

Sky Scrapings

Serenade for Alto Saxophone and Piano

Don Freund
1997

1. *Transient Fixations*
2. *Hypertoccata*
3. *Colliding Cantilenas*
4. *Gathering*
5. *a little "Adieu"*

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Sky Scrapings

Serenade for Alto Saxophone and Piano

for Eugene Rousseau

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1. *Transient Fixations*

$\text{♩} = 100$ ($\text{♩} = 200$) *nonchalant*

Alto Saxophone (score is in C)

Piano

mf *f* *p* *f* *p* *fp*

5 *p* *ff* *mf* *f* *p* *h.*

9 *p* *f* *f* *f*

12 *p* *f* *f, rough* *(hold tempo)* *Faster* ($\text{♩} = 112$)

E^b *D*

The image shows the musical score for the first movement, 'Transient Fixations', from the Serenade for Alto Saxophone and Piano. The score is written for Alto Saxophone and Piano. It begins with a tempo of 100 beats per minute (quarter note) and a dynamic of mezzo-forte (mf). The music is in 4/4 time and is marked 'nonchalant'. The score is in C major. The piano part features a complex harmonic structure with many chords and some triplets. The saxophone part has a melodic line with some slurs and accents. The score is divided into systems, with measures 5, 9, and 12 marked. The piece ends with a final chord in E-flat major (E^b) and D major (D).

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The composer should be notified of all performances.
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15

mf

18

f mf f

Db C F

21

ff

25

sfz p ff mf

slowing slightly

28

♩ = 100 (Tempo I)

p mf

33

f

36

f

39

ff

42 *Faster* (♩ = 112)

f *p*

Ped

45

f subito *f*

f subito

Ped

48 *very short*

mf *fp* *fp* *p*

Ped

52

mf *f* *fp* *fp* *p*

Ped

55 *very short*

f *p, floating*

p

Ped (sustain until m. 72)

59

p

Ped

61

p

Piano anticipates entrance!
(overlap slightly)

p

(Pedal continues...)

63

p

Piano anticipates entrance!

(Pedal continues...)

65

piu p

67

pp

Piano anticipates entrance!

(Pedal continues...)

69

71

ppp

diminuendo

72

ppp (A)

(Pedal continues...)

attacca

2. Hypertoccata

♩ = 132

f, feverish

f, electric, "wired"

biting

4

mf

f

7

mf

f

10

ff

raucous

ff

f

f

13

f

f

17

f

20

f

p

f

23

ff

raucous

ff

mf

f

f

26

f

29

f

32

f

p

f

35

ff
raucous
f, dense
f, dense
Ped

38

Ped Ped

41

(legato)
ff, heavy
ff, heavy
Ped Ped

44

mp
ff
mf
ff
legato, but rhythmically intense

47

mp
ff
mp
mf
ff
mf

49

fp
mp
mf

52

mf
mf
ff
mf
ff
mf

55

57

mf \leftarrow *ff*

ff *mf* *ff* *mf*

60

mp *mf* *mf*

63

ff *ff* *driven* *ff* *ff*

67

ff *mf* *mf*

69

ff *ff* *f* *legato*

72

ff *ff* *ff*

75

mf *mp* *p* *pp* *ppp*

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

Ped _____

3. Colliding Cantilenas

♩ = ca. 66

♩ = 116

p, chaste, legato
singing, radiating warmth
mf
 with Pedal no Pedal

slowing a little ♩ = ca. 66
singing
mf
 with Pedal

♩ = 116
p
 no Pedal

p

slowing a little ♩ = ca. 66
f
 with Pedal

slowing
mf *f, rich* *mf*

♩ = 56
freely expressive *mp, singing (more vibrato)*
p *p*

mf

29 *(fast, like grace-notes)*

mf *f* *mf* *p*

33 *relaxed, singing*

mp *mf* *mf*

37

f *p* *f*

40 *♩ = 116*

p, chaste, legato *p, chaste, legato*

no Pedal

42 *slowing - - - suddenly sultry*

add Pedal

44 *♩ = 92*

f, expansive singing vibrato! *mf* *mf*

f, expansive

45

f *f* *p*

f *mp*

47 *♩ = ca. 100, with lots of give and take*

p, but intent and dramatic

50 $\text{♩} = 152$ (strict tempo)

pp *p, fugitivo (chased)*

p

no Pedal

52

55

pp *p, anxious*

58

p *p*

mp *p* *p*

62

mp *pp*

mp *pp*

64

mp

66

pp *mp* *pp*

mp *pp* *mp*

68

pp *mf*

pp *mf* *mf*

72

pp *p* *mp* *pp* *p*

75

p, suppressed lyricism *pp*

77

mp *p* *pp*

79

slowing *mp* *slowing* *mp* *mf, heavy*

with Pedal

81

f, impassioned *mf* *f* *mf* *f, deep* *f*

83

p, suddenly chaste *mp* *p, chaste, legato* *p*

85

slowing - - - (long)

4. Gathering

♩ = 100 (♩ = 200)

(legato)

mf, bright, light, buoyant

mp, easy

mf

8ba

Musical score for measures 7-9. The system includes a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. Measure 7 is in 7/8 time, measure 8 in 3/4, and measure 9 in 4/4. Dynamics include *f* and *mf*.

Musical score for measures 10-12. The system includes a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. Measure 10 is in 7/8, measure 11 in 2/4, and measure 12 in 4/4. Dynamics include *f* and *joyous*.

Musical score for measures 13-15. The system includes a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. Measure 13 is in 5/4, measure 14 in 4/4, and measure 15 in 4/4. Dynamics include *f* and *mf, bright*.

Musical score for measures 15-16. The system includes a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. Measure 15 is in 4/4 and measure 16 in 4/4. Dynamics include *f*.

Musical score for measures 17-18. The system includes a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. Measure 17 is in 5/4 and measure 18 in 3/4. Dynamics include *f* and *mf*. The instruction "with Pedal" is present at the end of measure 18.

Musical score for measures 19-21. The system includes a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. Measure 19 is in 5/4, measure 20 in 4/4, and measure 21 in 4/4. Dynamics include *f*. The instruction "(no Pedal)" is present at the end of measure 21.

Musical score for measures 22-24. The system includes a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. Measure 22 is in 4/4, measure 23 in 2/4, and measure 24 in 2/4. Dynamics include *full-voiced* and *f, rugged*. The instruction "with Pedal" is present at the end of measure 22, and "no Pedal" is present at the end of measure 24.

26

29

32

35

38

41

43

46

48

mf *f*

50

f, tough *fp* *pp, light, cool (no accents)* *p*
no Pedal

53

ff, tense *ff, tense*

57

ff *pp, light, cool*

60

p, gentle *mp* *p* *mp* *p*
like a gentle rain
(no Pedal)

63

pp *mf, warmer* *mf, warmer*
with Pedal

65

f, coarse *f, tough*
no Pedal

68

pained *tense*

104

f *ff*

108

pp, gentle *f* *ff*
p, gentle *ff*

111

(flutter effect) *ff* *f* *ff*

116

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

120

ff
with Pedal

122

ff $\text{♩} = 120$
Ped Ped

124

ff
Ped

126

ff

128

130

132

134

136

138

V. a little "Adieu"

♩ = ca. 84, simply, tinged with nostalgia

The musical score for "V. a little Adieu" is presented in three systems. The first system (measures 1-6) features a treble clef staff with a melody starting on G4, moving through A4, B4, and C5, and a piano accompaniment in the bass clef with a steady eighth-note pattern. The second system (measures 7-12) shows the melody becoming more rhythmic with eighth-note patterns, marked with a "slight" fermata and a "take time" instruction. The third system (measures 13-16) shows the melody ending with a long note, marked with a "ppp" dynamic, while the piano accompaniment features sustained chords in the bass clef, also marked with "p" and "ppp" dynamics.

Sky Scrapings is a subversive *Serenade for Alto Saxophone and Piano*. Subversive, in that none of the material ends up going in the direction it appears to be pointed. *Transient Fixations* begins as a rondo between a nonchalant opening tune and rougher, slightly faster music, but the movement prematurely dissolves in swirls of descending dissipation. *Hypertocata* is marked "electric, 'wired', feverish," but its opening section is abruptly displaced by torrential unison scales jigsawed against driving zigzags. In *Colliding Cantilenas* tunes which suggest cocktail piano, "chaste" early Renaissance-style, and pop ballad abut one another, flanking a scurrying middle section marked "anxious, fugitivo (chased)." *Gathering* begins easy and buoyant, but soon turns darker and threatening, careening through rough juxtapositions to a cumulative cataclysm. In the aftermath, a morphing multiphonic leads to *a little Adieu*, short, simple, and tinged with nostalgia.

Duration: ca. 16 minutes