

even after all this time,
I still don't know.
for 4 tenor saxophones
by Elsie Bae Han

Spring 2022

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Instrumentation

Tenor Saxophone 1

Tenor Saxophone 2

Tenor Saxophone 3

Tenor Saxophone 4

Program Note

even after all this time, I still don't know. was composed following the COVID-19 pandemic. This period in my life was marked by personal reflection, loss, grief, and mourning.

This piece is dedicated to anyone who has not been able to "let go."

Commissioned by Nick Ortiz.

Premiered by the MIMKE saxophone quartet on May 8th, 2022 at the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee.

Performance Notes

Accidentals:

Accidentals do not carry through the measure and apply only to the note they are on.

Spacing:

Within the performance space, performers should arrange themselves to be as far away from each other equidistantly. Ideally, the audience would sit within the square that the quartet forms.

Tenor
Saxophone 2

Tenor
Saxophone 3

Audience

Tenor
Saxophone 1

Tenor
Saxophone 4

If this is not possible (for example, in the case of a concert hall with fixed audience seating,) please maintain the square spacing within the performance space or stand in a horizontal line across the front of the stage like so:

Tenor
Saxophone 1

Tenor
Saxophone 2

Tenor
Saxophone 3

Tenor
Saxophone 4

Performance Notes (cont.)

Tempo Modulations (F - H):

The established isorhythmic motif starts to break apart beginning with the loop from F - G. Starting at F, each performer individually slows down and breaks away from the unison line.

Example:

Tenor Saxophone 1 begins the staggered ritardandos. When Tenor Saxophone 1 reaches F, continue to loop F - G, and begin to slow down your eighth notes to a quarter note pulse. Play all ritardandos as smoothly as possible. The length of ritardando is denoted at the beginning of each ritardando. These are approximate durations. Up until this point, all other saxophones should maintain the same tempo as before. Once Tenor Saxophone 1 reaches the quarter note pulse, they will switch to the new loop in m 102. When they feel settled into the quarter note pulse, they will cue Tenor Saxophone 3 to begin their first ritardando. This cycle then repeats with each player until H.

Decoding the Score:

G Play asynchronously until H.

100 rit. (20")

Cue T3
♩ = c. 120

T. Sax. 1
Continue loop from F

T. Sax. 2
Continue loop from F

T. Sax. 3
Continue loop from F

T. Sax. 4

rit. 30"

T3 begins rit. on loop from F-G

T1 cues T3 once ♩ pulse is established

approximate length of rit.

approximate length of measure in seconds

The image shows a musical score for four Tenor Saxophones (T. Sax. 1-4). The score is in 10/16 time. T. Sax. 1 starts at measure 100 with a ritardando of 20 seconds. T. Sax. 3 starts with a ritardando of 30 seconds. Handwritten red annotations explain the timing and tempo changes. A box labeled 'G' indicates 'Play asynchronously until H.' A circled '100' is annotated with 'approximate length of rit.'. A circled '10' in the T. Sax. 4 staff is annotated with 'approximate length of measure in seconds'. A circled '♩ = c. 120' is annotated with 'T1 cues T3 once ♩ pulse is established'. A circled 'rit. 30"' is annotated with 'T3 begins rit. on loop from F-G'.

Performance Notes (cont.)

H - End:

This piece ends with a game-based coda. The game you will be playing is Follow the Leader. All performers have the correct pitches notated in their individual parts, but some measures are missing rhythmic values. This should result in a staggered delay amidst a unison line. Think of a flock of birds changing directions in the air.

Game Rules:

Each person will get the chance to lead the group beginning with T3.

The Leader role is represented by accented notes with clear rhythmic values. When it is your time to be the Leader, try not to visibly cue the others.

Followers are represented with smaller, solid, stemless noteheads without clear rhythmic values. When you are a Follower, change notes as soon as you hear the Leader change notes.

Repeat 7 times with each repetition softer than the last until niente.

Over the course of several performances, this section may slowly sync up. Feel free to adjust rhythmic values to maintain the spirit of the game if this happens.

Transposed Score

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Elsie Bae Han
(2022, ed. 2026)

Anxious and energetic ♩ = 120

Tenor Saxophone 1

Tenor Saxophone 2

Tenor Saxophone 3

Tenor Saxophone 4

fff dim.

fff dim.

fff dim.

fff dim.

T. Sax. 1

T. Sax. 2

T. Sax. 3

T. Sax. 4

mp cresc.

mp cresc.

mp cresc.

mp cresc.

mp cresc.

T. Sax. 1

T. Sax. 2

T. Sax. 3

T. Sax. 4

f dim.

f dim.

f dim.

f dim.

f dim.

7

T. Sax. 1

T. Sax. 2

T. Sax. 3

T. Sax. 4

9

A

T. Sax. 1

T. Sax. 2

T. Sax. 3

T. Sax. 4

p

p cresc.

p cresc.

p

11

T. Sax. 1

T. Sax. 2

T. Sax. 3

T. Sax. 4

13

T. Sax. 1

T. Sax. 2

T. Sax. 3

T. Sax. 4

pp cresc.

f dim.

f dim.

p

pp cresc.

16

T. Sax. 1

T. Sax. 2

T. Sax. 3

T. Sax. 4

f

p

pp

p

f dim.

p

19

T. Sax. 1

T. Sax. 2

T. Sax. 3

T. Sax. 4

pp

p cresc.

pp

p cresc.

f

f

22

T. Sax. 1 *f dim.*.....

T. Sax. 2 *mf*.....

T. Sax. 3

T. Sax. 4 *pp cresc.*.....

25

T. Sax. 1 *pp*.....

T. Sax. 2 *pp*..... *f*.....

T. Sax. 3 *pp*..... *f*..... *pp*.....

T. Sax. 4 *f*..... *pp*.....

28

T. Sax. 1 *f*.....

T. Sax. 2 *pp*..... *f*.....

T. Sax. 3 *f*.....

T. Sax. 4 *p*..... *f*.....

31 **B**

T. Sax. 1
T. Sax. 2
T. Sax. 3
T. Sax. 4

ff
ffp
mf
p
ffp
ffp

34

T. Sax. 1
T. Sax. 2
T. Sax. 3
T. Sax. 4

mf

37

T. Sax. 1
T. Sax. 2
T. Sax. 3
T. Sax. 4

40

T. Sax. 1

T. Sax. 2

T. Sax. 3

T. Sax. 4

mf *p* *mf*

43

T. Sax. 1

T. Sax. 2

T. Sax. 3

T. Sax. 4

p *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

46

T. Sax. 1

T. Sax. 2

T. Sax. 3

T. Sax. 4

p *mf* *mf*

49 **C**

Musical score for measures 49-51, marked with a **C** in a box. The score is for four tenor saxophones (T. Sax. 1-4). Measure 49 starts with a *mf* dynamic. Measure 50 features a *p* dynamic. Measure 51 continues with *mf* and *p* dynamics. The music consists of eighth-note patterns with various accidentals.

52

Musical score for measures 52-54. The score is for four tenor saxophones (T. Sax. 1-4). Measure 52 starts with a *mf* dynamic. Measure 53 features a *p* dynamic. Measure 54 continues with *mf* and *p* dynamics. The music consists of eighth-note patterns with various accidentals.

55

Musical score for measures 55-57. The score is for four tenor saxophones (T. Sax. 1-4). Measure 55 starts with a *p* dynamic. Measure 56 features a *mf* dynamic. Measure 57 continues with *mf* and *p* dynamics. The music consists of eighth-note patterns with various accidentals.

58

T. Sax. 1

T. Sax. 2

T. Sax. 3

T. Sax. 4

mf *p* *mf* *mf*

61

T. Sax. 1

T. Sax. 2

T. Sax. 3

T. Sax. 4

D

mp *f* *p* *p* *mp*

64

T. Sax. 1

T. Sax. 2

T. Sax. 3

T. Sax. 4

mp *f* *mp* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f*

67

T. Sax. 1
T. Sax. 2
T. Sax. 3
T. Sax. 4

mp *f* *p* *mp* *f* *mp* *f*

$J = J$

70

T. Sax. 1
T. Sax. 2
T. Sax. 3
T. Sax. 4

pp *ff* *pp* *ff* *pp* *ff* *f* *pp* *ff*

73

E

T. Sax. 1
T. Sax. 2
T. Sax. 3
T. Sax. 4

pp

77

T. Sax. 1 *pp*

T. Sax. 2 *pp*

T. Sax. 3

T. Sax. 4

81

T. Sax. 1 *cresc. poco a poco*

T. Sax. 2 *cresc. poco a poco*

T. Sax. 3 *cresc. poco a poco*

T. Sax. 4 *pp* *cresc. poco a poco*

85

T. Sax. 1

T. Sax. 2

T. Sax. 3

T. Sax. 4

Continue to play this loop until cued to slow down.

F See performance notes on page 4 for details.

89

T. Sax. 1

T. Sax. 2

T. Sax. 3

T. Sax. 4

mp

mp

mp

mp

93

T. Sax. 1

T. Sax. 2

T. Sax. 3

T. Sax. 4

97

T. Sax. 1

T. Sax. 2

T. Sax. 3

T. Sax. 4

G Play asynchronously until H.

100 rit. (20") Cue T3
 ♩ = c. 120

T. Sax. 1
 Continue loop from F

T. Sax. 2
 Continue loop from F

T. Sax. 3
 Continue loop from F

T. Sax. 4

103

T. Sax. 1

T. Sax. 2

T. Sax. 3
 rit. (20") Cue T2
 ♩ = c. 110

T. Sax. 4

105

T. Sax. 1

T. Sax. 2
 Cue T4
 ♩ = c. 92

T. Sax. 3

T. Sax. 4
 rit. (15")

107

T. Sax. 1

rit. (10")

T. Sax. 2

T. Sax. 3

Cue T2
♩ = c. 80

T. Sax. 4

109

rit. (10")

T. Sax. 1

Cue T1
♩ = c. 92

T. Sax. 2

T. Sax. 3

T. Sax. 4

Cue T3
♩ = c. 120

111

T. Sax. 1

rit. (10")

T. Sax. 2

T. Sax. 3

T. Sax. 4

Detailed description of the musical score: The score is for four tenor saxophones. The first system (measures 107-108) shows T. Sax. 4 with a cue for T. Sax. 2 starting at measure 107. The tempo is marked as 'rit. (10")'. The second system (measures 109-110) shows T. Sax. 2 with a cue for T. Sax. 1 starting at measure 109. The tempo is marked as 'rit. (10")'. The third system (measures 111-112) shows T. Sax. 1 with a cue for T. Sax. 3 starting at measure 111. The tempo is marked as 'rit. (10")'. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 5/4. The music includes various notes, rests, and dynamics such as accents (>) and breath marks (v).

113

T. Sax. 1

T. Sax. 2

T. Sax. 3

T. Sax. 4

Cue T4
♩ = c. 110

rit. (10")

115

T. Sax. 1

T. Sax. 2

T. Sax. 3

T. Sax. 4

Cue T2
♩ = c. 80

rit. (5")

117

T. Sax. 1

T. Sax. 2

T. Sax. 3

T. Sax. 4

Cue T3
♩ = c. 80

Cue T1
♩ = c. 92

Cue T4
♩ = c. 72

rit. (5")

mf

120

rit. (5")

Cue T2
♩ = c. 60

T. Sax. 1

T. Sax. 2

T. Sax. 3

Cue T1
♩ = c. 60
mf

122

Cue T3
♩ = c. 60

rit. (5")

♩ = c. 60

T. Sax. 1

T. Sax. 2

T. Sax. 3

T. Sax. 4

7 times

H Game* ♩ = 60

124

T. Sax. 1
dim. al niente over 7 repetitions

T. Sax. 2
dim. al niente over 7 repetitions

T. Sax. 3
dim. al niente over 7 repetitions

T. Sax. 4
dim. al niente over 7 repetitions

129

T. Sax. 1

T. Sax. 2

T. Sax. 3

T. Sax. 4

7 times

***Game Rules (Follow the Leader):**

Each person will get the chance to lead the group beginning with T3.

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Repeat 7 times with each repetition softer than the last until niente.