

ALINEA

FOR 4 SAXOPHONES (SOPRANO, ALTO, TENOR,
BARITONE)

BY OLIVER DUBON

C. 12'

Program Note:

These are three short pieces thinking about "spontaneous composition." In these works, I leave some space for the performers to compose the work themselves. I have experimented with spontaneous composition, but this is the first piece where I have really begun to integrate this method of composition into my music more seriously.

This work was written for the New Thread Saxophone Quartet in early 2026 as a part of their residency at The University of Pennsylvania.

This work is dedicated to Phillip Golub.

ALINEA

I.

Oliver Dubon

Soprano Saxophone

ff *sempre*

Alto Saxophone

ff *sempre*

Tenor Saxophone

ff *sempre*

Baritone Saxophone

ff *sempre*



Joyous

ff

ff

ff

ff

1*

c. 15"

2

*As there are no bars in this movement, I have given each system a number to assist with rehearsing.

3

Exercise 3 consists of four measures. The first two staves (treble and alto clefs) contain a melodic line starting on G4, ascending stepwise to Bb4, and then continuing with a series of eighth notes. The dynamics are marked *mp* at the beginning and *p* towards the end of the first measure. The third and fourth staves are empty.

4

Exercise 4 consists of four measures. The first two staves (treble and alto clefs) contain a melodic line starting on G4, ascending stepwise to Bb4, and then continuing with a series of eighth notes. The dynamics are marked *mp* at the beginning and *p* towards the end of the first measure. The third and fourth staves are empty.

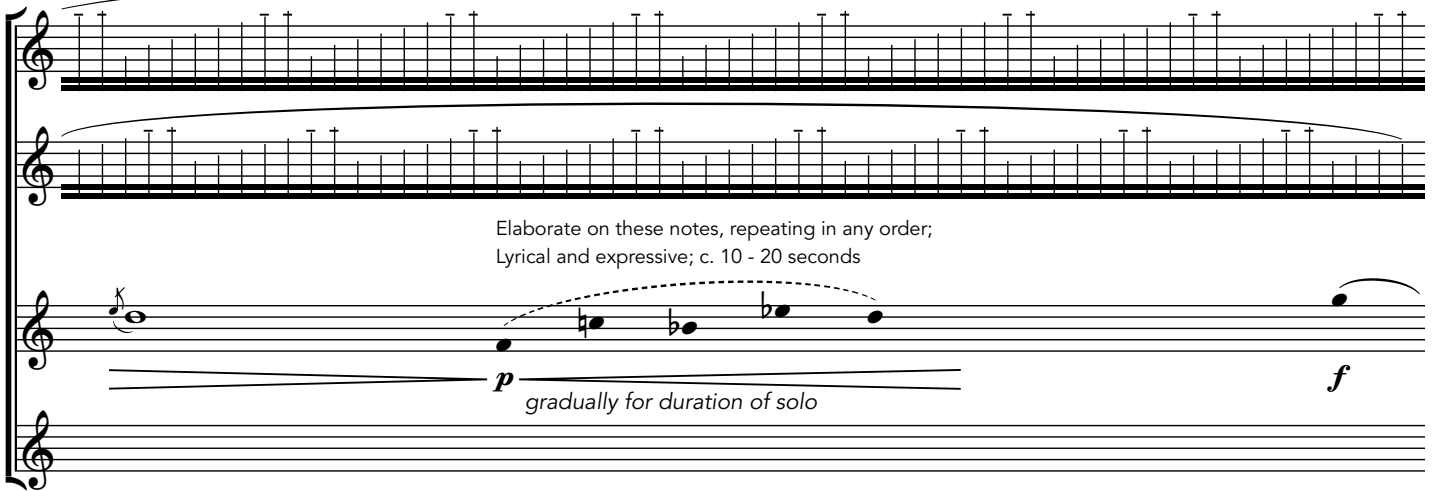
5

Exercise 5 consists of four measures. The first two staves (treble and alto clefs) contain a melodic line starting on G4, ascending stepwise to Bb4, and then continuing with a series of eighth notes. The dynamics are marked *mp* at the beginning and *p* towards the end of the first measure. The third and fourth staves are empty.

mf *p* *mf*

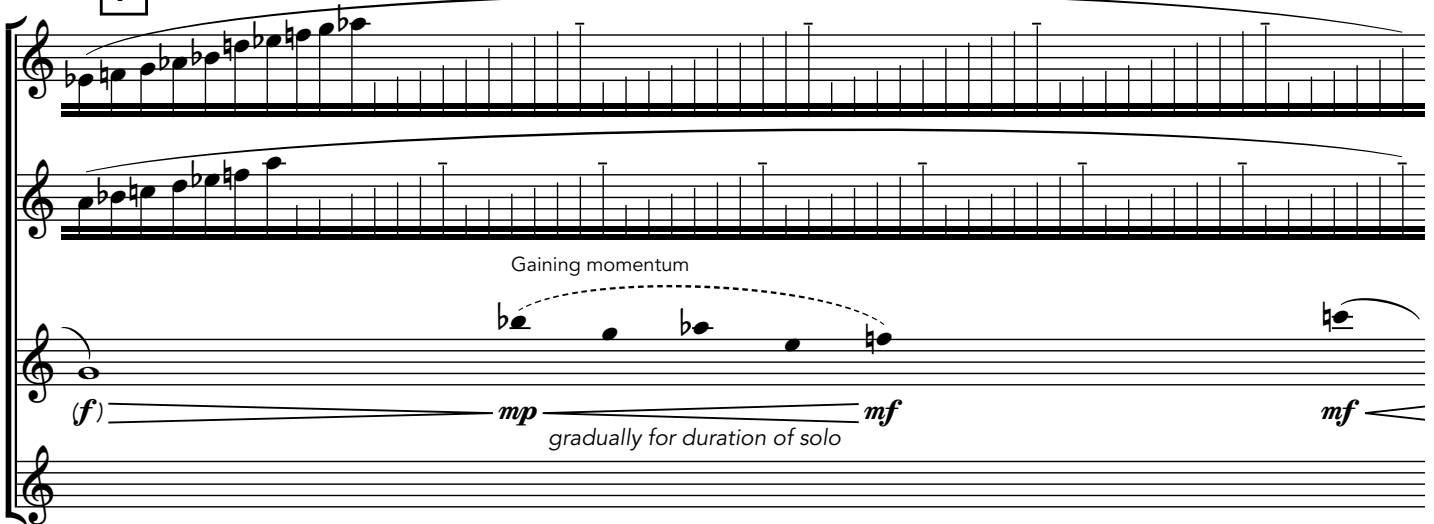
← indicates a pause and not a specific duration of rest

6



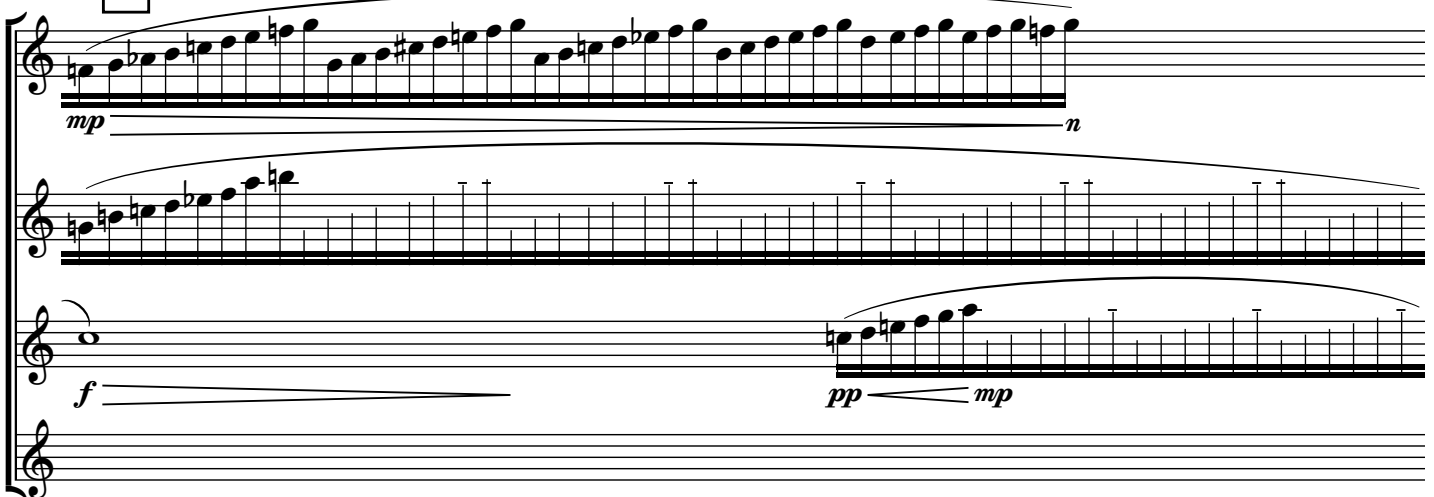
Exercise 6 consists of three staves. The top two staves are filled with a dense, continuous series of vertical lines, representing a sustained texture. The bottom staff contains a melodic line starting with a whole note, followed by a series of eighth notes. A crescendo hairpin is placed below the staff, starting at a piano (*p*) dynamic and ending at a forte (*f*) dynamic, with the text "gradually for duration of solo" written below it. Above the melodic line, a dashed line indicates a phrase to be elaborated on, with the instruction "Elaborate on these notes, repeating in any order; Lyrical and expressive; c. 10 - 20 seconds" written above it.

7



Exercise 7 consists of three staves. The top two staves are filled with a dense, continuous series of vertical lines, representing a sustained texture. The bottom staff contains a melodic line starting with a whole note, followed by a series of eighth notes. A crescendo hairpin is placed below the staff, starting at a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic and ending at a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic, with the text "gradually for duration of solo" written below it. Above the melodic line, a dashed line indicates a phrase to be elaborated on, with the instruction "Gaining momentum" written above it.

8



Exercise 8 consists of three staves. The top staff contains a melodic line starting with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic and ending with a piano (*p*) dynamic, with the text "gradually for duration of solo" written below it. The middle staff is filled with a dense, continuous series of vertical lines, representing a sustained texture. The bottom staff contains a melodic line starting with a forte (*f*) dynamic and ending with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic, with the text "gradually for duration of solo" written below it.

9

Musical score for measures 9 and 10. Measure 9 features a treble clef staff with a whole note G4, marked *p* (piano). The piano part consists of two staves with a continuous tremolo pattern, marked *p*. Measure 10 features a treble clef staff with a whole note G4, marked *p*. The piano part continues with the tremolo pattern, marked *p*.

=

10

Musical score for measures 11 and 12. Measure 11 features a treble clef staff with a whole note G4, marked *mf* (mezzo-forte). The piano part consists of two staves with a continuous tremolo pattern, marked *mf*. Measure 12 features a treble clef staff with a whole note G4, marked *f* (forte). The piano part continues with the tremolo pattern, marked *f*. The score includes dynamic markings *mf*, *f*, *poco*, and *molto*.

11

Begin on Eb; More fluid and virtuosic; c. 10 - 20 seconds

Section 11 consists of four staves. The top staff is a single melodic line in B-flat major, starting on E-flat and moving up stepwise to G, with dynamic markings *mf*, *ff*, and *ff*. A dashed line connects the start of the line to the final G. The second staff contains a dense, continuous harmonic texture. The third staff is a single melodic line in B-flat major, starting on E-flat and moving up stepwise to G, with a dashed line connecting the start to the end. The fourth staff contains a dense, continuous harmonic texture.

Elaborate on these notes, repeating in any order;
Respond to the soprano saxophone

12

Section 12 consists of four staves. The top staff is a single melodic line in B-flat major, starting on E-flat and moving up stepwise to G, with dynamic markings *mf* and *mf*. A dashed line connects the start of the line to the end. The second staff contains a dense, continuous harmonic texture. The third staff contains a dense, continuous harmonic texture. The fourth staff is a single melodic line in B-flat major, starting on E-flat and moving up stepwise to G, with a dashed line connecting the start to the end.

13

mf

mf poco a poco cresc.

mf poco a poco cresc.

14

f

15

f

f

f

mp *fp*

16

ff

ff

17 Not necessarily super even; Evan Parker-esque sound

mf

n

f

n

18

mf di mi nuen

pp *mf* *pp*

19

[9]

do al

mf *p*

mf *p*

mf *p*

20

mf *p*

mf *p*

mf *p*

21

f *n* *p*

f *n* *p*

f *n* *p*

II.

$\text{♩} = 60$

Air sounds; Spectral flush
from high to low

Very slow pulsing vibrato;
Breathy; Flutter tongue

Soprano Saxophone

Soprano Saxophone: sfz p pp p pp p pp

Alto Saxophone: sfz p mp mp

Tenor Saxophone: sfz p pp mp pp mp

Baritone Saxophone: p mp ppp poco ppp

Performance Instructions:
 - Air sounds; Spectral flush from high to low (Soprano, Alto, Tenor)
 - Breathy; Flutter Tongue (continue like this until indicated otherwise) (Tenor)
 - Very slow pulsing vibrato; Breathy; Flutter tongue (Soprano)

A

Section A: pp p pp pp p pp mp mp pp mp

Performance Instructions:
 - Very slow pulsing vibrato; Breathy; Flutter tongue (Soprano)
 - Breathy; Flutter Tongue (continue like this until indicated otherwise) (Tenor)

Very slow

Improvise on these four pitches in this octave

Very slowly add pitches to the set you're improvising on

play these three pitches only in this order to signal the end of this four-bar phrase (both times)

11

pp

sfz *p*

pp *mfz* *pp*

pp *mfz*

p cresc./dim. ad lib.

15

B

cresc. poco a poco

breathy

p *mp*

mfz

2x only

2x only

2x only

p cresc./dim. ad lib.

Freely ♩ = c. 52

c. 10"

19

mf *espressivo*

play a creative solo based on the previous two measures;
Remain relatively tonally linked to the previous materials.

mfz *p* *mp* *pp*

mfz *p* *mp* *pp*

mfz *p* *mp* *pp*

26

C

mf *espressivo*

play a creative solo based on the previous two measures;
Remain relatively tonally linked to the previous materials.

mp *pp* *mp* *pp* *mp* *pp*

III - PASSACAGLIA

As quickly as possible Brief

Soprano Saxophone

fff

range: *mf-p*

c. 15"

quick tongue rams and loud key clicks and any other percussive sounds which do not damage your instrument

As quickly as possible Brief

Alto Saxophone

fff

range: *mf-p*

c. 15"

quick tongue rams and loud key clicks and any other percussive sounds which do not damage your instrument

As quickly as possible Brief

Tenor Saxophone

fff

range: *mf-p*

c. 15"

quick tongue rams and loud key clicks and any other percussive sounds which do not damage your instrument

As quickly as possible Brief

Baritone Saxophone

fff

c. 10"

white noise → ord.

pp



$\text{♩} = 72$ accel.

3

p sempre

(d)

mf *sfz*

gliss.

mf *sfz*

p sempre

white noise → breathy flt.

pp *mf*

6

mf cre

B

$\text{♩} = 104$ accel.

9

growl

p *sfz* *p*

3 scen

$\text{♩} = 132$ accel.....

13

(*d*) *sfz* *gliss.*

(*d*) *sfz* *gliss.*

sfz

do

==

..... $\text{♩} = 160$

15

(*d*) *sfz* *gliss.*

(*d*) *sfz* *gliss.*

(*d*) *sfz* *gliss.*

(*d*) *sfz* *gliss.*

p *sfz* *p* *sfz* *p* *sfz*

C

Not necessarily even
but arriving at the
downbeat together.

Random runs of notes. Squealing.

19

fff

p *ff*

p *ff*

Random runs of notes. Squealing.

p *ff*

growl

p *sfz*

p *sfz*

fff

mf cre

==

22

p *ff*

p *ff*

p *ff*

p *sfz*

p *sfz*

scen

24



28

31

p *sfz* *p* *sfz*



32nd note runs as fast as possible.
It's not necessary to arrive
at the chords together.

33

E

fff *fff* *fff* *fff*

$\text{♩} = 160$

35 each chord c. 5"

ppp
each chord c. 5"

ppp
each chord c. 5"

each chord c. 5"

44

Alternatively
* cont. ad lib. for each measure in this section -

For each chord;
choose one note

p Very Slow Tremolo

Alternatively
* cont. ad lib. for each measure in this section -

each chord c. 5"

For each chord;
choose one note

p Very Slow Tremolo

Alternatively
* cont. ad lib. for each measure in this section -

each chord c. 5"

For each chord;
choose one note

p Very Slow Tremolo

Alternatively
* cont. ad lib. for each measure in this section -

each chord c. 5"

For each chord;
choose one note

p Very Slow Tremolo

49

* For each measure: play either the slow tremolo or the top note repeatedly (as in the ossia)

53

mp Slightly Faster Tremolo

Slow cascades

mp Slightly Faster Tremolo

Slow cascades

mp Slightly Faster Tremolo

Slow cascades

mp Slightly Faster Tremolo

Slow cascades

56

Slow cascades

Slow cascades

Slow cascades

Slow cascades

59

mf

mf

mf

mf

67

System 1 (Measures 67-68): Four staves with treble clefs. The music is highly complex, featuring many accidentals and a dense texture of notes and rests. A large slur covers the entire system.

==

69

System 2 (Measures 69-70): Four staves with treble clefs. The music is highly complex, featuring many accidentals and a dense texture of notes and rests. A large slur covers the entire system.

71

Musical score for measures 71-79. The score consists of four staves, each with a treble clef. The first staff begins with a forte (*ff*) dynamic. The notes are as follows:

Measure	Staff 1	Staff 2	Staff 3	Staff 4
71	$\sharp e$	$\sharp o$	$\flat$	$\sharp o$
72	$\flat$	e	$\flat$	o
73	$\flat$	$\sharp \flat$	$\flat$	e
74	$\sharp \flat$	$\sharp \flat$	$\sharp e$	$\sharp e$
75	$\sharp \flat$	$\flat$	$\sharp e$	$\sharp e$
76	$\sharp e$	$\flat$	e	o
77	$\sharp e$	$\flat$	e	$\sharp o$
78	$\flat$	$\flat$	e	$\sharp o$
79	$\flat$	$\sharp \flat$	$\sharp e$	$\sharp o$



80

Musical score for measures 80-82. The score consists of four staves, each with a treble clef. The first staff begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The notes are as follows:

Measure	Staff 1	Staff 2	Staff 3	Staff 4
80	$\flat$	$\flat$	$\flat$	$\flat$
81	$\sharp o$	$\sharp e$	$\sharp o$	$\sharp e$
82	$\sharp o$	$\sharp o$	$\sharp o$	$\sharp o$