

Vertigo

For Solo Alto Saxophone

(2018)

Kenrick Ho

Preface:

This piece is inspired by one of my Three Musings for Piano, particularly the right hand rolled chord in bar 3 of the first movement: A Staged Victory. This is the chord:



Taking the chord out of context, I have created a diagram of inversions, and transposed each inversion twice, once so that the bottom note is A, and the second time so that the top note is F. This diagram is as below:

Inversions

same bottom note

same top note

The entire piece was written with materials from this diagram, hence the title of the piece. The goal of exploration the chord also justifies the frequent usage of tremoli, arpeggios, whisper tremolo, and trills; these techniques can effectively bring out the harmonic aspects of a solo saxophone, and venture into a deep exploration on what is initially just One Chord.

Duration: ca. 3'

Vertigo

For Solo Alto Saxophone

♩ = 60 **Improvisatory, fantastical, dramatic, rubato**

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Alto Saxophone

whisper tremolo:
play specified notes rapidly, in any random order

ppp *p* *mf*

Alto Sax.

4

with air

p

Alto Sax.

6

whisper tremolo:
play specified notes rapidly, in any random order

ppp *mf* *p*

Alto Sax.

8

gliss.

trimbral trill

ff *p*

Alto Sax.

10

ord.

with air

f *p*

Alto Sax.

13

A

f *mp*

Alto Sax. 16 *mf* *ff* *p* flutter. 3

Alto Sax. 18 *ff* 6 3 flutter.

Alto Sax. 20 *mf* *ff* *f* flutter. jaw vib.

B

Alto Sax. 22 *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* jaw vib. 5 5

Alto Sax. 24 *f* *p* *f* *ff* jaw vib. 5 ord. jaw vib.

Alto Sax. 26 *gliss.* 3

C

Alto Sax. 28 *mp* *mf* *f*

Alto Sax. 31 *p* *ff*

flutter

Alto Sax. 33

unspecified altissimo gliss:
bending upwards, player can choose
any comfortable note and range

Alto Sax. 35

fff

ff

rit.

Alto Sax. 37

mp

D

A tempo

whisper tremolo:
play specified notes rapidly, in any random order

Alto Sax. 39

ppp

f

whisper tremolo:
play specified notes rapidly, in any random order

Alto Sax. 41

ppp

p

with air

Alto Sax. 43

pp

p

whisper tremolo:
play specified notes rapidly, in any random order

Alto Sax. 47

ppp

rit.

slap.