

Šimun Matišić

Experiment on the theme by Eric Dolphy

for alto saxophone

2023.

Composition „Experiment on a theme by Eric Dolphy“ is inspired by the twelve-tone row from composition “Red Planet” by Eric Dolphy.



Inspired by his twelve-tone row and the theme all together (in “Red Planet” Dolphy also uses the retrograde form), I decided to compose a piece that uses the same row but in a completely different manner. I find it very interesting that Dolphy used the twelve-tone technique to compose his jazz piece, and I thought that it would be interesting to take his material and compose a classical piece.

Composition is organized in a way that there are four variations, but they are fragmented and mixed all together, with the idea that they all happen “in the same time.” Although mixed together, each one has “its own life” and should be interpreted that way.

Each variation has its own tempo:

- 1. $\text{♩} = 40$**
- 2. $\text{♩} = 60$**
- 3. $\text{♩} = 90$**
- 4. $\text{♩} = 120$**

1st variation is meant to be played very strictly and objectively

2nd var. - very expressive and *rubato*

3rd var. - very short *staccato* with sudden accents (small amounts of *accelerando* and *ritardando* are more than welcomed and left for player to decide where/when/if)

4th var. - variation closest to the jazz music, sound can be very rough and aggressive (but doesn't have to), phrasing (classical or jazz approach for phrasing fast eighth-notes) is left for player to decide!

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*Compulsory piece for the semifinal round
of the 4th International Saxophone Competition
Josip Nochta - Zagreb 2024*

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Alto Saxophone

Alto Saxophone

$\text{♩} = 40$

$\text{♩} = 60 \text{ molto espressivo}$

$\text{♩} = 40$

$\text{♩} = 60 \text{ molto espressivo}$

$\text{♩} = 90$

$\text{♩} = 60 \text{ molto espressivo}$

$\text{♩} = 90$

$\text{♩} = 40$

$\text{♩} = 60$

$\text{♩} = 90$

$\text{♩} = 40$

$\text{♩} = 60$

$\text{♩} = 90$

The sheet music consists of six staves of musical notation for a solo instrument, likely a woodwind. The notation is in common time.

- Staff 1:** Dynamics: ***fff***, ***pp***, ***p*** → ***f***, ***mp***. Tempo: **$\text{♩} = 40$** , **$\text{♩} = 90$** , **$\text{♩} = 60$** (*molto espressivo*), **$\text{♩} = 120$** .
- Staff 2:** Dynamics: ***p*** → ***mf***. Tempo: **$\text{♩} = 120$** .
- Staff 3:** Dynamics: ***f***, ***ff***, ***sub p***, ***f***. Tempo: **$\text{♩} = 90$** , **$\text{♩} = 120$** .
- Staff 4:** Dynamics: ***ff***. Tempo: **$\text{♩} = 120$** .
- Staff 5:** Dynamics: ***ff***.
- Staff 6:** Dynamics: ***#*** → ***#***.

$\text{♩} = 90$

$\text{♩} = 120$

$\text{♩} = 40$ $\text{♩} = 90$

$\text{♩} = 40$

$\text{♩} = 120$

$\text{♩} = 40$

$\text{♩} = 120$

The sheet music for piano contains ten staves of musical notation. The dynamics and tempo markings are as follows:

- Staff 1:** $\text{♩} = 90$, mf , p
- Staff 2:** $\text{♩} = 60$ *molto espressivo*, $sub ff$, $sub p$, pp , mf , f , mp
- Staff 3:** $\text{♩} = 90$, f , p , p
- Staff 4:** $\text{♩} = 60$ *molto espressivo*, ff , $sub p$, p , mf , mp
- Staff 5:** $\text{♩} = 120$, f , p , ff
- Staff 6:** $\text{♩} = 90$, p , pp , $sub ff$, $sub pp$
- Staff 7:** $\text{♩} = 60$ *molto espressivo*, p , mf , $sub pp$, pp
- Staff 8:** $\text{♩} = 40$, pp
- Staff 9:** $\text{♩} = 60$ *molto espressivo*, pp , mp , pp
- Staff 10:** $\text{♩} = 40$, ppp