957 958 959 960 961 962 963 964 965 966 967 968 969 970 971 972 973 974 975 976 977 978 979 980 981 982 983 984 985 986 987 988 989 990 991 992 993 994 995 996 997 998 999 1000

f *p* *f* *p* *sfz* *f* *sfz* *f* *ff* *ff* *ffz* *ff* *Heavy and Intense* *ffz* *ff* *Heavy and Intense* *ffz* *ff*

Relaxing back to a satisfied, dreamlike state

S. Sx.

Pno.

ff

p

Relaxing back to a satisfied, dreamlike state

p subito

S. Sx.

Pno.

p

pp

Cadenza

Cadenza

Sus.

S. Sx.

Pno.

mp

mf

pp

mp

3

3

3

6

FOR PERSAL ONLY

111 Slightly Faster ♩ = 92

S. Sx. *p* *f* *p* *mf* *pp* *ff* *rit.*

111 Slightly Faster ♩ = 92

Pno. *p* *rit.*

Without strict time (Faster ♩ = 100 - 112)

S. Sx. *p* *mf* *f* *ff*

Without strict time

Pno. *p*

(♩ = 126) *rit.*

S. Sx. *p_{sub}* *f p_{sub}* *f* *p_{sub}* *f* *p* *fpp*

a tempo *rubato* **(♩ = 126)** *stringendo*

S. Sx. *mp* *pp* *mf* *pp* *f* *p_{sub} cresc.*

S. Sx. *rit.*

S. Sx. *rit.*

137

S. Sx.

ffp *sfz* *pp*

137 (♩ = 126)

Pno.

fp *sfz* *pp*

140

S. Sx.

f *p_{sub}* *mf* *rit.* *f* *pp* *mf*

Pno.

145

S. Sx.

p_{sub} *f* *pp* *f*

Pno.

mp

attaca mvt. III

148

S. Sx.

fp *f*

Pno.

attaca mvt. III

III. Intense

Intense and Energetic ♩ = 126

Soprano Sax

pp *cresc.*

Intense and Energetic ♩ = 126

Piano

pp *cresc.*

S. Sax.

sfz

Pno.

sfz *mf* *p*

S. Sax.

f

Pno.

f *p*

S. Sax.

p *mf*

Pno.

f *p*

S. Sx.

p *f*

Pno.

S. Sx.

p

Pno.

mf

S. Sx.

p *mf* *p*

Pno.

p

S. Sx.

mf *p* *fp*

Pno.

20

The musical score is written for Soprano Saxophone (S. Sx.) and Piano (Pno.). The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 2/4. The score is divided into four systems. The first system (measures 11-14) shows the S. Sx. part starting with a *p* dynamic, followed by a *f* dynamic. The Pno. part has a complex rhythmic pattern. The second system (measures 14-17) shows the S. Sx. part with a *p* dynamic. The Pno. part has a *mf* dynamic. The third system (measures 17-20) shows the S. Sx. part with *p*, *mf*, and *p* dynamics. The Pno. part has a *p* dynamic. The fourth system (measures 20-23) shows the S. Sx. part with *mf*, *p*, and *fp* dynamics. The Pno. part has a *p* dynamic. A large diagonal watermark 'FOR PRACTICE ONLY' is visible across the page.

24 Soft, but Driving

S. Sx.

f

24 Soft, but Driving

Pno.

f

subito p

25

S. Sx.

p

mf

p

Pno.

p

29

S. Sx.

Pno.

32

S. Sx.

f

Pno.

fp

mf

S. Sx.

Pno.

S. Sx.

Pno.

S. Sx.

Pno.

S. Sx.

Pno.

35

38

41

44

mf *f*

f *p*

f *mp* *cresc.*

f *mf*

S. Sx. *f* *mp*

Pno. *f* *fp*

S. Sx. *fp*

Pno. *f*

54 Delicate; Dreamlike, as in mvt. I

S. Sx. *f* *p*

Pno. *p*

8va

54 Delicate; Dreamlike, as in mvt. I

With Remounting Intensity

S. Sx. *mf* *p*

Pno. *mf* *p*

8va

With Remounting Intensity

S. Sax. *ff*

Pno. *ff* *fp* *ff*

S. Sax.

Pno. *fp*

Taking a Final Breath before the Plunge...

S. Sax. *rit.*

Pno. *ff*

rit.

(♩=72)

74 Very Fast, Intense and Driving ♩ = 144

S. Sax.

Pno. *pp*

74 Very Fast, Intense and Driving ♩ = 144

S. Sx.

Pno.

S. Sx.

Pno.

S. Sx.

Pno.

S. Sx.

Pno.

76

77

78

79

80

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S. Sx.

Pno.

S. Sx.

Pno.

S. Sx.

Pno.

S. Sx.

Pno.

88

fp *f* *p* *cresc.*

88

fz *subito p*

92

93

ff *sfz p*

93

sfz f

95

ff *ff mf*

95

ff

98

ff *mf*

98

p *ff*

S. Sax. *ff* *crusc.*

Pno. *mf* *ff*

S. Sax. *fff* *ffp* *ff*

Pno. *ffp* *ff* *mf*

S. Sax. *fffz*

Pno. *ff* *mp* *ff*

S. Sax. *fffz*

Pno. *fffz* *ff* *fffz mf* *fffz*

The musical score is for a Concerto for Soprano Saxophone, page 47. It consists of four systems of music, each featuring a Soprano Saxophone (S. Sax.) part and a Piano (Pno.) part. The S. Sax. part is written in a single staff, while the Pno. part is written in a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings (e.g., *ff*, *mf*, *ffp*, *fff*, *fffz*). There are also some performance instructions like *crusc.* and *fffz*. The score is divided into measures, with some measures containing triplets or other rhythmic groupings. A large diagonal watermark "FOR PERSAL ONLY" is visible across the page.

S. Sax.

Pno.

The musical score for measures 117-120 of the Concerto for Soprano Saxophone. The Soprano Saxophone part (S. Sax.) begins in measure 117 with a whole rest, followed by a half note G4 in measure 118, and then a half note F#4 in measure 119. The Piano part (Pno.) starts in measure 117 with a forte (f) dynamic and a sixteenth-note triplet in the right hand, followed by a sixteenth-note triplet in the left hand. The piano part continues with a sixteenth-note triplet in the right hand and a sixteenth-note triplet in the left hand in measure 118, and then a sixteenth-note triplet in the right hand and a sixteenth-note triplet in the left hand in measure 119. The piano part concludes in measure 120 with a fortissimo (ffz) dynamic and a sixteenth-note triplet in the right hand, followed by a sixteenth-note triplet in the left hand. A large diagonal watermark reading "FOR PERUSAL ONLY" is overlaid across the page.

117

118

119

120

f

ffz

ffz

ffz