
— *Bird*

for Alto Saxophone and Live Electronics

Duration: ~9 minutes

Perusal Score

Program Notes

When Hunter and I first met to discuss the shape that this project would take he brought forward to me an interesting idea; to create a piece inspired by emotions, but not the typical ones like happiness and sadness. That gave me the inspiration to explore some of the feelings/emotions we experience, whilst also creating multiple meanings of them in each movement. I also decided that each movement would explore different elements commonly associated with electro-acoustic pieces. While duplicity typically means to be deceitful, in the first movement I instead explored the literal “double-ness” of having the saxophone repeated with an echo. In this case, the “doublespeak” more comes from the relationship of the material the saxophone is performing and how the electronics processing echoes the performed material. The second movement’s relationship to the feeling of “nostalgia” is a bit more direct than the first movement. The saxophonist takes the roll of cueing fixed media files and playing alongside them. The nostalgia comes from both the harmonic language, making allusions to noir-inspired soundtracks and using electronic accompaniment that uses sounds that wouldn’t be uncommon in 8-bit video games of old. The final movement is both a pun and a description of the movement’s challenges. “Synchronicity” is the concept of coincidental circumstances, but it’s also a term for things being synchronous. This movement is asynchronous to its core by using loops that aren’t locked to a grid and are instead independent of one another, sometimes almost coincidentally lining up. As for the title of the piece it is more of a fun joke than anything else. I had noticed so many saxophone pieces tend to have the name “__ Bird.”

Technology Requirements

In order to perform this piece you need the following:

1. A computer capable of running Max/MSP with the accompanying patch for this piece.
2. A microphone with some form of audio interface to connect to your computer.
3. A page turner device able to connect to your computer via usb or bluetooth.
4. A pair of stereo speakers.

Transposed Score

— Bird

1. Duplicity

1 Fast ♩ = 144

Alto Saxophone

Electronics

mf Quarter note delay (500 ms)

Delay continues

A. Sax.

A. Sax.

A. Sax.

A. Sax.

A. Sax.

A. Sax.

A. Sax.

mf *mp* *p* *p* *f* *p* *p* *f* *f* *ff* *mp* *f* *p* *slap tongue*

The musical score is for a piece titled "Bird" by Hunter Hellard, specifically the section "1. Duplicity". It is a transposed score for Alto Saxophone and Electronics. The tempo is marked "Fast" with a quarter note equal to 144 beats per minute. The Alto Saxophone part begins with a melody in 4/4 time, marked *mf*. The Electronics part follows with a similar melody, marked *mf*, and includes a "Quarter note delay (500 ms)". The score is divided into measures, with measure numbers 4, 7, 10, 13, 16, and 19 indicated. Dynamics range from *mf* to *ff*. Articulations include accents and a "slap tongue" effect in measure 19. A large "REVIEW" watermark is visible across the score.

2 Slower, out of tempo (♩ ≈ 66)
Delay off

A. Sax. 21 *p* *pp* *pp* *ppp* *pp*

A. Sax. 27 *p* *mf*

A. Sax. 31 *pp* 5

A. Sax. 35 *p* *mf* *ff*

Electronics 35 *mf* *ff*
Multi-voice delay

A. Sax. 38 *Delays continue*

Electronics 38

A. Sax. 41 *pp*

A. Sax. 46 *mp* *p sub.* *mf* *(pp)*

51 A. Sax. *mp* *ppp sub.* *p*

55 A. Sax. *mp* *p*

59 A. Sax. *f* *p* *mp* *p*

64 A. Sax. *pp* *f* *Quarter note delay (500 ms)*

Electronics

67 A. Sax. *mf* *p* *p* *mf*

Electronics

69 A. Sax. *mf* *p* *p* *mf*

72 A. Sax. *f* *mp* *f* *p*

wait for echoes to fade

4 Fast ♩ = 144

Delay continues

75 A. Sax. *mf* *p* *mf* *f* *mp* *mf*

78 A. Sax. *f* *ff*

81 A. Sax.

84 A. Sax. *p* *ff* *ppp*

87 A. Sax. *pp* *ff*

5 Delay off

POPScore

2. Nostalgia: Through the Astro Fair

6 With Rubato ♩ = 66

Alto Saxophone

Synth Pad

Electronics

ppp *p* 3

6

A. Sax.

Electronics

p

Wait for delay to fade

n

w/ delay

8va

9

7

A. Sax.

Electronics

p

ppp

3

pp

12

A. Sax.

Electronics

Percussive hit

mp

n

p

15

8

A. Sax.

Electronics

3

3

3

17

A. Sax.

Electronics

pp

w/ delay

8va

19

A. Sax.

Electronics

mp

3

p

Percussive hit

mf

3

23

A. Sax.

Electronics

n

w/ delay

8va

PERUSSA SCORE

This musical score is for the piece 'Bird - Nostalgia: Through the Astro Fair'. It is divided into three systems, each featuring an Alto Saxophone (A. Sax.) and Electronics parts. The first system begins at measure 17. The A. Sax. part starts with a rest, followed by a series of eighth notes and a half note, with a crescendo leading to a fortissimo (pp) dynamic. The Electronics part provides a rhythmic accompaniment with eighth notes, including an octave-up (8va) section marked 'w/ delay'. The second system starts at measure 19. The A. Sax. part features a triplet (3) of eighth notes at a mezzo-piano (mp) dynamic, followed by a piano (p) section with a 'Percussive hit' in the Electronics part, and then a mezzo-forte (mf) triplet. The Electronics part consists of sustained chords. The third system starts at measure 23. The A. Sax. part plays eighth notes with accents, followed by a rest. The Electronics part has sustained chords, followed by an octave-up (8va) section marked 'w/ delay' and a crescendo leading to a fortissimo (n) dynamic.

9 In strict time (♩ = 66)

A. Sax. (Alto Saxophone): Measure 25 starts with a rest, followed by eighth notes G4, A4, B4, and C5. Measure 26 has a whole note G4. Measure 27 has a whole note G4. Measure 28 starts with a rest, followed by eighth notes G4, A4, B4, and C5.

Electronics: Measures 25-28 feature a continuous arpeggiated pattern of eighth notes: D4, E4, F#4, G4, A4, B4, C5, D5. Dynamics include *ff* (fortissimo) and *mp* (mezzo-piano). Text annotations: "Arpeggios continue, noise drums enter" (measures 25-28) and "Noise pans left and right" (measure 28).

A. Sax. (Alto Saxophone): Measure 29 starts with a rest, followed by eighth notes G4, A4, B4, and C5. Measure 30 has a whole note G4. Measure 31 has a whole note G4. Measure 32 starts with a rest, followed by eighth notes G4, A4, B4, and C5.

Electronics: Measures 29-32 feature a continuous arpeggiated pattern of eighth notes: D4, E4, F#4, G4, A4, B4, C5, D5. Dynamics include *mp* (mezzo-piano). Text annotations: "Noise pans left and right" (measures 29-32).

A. Sax. (Alto Saxophone): Measure 33 starts with a rest, followed by eighth notes G4, A4, B4, and C5. Measure 34 has a whole note G4. Measure 35 has a whole note G4. Measure 36 starts with a rest, followed by eighth notes G4, A4, B4, and C5.

Electronics: Measures 33-36 feature a continuous arpeggiated pattern of eighth notes: D4, E4, F#4, G4, A4, B4, C5, D5. Dynamics include *mp* (mezzo-piano). Text annotations: "Noise pans left and right" (measures 33-36).

40

A. Sax.

Electronics

pp

slow bend

3

Detailed description: This musical score segment covers measures 40 to 43. The A. Sax. part begins in measure 40 with a whole rest, followed by a half rest in measure 41. In measure 42, it plays a quarter note G4, an eighth note A4, and a quarter note B4, all marked *pp*. In measure 43, it plays a half note A4 with a 'slow bend' instruction. The Electronics part features a triplet of eighth notes (G4, A4, B4) in measure 40, followed by a half note G4 in measure 41. In measure 42, it plays a half note G4 with a circled 'X' over it. In measure 43, it plays a half note G4. The bass line consists of a half note G3 in measure 40, a half note F#3 in measure 41, and a half note G3 in measure 42, followed by a half note G3 in measure 43.

3. (a) Synchronicity

12 Revel in the aleatoric loops ♩ = 86

The musical score for Example 12, 'Revel in the aleatoric loops', is written for Alto Saxophone and Electronics. The tempo is marked as ♩ = 86. The Alto Saxophone part consists of two measures of music. The first measure starts with a piano (*pp*) dynamic and features a triplet of eighth notes (F#4, G4, A4) followed by a quarter note (B4), a quarter note (C5), and a triplet of eighth notes (B4, A4, G4). The second measure starts with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic and features a triplet of eighth notes (F#4, G4, A4), a quarter note (B4), a quarter note (C5), a triplet of eighth notes (B4, A4, G4), and a quarter note (F#4). The Electronics part consists of two measures of silence, indicated by a whole rest in the first measure and a whole rest in the second measure. The dynamics *pp* and *mf* are written below the saxophone staff, and the dynamics *pp* and *mf* are written below the electronics staff.

The musical score for 'Loop 1' consists of two staves. The top staff, labeled 'A. Sax.', is in treble clef and contains a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, including a triplet of eighth notes marked with a '3' and a '13' in a box. The bottom staff, labeled 'Electronics', is in treble clef and features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes, with several groups of three notes marked with a '3' and a '13' in a box. The score is divided into two measures by a vertical bar line.

A. Sax.

14

15

Loop 2

Loop 3

etc.

Electronics

8 16 17

A. Sax.

Electronics

11 18

A. Sax.

Electronics

13

16 19

A. Sax.

Electronics

18

21

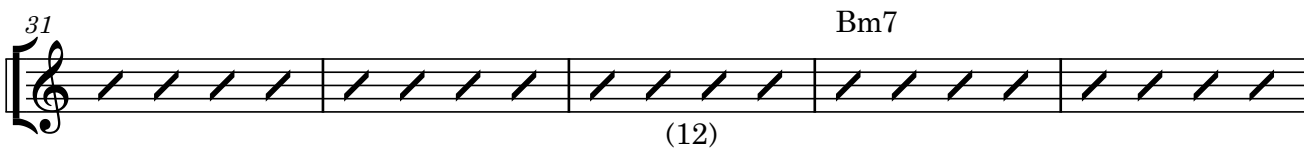
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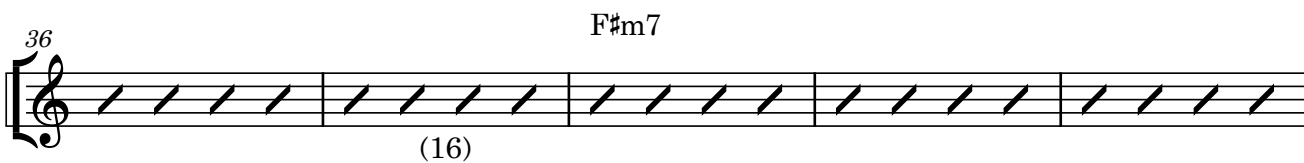
26

Emaj7(#11) Dmaj7

(8)

*if a longer cadenza is desired / needed repeat the last 8 measures of the cadenza (mm 38-45) as needed.

A. Sax.  31 Bm7 (12)

A. Sax.  36 F#m7 (16)

A. Sax.  41 Emaj7(#11) (20)

A. Sax.  45 (24) *gliss.* *Go wild! (trills, growls, etc)* 20 *ffpp sub.* *sfffz* *Loops stop.*