STEVEN BRYANT

Concerto for Alto Saxophone

PERUSAL SCORE
NOT FOR PERFORMANCE USE

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Concerto for Alto Saxophone

Commissioned by Howard J. Gourwitz as a gift to Saxophonist Joseph Lulloff and the Michigan State University Wind Symphony, Dr. Kevin L. Sedatole, Conductor

Flute I (doubles Alto) -II-III (doubles Picc.)
Oboe I-II
Bassoon I-II
Clarinet in B♭ I-II-III
Bass Clarinet
Contrabass Clarinet in B♭
Alto Saxophone in E♭ I-II
Tenor Saxophone
Baritone Saxophone

SOLO ALTO SAXOPHONE

Trumpet in B♭ I-II-III
Horn in F I-II-III-IV
Trombone I-II-III
Euphonium I-II
Tuba I-II
Contrabass

Piano

Timpani
Perc. 1: Vibraphone, Glockenspiel, Shaker, Crotales, Suspended Cymbal, Bass Drum, Xylophone
Perc. 2: Sandblocks, Glockenspiel (shared with Perc. 1), Tambourine, Tam-tam
Perc. 3: Splash Cymbal, Suspended Cymbal, Cymbal Scrape, Vibraphone (shared with Perc. 1)
Perc. 4: Bass Drum, Chimes

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PROGRAM NOTE

The Concerto for Alto Saxophone is my third concerto, which is somewhat ironic since I have always said I didn’t like concerti and never planned to write one. This one was a particular challenge, though, since the Alto Sax was my instrument throughout high school and college. One might think that would make it easier to compose for, but I found I had to set aside my own limitations as a player, particularly the fact that I haven’t played regularly in 20 years, and explore the incredible virtuosity of the soloist for whom this piece is written, Joseph Lulloff. I wanted to showcase both his technical prowess as well as his extraordinary jazz improvisation skills, even going so far as to record and transcribe some of his improvisations during a collaborative session while I was composing the work. All three movements are constructed from a single motive, which is itself derived from the opening notes of Paul Creston’s Sonata for Alto Saxophone, a staple of the solo saxophone repertoire and something I played during my college years as a music major.

Movement I is an exploration of music that is simultaneously extremely quiet and extremely fast, inspired by the first movement of John Corigliano’s Clarinet Concerto. The middle movement grew from the recorded improvisatory gestures mentioned above. I reharmonized several of these to create a melancholic texture around the soloist, serving as the intimate heart of the entire work. Movement III unleashes the soloist and ensemble in high-speed interplay, again derived from the same central motive. It was to create a work that explores and celebrates the idiomatic characteristics of the saxophone.

My deepest gratitude to Howard Gourwitz for his generosity in making this possible, and to Joe Lulloff, Kevin Sedatole, and the Michigan State University Wind Symphony for bringing the music to life.

Winner of the 2014 American Bandmasters Association Sousa / Ostwald Award

ABOUT THE COMPOSER

Steven Bryant’s (b. 1972, Little Rock, Arkansas) musical interests span a variety of styles, and his catalog includes numerous works for wind ensemble, orchestra, electronic and electro-acoustic creations, chamber music, and music for the web. He studied composition with John Corigliano at The Juilliard School, Cindy McTee at the University of North Texas, and Francis McBeth at Ouachita University. A full bio and more is available at www.stevenbryant.com.

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Concerto for Alto Saxophone: Mvt I

Commissioned by Howard J. Gourwitz as a gift to Saxophonist Joseph Lulloff and the Michigan State University Wind Symphony. Dr. Kevin L. Sedatale, Conductor

Steven Bryant
2014

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Concerto for Alto Saxophone: Mvt I

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4 2 1 3

Stopped (1/2-step), start VERY slowly, gradually accelerate

188 f

Fastest point
Gliss. evenly over entire notated duration

Slow Gliss.

1/2-step; start VERY slowly, gradually accelerate

arco

Directions for performers:
PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK
IF YOU BUY THE SCORE, IT HAS ALL THE PAGES.
😊

SCORE and PARTS AVAILABLE FROM

www.stevenbryant.com
Concerto for Alto Saxophone: Mvt II

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Concerto for Alto Saxophone: Mvt II

Glissandi begin immediately and last the full notated value
Concerto for Alto Saxophone: Mvt II
Concerto for Alto Saxophone: Mvt II
Concerto for Alto Saxophone: Mvt II

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Concerto for Alto Saxophone: Mvt II
Concerto for Alto Saxophone: Mvt II

Improvise based on central motive of piece, or use a cadenza available from stevenbryant.com.

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time to insert Harmon Mute
Sneak out early if needed to allow enough

molto rit.

rit.
Concerto for Alto Saxophone: Mvt III

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Concerto for Alto Saxophone: Mvt III

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Concerto for Alto Saxophone: Mvt III

Solo Alto Sax

Flutter-tongue

Hum / Growl

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