

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.

7

A. Sax.

$\text{♩} = 85$

mp

Pno.

3

$\text{♩} = 85$

mp

3

(b)

3

10

A. Sax.

Pno.

f

12

A. Sax.

mf

Pno.

mf

14

A. Sax.

mp

Pno.

mp

p

16

A. Sax.

mp

Pno.

gliss.

mp

18

A. Sax.

3

3

Pno.

3

5/4

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.

f *ff*

39

A. Sax.

Pno.

p

42

A. Sax.

Pno.

gliss. *mp*

44

A. Sax.

mp

mf

3

3

Pno.

subito mp

46

A. Sax.

f

mf

3

5

Pno.

48

A. Sax.

ff

ff

sfz

Pno.

51 **quasi tempo I** (♩=50)

A. Sax.

Pno.

Ped.

53

A. Sax.

Pno.

Ped.

55 **♩=85**

A. Sax.

Pno.

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.

rall. $\text{♩}=50$

Pno.

Ped.

The musical score consists of two staves. The top staff is for the Alto Saxophone (A. Sax.) and the bottom staff is for the Piano (Pno.). The key signature is one flat (Bb) and the time signature is common time (C). The tempo is marked as quarter note = 50. The A. Sax. part starts at measure 65 with a long note (G4) that has a slur and a deceleration (rall.) marking. The Pno. part starts at measure 65 with a triplet of eighth notes in the right hand (Bb4, A4, G4) and a triplet of eighth notes in the left hand (Bb3, A3, G3). The Pno. part also includes a pedal point (Ped.) in the left hand. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 50. The A. Sax. part ends with a deceleration (rall.) marking and a dynamic marking of sfz. The Pno. part ends with a deceleration (rall.) marking and a dynamic marking of sfz.

II. Chorale and Passacaglia

slow and lugubrious (♩=ca. 50)

Saxophone in Eb
or Clarinet in Bb
(Notated in "C")

P very mellow and elegiac throughout

slow and lugubrious (♩ =ca. 50)

Piano

 8_{-}

69

A. Sax.

 $\mathbb{Z}mf$

Pno.

 mf

(8)-----| *loco*

72

A. Sax.

p

 f

Pno.

p

 $\mathcal{I}$

mf

75 **A** moving forward a little

A. Sax. *mf*

Pno. *legatissimo*

moving forward a little

77

A. Sax. *f*

Pno.

79

A. Sax. *mp*

Pno. *f*

82 **B**

A. Sax. *p* *f*

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

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

126

A. Sax.

Pno.

f

mf

128

A. Sax.

Pno.

mf

mp

130

A. Sax.

Pno.

subito f

subito mf

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.

Measures 145-147. The A. Sax. part features a melodic line with slurs and ties. The Pno. part has a complex accompaniment with many accidentals.

148

A. Sax.

Pno.

cresc.

Measures 148-151. The A. Sax. part has a melodic line with a crescendo marking. The Pno. part has a complex accompaniment with a crescendo marking.

152

A. Sax.

Pno.

f

Measures 152-155. The A. Sax. part has a melodic line with a forte marking. The Pno. part has a complex accompaniment with a forte marking.

156

A. Sax.

Pno.

Measures 156-159. The A. Sax. part has a melodic line with slurs and ties. The Pno. part has a complex accompaniment with many accidentals.

160

A. Sax. poco accel al poco più mosso (♩=90)

Pno. poco accel al poco più mosso (♩=90)

163

A. Sax. *f* *ff*

Pno. *f* *ff* *sfz*

166

A. Sax. *p* *leggiere*

Pno. *leggiere* *p*

168

A. Sax. *mf* *f*

Pno. *mf* *f*

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.

f *mf*

G

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

Alto Saxophone
in E $\flat$

Julian Wagstaff

$\text{♩} = 60$

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

4 *ff* *p* *ff*

7 $\text{♩} = 85$ *mp* *più mp*

11 *mf*

14 *mp* *mp*

18 *piu mp* 3 3

21 *f* 6 3 *mf*

25 *p* 3 5

Alto Saxophone
in E $\flat$

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

32 *subito mf* *mp* *mf* 5/4

36 3 *ff* *f*

40 *p* *mp* 3

45 *mf* 3 5 *f*

48 *ff*

Quasi Tempo I (♩=50)

51 *f* *ff* 3 3

56 *Maestoso* *sffp* *f* 3 5

Detailed description: This musical score is for an Alto Saxophone in E-flat. It consists of eight staves of music. The first staff (measures 29-31) starts with a mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic, features a triplet of eighth notes, and then moves to a forte (f) dynamic with a descending eighth-note scale. The second staff (measures 32-35) begins with a 'subito mf' instruction, followed by a decrescendo to mezzo-piano (mp) and then a crescendo back to mezzo-forte (mf). The third staff (measures 36-39) includes a triplet, a fortissimo (ff) dynamic, and a crescendo to forte (f). The fourth staff (measures 40-44) starts with a piano (p) dynamic, has a long rest, and then returns to mezzo-piano (mp) with a triplet. The fifth staff (measures 45-47) features a mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic, a triplet, and a crescendo to forte (f). The sixth staff (measures 48-50) is marked fortissimo (ff). The seventh staff (measures 51-55) is marked 'Quasi Tempo I (♩=50)', starts with a forte (f) dynamic, and includes a fortissimo (ff) section with triplets. The eighth staff (measures 56-58) is marked 'Maestoso', starts with a sforzando piano (sffp) dynamic, and ends with a crescendo to forte (f), including a triplet and a quintuplet.

Alto Saxophone
in E $\flat$

3

60

62

64

3 6 3 7 3 3

sfz *sfz*

fff *sffz*

rall.

$\text{♩} = 50$

Detailed description: This musical score is for an Alto Saxophone in E-flat. It consists of three staves of music. The first staff (measures 60-61) features a complex melodic line with triplets (3), sextuplets (6), and septuplets (7). The second staff (measures 62-63) continues the melodic line with triplets (3) and accents (*sfz*). The third staff (measures 64-65) begins with accents (*sfz*), followed by a full fortissimo (*fff*) section with a tempo marking of quarter note = 50 and a 'rall.' (ritardando) instruction. The piece concludes with a *sffz* (sforzando) accent. The key signature is one flat (E-flat), and the time signature is common time (C).

Sonata for Alto Saxophone and Piano

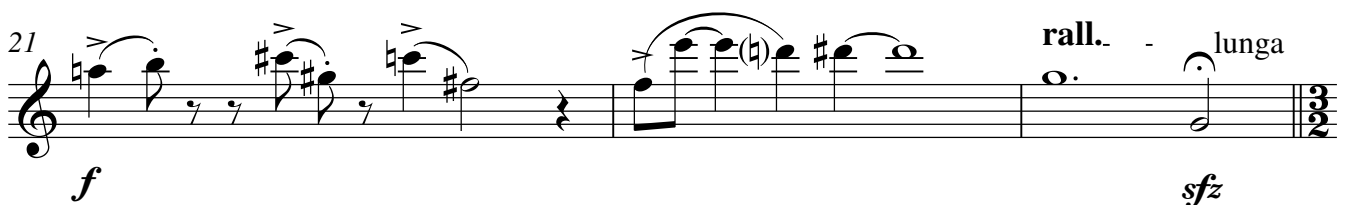
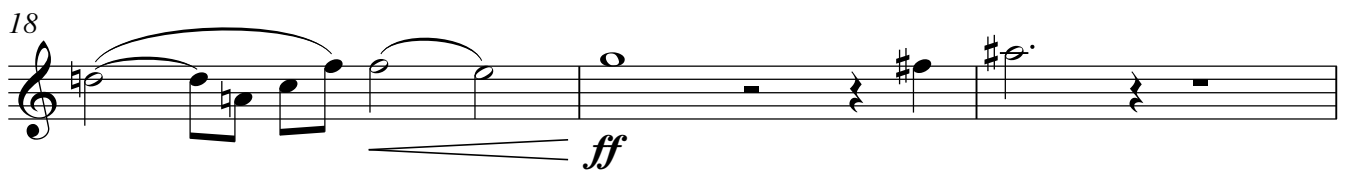
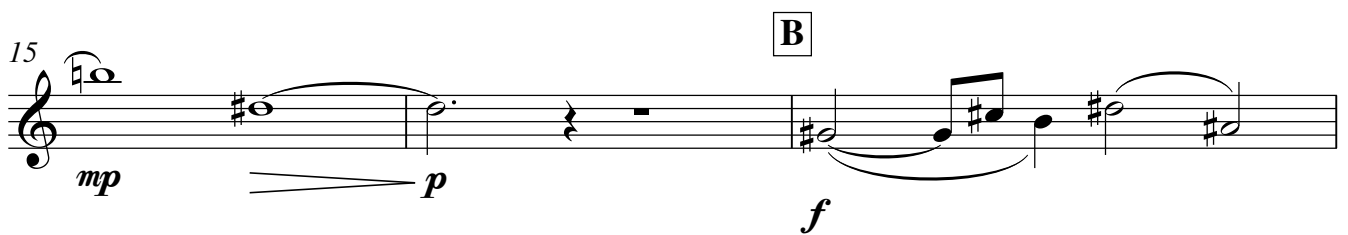
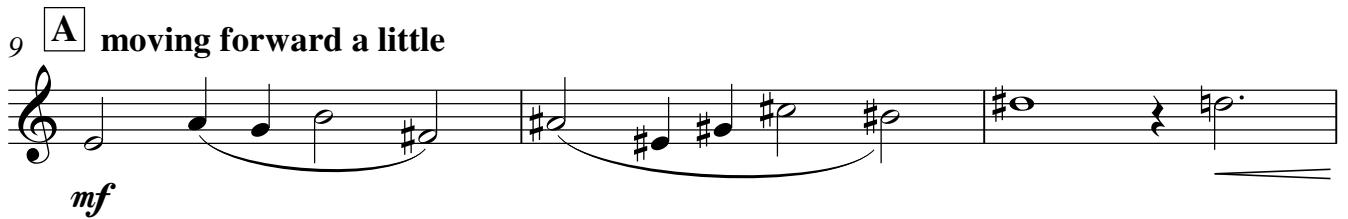
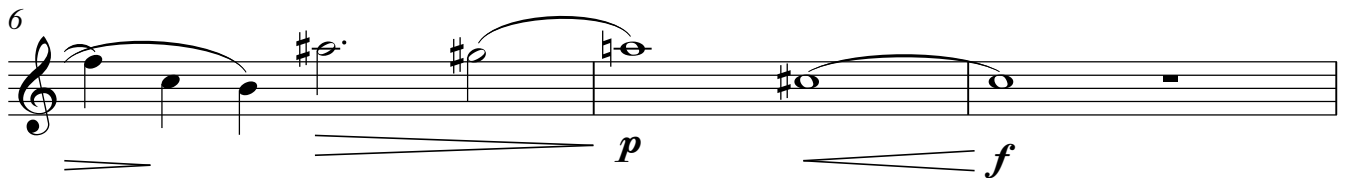
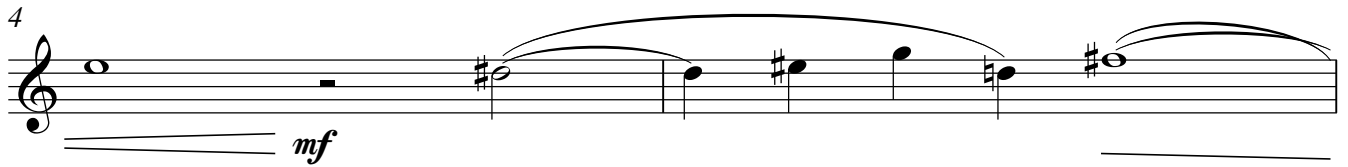
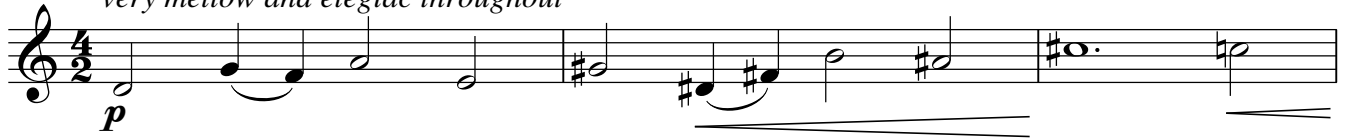
II. Chorale and Passacaglia

Alto Saxophone
in E $\flat$

Julian Wagstaff

slow and lugubrious ($\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 50$)

very mellow and elegiac throughout



rall. - lunga

Alto Saxophone
in E $\flat$

C

24 **tempo I, sombre, almost morose**

28 *p*

32 *mp*

35 *f*

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

41 *f* *p* *f*

44 *mf*

46 *f*

48 **molto rall.**

50 *p* **lunga**

The musical score is written for Alto Saxophone in E-flat. It begins at measure 24 with a tempo marking of 'tempo I, sombre, almost morose'. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The time signature is 3/2. The score includes various dynamics: *p* (piano), *mp* (mezzo-piano), *f* (forte), *mf* (mezzo-forte), and *p* (piano). It also includes articulations: **poco rit.** (poco ritardando), **a tempo**, **molto rall.** (molto rallentando), and **lunga** (lunga). The score features slurs, ties, and triplets. The piece ends at measure 50 with a final *p* (piano) dynamic and a **lunga** marking.

Sonata for Alto Saxophone and Piano

III. Rondo

Alto Saxophone
in E $\flat$

Julian Wagstaff

a brisk walking pace ($\text{♩}=90$)

cue (piano) play:

f emphatically

4

mf *cresc.* *f*

7

mf

9

f

11

mf

13

subito f

15

A

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

play:

mp mellow and lyrical

Alto Saxophone
in E $\flat$

19

23

26

28

32

cresc. ----- *f*

37

40

43

B

poco accel... ♩=90

p *f stridente*

Detailed description: This is a musical score for an Alto Saxophone in E-flat. The score consists of seven staves of music, numbered 19 through 43. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The music features various melodic lines with slurs, ties, and dynamic markings. A crescendo is indicated from measure 32 to 37, leading to a forte (f) dynamic. A section starting at measure 43 is marked with a box containing the letter 'B' and includes the instruction 'poco accel...' followed by a tempo marking of a quarter note equal to 90 beats per minute. The piece concludes with a piano (p) dynamic followed by a forte (f) 'stridente' (screaming) section.

Alto Saxophone
in E $\flat$

3

48

ff p *leggiero*

Musical staff 48-50: Treble clef, key signature of one flat. Staff 48 starts with a double bar line and a *ff* dynamic. Staff 49 begins with a *p* dynamic and the instruction *leggiero*. The music consists of eighth and sixteenth notes with various accidentals.

51

mp mf f

Musical staff 51-53: Treble clef, key signature of one flat. Staff 51 starts with a *mp* dynamic. Staff 52 continues with a *mf* dynamic. Staff 53 ends with a *f* dynamic. The music features eighth notes, some with accents, and a triplet in staff 53.

53

Musical staff 53-55: Treble clef, key signature of one flat. Staff 53 continues the melodic line. Staff 54 and 55 show further development of the eighth-note pattern.

56

f 2

Musical staff 56-58: Treble clef, key signature of one flat. Staff 56 starts with a *f* dynamic. Staff 57 continues the pattern. Staff 58 ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign, with a '2' indicating a second ending.

59 [C]

mp more mellow mf

Musical staff 59-61: Treble clef, key signature of one flat. Staff 59 starts with a *mp* dynamic and the instruction *more mellow*. A box labeled 'C' is above the staff. Staff 60 and 61 continue the melodic line, ending with a *mf* dynamic.

61

Musical staff 61-63: Treble clef, key signature of one flat. Staff 61 continues the melodic line. Staff 62 and 63 show further development of the eighth-note pattern.

63

f

Musical staff 63-65: Treble clef, key signature of one flat. Staff 63 continues the melodic line. Staff 64 and 65 show further development of the eighth-note pattern, ending with a *f* dynamic.

66 [D]

mf emphatic, as at start

Musical staff 66-68: Treble clef, key signature of one flat. Staff 66 starts with a *mf* dynamic and the instruction *emphatic, as at start*. A box labeled 'D' is above the staff. Staff 67 and 68 continue the melodic line.

68

f

Musical staff 68-70: Treble clef, key signature of one flat. Staff 68 starts with a *f* dynamic. Staff 69 and 70 continue the melodic line, ending with a *f* dynamic.

Alto Saxophone
in E $\flat$ 