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Driftwood Box Puzzle

For alto saxophone, piano, and computer generated sound

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Driftwood Box Puzzle Performance Notes:


UNMEASURED SECTIONS:


- This piece contains ametrical sections as well as sections that are metered. The *a measure* sections contain boxed numbers at the end of dashed bar lines to indicate approximate length in minutes and seconds of that particular section over the course of the entire piece.
- The *a measure* sections contain boxed musical cells (labeled with letters) that are followed by continuous wavy lines to indicate that the cell is to be repeated, with varying gaps of silence in between repetitions, until a new cell is introduced. The cells for each instrument are to be played at their own tempo (as indicated), although in certain passages, the instrumental cells “interact” with each other (in a call and response manner).
- Certain musical cells contain particular instructions indicating how they are to be played. Some of these indications are as follows:
 - **+** - gradually add cell along with any cell or cells that are currently being played (increasing in frequency).
 - **↔** - alternate freely between cells
 - (*exclusively*) - upon first appearance of new cell, play exclusively
- Dashed, diagonal lines indicate a loose order of first entrances of cells among the different parts.
- Bracketed timings (with arrows) at the beginning of some sections indicate a loose time frame for beginning entrances of cells among the different parts.

PIANO NOTATION:

- Notes with open ties (such as the second chord of the first cell at rehearsal **A**) indicate to sustain the pitches by holding down keys.
- At rehearsal **C**, one cell contains diamond-shaped note heads indicating to lightly depress the specified keys without sounding the pitches (in order to create sympathetic resonance with the other keys struck below them).
- Unless otherwise indicated, pedal should be used liberally and freely with occasional lifts to keep from sounding too muddy.

OTHER:

 - crescendo from silence (*niente*)

 - diminuendo to silence (*niente*)

- Squared fermatas indicate silence with approximate length in seconds provided above.
- Tape notation indicates electronic cues for instrumental entrances. Notated pitch content of electronic staff is approximate.
- *The electronic part for this piece is available for as a CD or stereo sound file through **wheelitzo@gmail.com**. The electronic part should be balanced to equal the loudness of the live performers (as indicated by the dynamic markings in the score).*

Driftwood Box Puzzle

for alto saxophone, piano, and tape

Philip Schuessler

a measure

ca. 3"

A

vary silence between repetitions

$\text{♩} = 120 - 190$ { $\gamma \leftrightarrow - \cdot \gamma$ }

1'00

b (exclusively)

gradually add new cell:

c +

1'40

Alto Saxophone

pp

vary silence between repetitions

$\text{♩} = 60 - 110$ { $\gamma \leftrightarrow - \cdot \gamma$ }

1'00

b

alternately freely (with variable silence)

c

1'40

Piano

pp

$\text{♩} = 80$

ped. ^ _ (pedal freely)

varied silence...

8

slightly more active

8

Tape

pp

The score is divided into three staves: Alto Saxophone, Piano, and Tape. The Alto Saxophone part starts with a box labeled 'A' and a tempo of 120-190 bpm. It features a wavy line representing a tremolo and three boxed sections labeled 'a', 'b', and 'c'. Section 'a' is marked 'pp' and has a tempo of 60-110 bpm. Section 'b' is marked '(exclusively)' and section 'c' is marked 'gradually add new cell:'. The Piano part has a tempo of 80 bpm and includes a pedal instruction 'ped. ^ _ (pedal freely)'. It also has three boxed sections labeled 'a', 'b', and 'c'. Section 'a' is marked 'pp' and has a tempo of 60-110 bpm. Section 'b' is marked 'alternately freely (with variable silence)'. The Tape part has a tempo of 80 bpm and includes a box labeled '8' and the instruction 'slightly more active'. A bracket at the top indicates a measure of approximately 3 inches. A box labeled 'A' is at the top left. Timing markers '1'00' and '1'40' are placed at the end of sections 'a' and 'c' in both the Alto Saxophone and Piano parts.

2

ca. 3"

gradually add new cell and take out other cells until only new cell remains:

add more silence between cells

2'35

Alto Sax.

Pno.

switch to new cell exclusively:

add more silence between cells

2'35

Tape

♩ = 120



Alto Sax.

ppp

♩ = 120

Pno.

ppp

Ped. ——— ^ — — (pedal freely)

Tape

ppp

Alto Sax.

pp

Pno.

pp

Tape

pp

Alto Sax.

p

mp

Pno.

p

mp

Tape

p

mp

a measure

C

$\text{♩} = 130 - 200$

ca. 4"

alternate freely (with variable silence)

Alto Sax. *mf* *f* *pp* *mf*

Pno. *mf* *f* *pp* *mf*

Tape *mf* *f* *pp*

lightly depress keys

echo immediately after any cell played by saxophone

No Pedal

more regular statements (with rests)

40" 1'15"

Alto Sax. 40" 1'15"

Pno. 40" 1'15"

Tape $\text{♩} = 53$

begin to separate from the saxophone, playing independently

introduce new cells gradually

pp

Ped. \wedge ... (pedal freely)

gradually begin to 1) omit cell (e) and 2) slow down by approximately 10 metronome marks

gradually begin to 1) omit cell (f) and 2) add more silence between statements

Alto Sax. 1'35 taper off to silence 2'00

Pno. 1'35 exclusively taper off to silence 2'00

Tape (single) (single) (single) (single) Ped. Ped. (♩ = 120)

D

Alto Sax. ♩ = 120

Pno. pp mp mp mp

Tape Ped. — ^ — — (pedal freely) mp

a measure



Alto Sax. *pp*

Pno.

Tape

Alto Sax. *ppp*

Pno. *ppp* after initial statement of second cell (on tape)

Tape

echo immediately after any cell played by piano ♩ = 90

begin to separate from the piano, playing independently, and introducing new cell gradually

after first occurrence of new cell in saxophone, then freely

(exclusively)

Ped. *pedal freely*

Alto Sax. *gradually begin to 1) omit cells (h) and (i) and 2) speed up to $\text{♩} = 100 - 110$*

Pno. *$\text{♩} = 80 - 95$*

Tape *(less regular)*

more gaps of silence (exclusively)

taper off to silence

1'10

1'25

7

Alto Sax. *more gaps of silence (exclusively)*

Pno. *more gaps of silence*

1'10

1'25

Tape *($\text{♩} = 72$)*

8

Alto Sax. *$\text{♩} = 72$*

Pno. *$\text{♩} = 72$*

Tape *Ped. (pedal freely)*

F

pp

pp

pp

8

Alto Sax.

Musical notation for the Alto Saxophone part, featuring a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 6/8 time signature. The notation includes quarter notes, eighth notes, and beamed eighth notes, with some notes marked with accents.

Pno.

Piano accompaniment staff with treble and bass clefs, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 6/8 time signature. The notation consists of chords and arpeggiated figures, with some notes marked with accents.

Tape

Musical notation for the Tape part, featuring a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 6/8 time signature. The notation consists of chords and arpeggiated figures.

a measure

$\text{♩} = 72$

follow order of cell sequence and then begin to drift independently

G

1

m

20"

Alto Sax.

Alto Saxophone staff with musical notation and performance markings. It includes a double bar line, a box containing a G-clef, and a box containing a treble clef. A wavy line indicates a tremolo effect. A 20-inch measurement box is at the end. A dynamic marking *p* is present.

$\text{♩} = 72$

follow order of cell sequence and then begin to drift independently

m

n

20"

Pno.

Piano staff with musical notation and performance markings. It includes a double bar line, a box containing a treble clef, and a box containing a bass clef. A wavy line indicates a tremolo effect. A 20-inch measurement box is at the end. A dynamic marking *p* is present.

p

Tape

Tape staff with musical notation and performance markings. It includes a double bar line, a box containing a treble clef, and a box containing a bass clef. A wavy line indicates a tremolo effect. A 20-inch measurement box is at the end. A dynamic marking *p* is present.

Alto Sax. *mp* alternate freely, break free from any fixed sequence freely displace octave

Pno. *mp* alternate freely, break free from any fixed sequence gradually add new cell:

Tape (exclusively)

30" 40" 55" 8vb 8vb

Alto Sax. *p* begin to align with tape entries (excl.)

Pno. *f* begin to align with tape entries (excl.)

Tape *f* = 40

1'05 1'10 5" 5" 5"

f *f* *f*

Alto Sax. *mp* alternate freely, break free from any fixed sequence gradually add new cell:

Pno. *mp* alternate freely, break free from any fixed sequence gradually add new cell:

Tape (exclusively)

40" 55" 8vb 8vb

9

♩ = 80 (eighth notes)

♩ = 80

H

Alto Sax.

Pno.

Tape

pp

pp

pp

f

pp



Alto Sax.

Pno.

Tape

tr

tr

f

pp

Alto Sax.

Pno.

Tape



Alto Sax.

Pno.

Tape

I ♩ = 60 - 80

varied silence

gradually begin to add new cell:

Alto Sax.

q $\text{e} \cdot \text{e} \cdot$ 10" r $\text{e} \cdot \text{e} \cdot \text{e} \cdot$ 25" s (excl.) $\text{e} \cdot \text{e} \cdot \text{e} \cdot$ 45"

pp

♩ = 60 - 80

varied silence

rapidly begin to 1) add new cell and 2) omit cell (q)

Pno.

q $\text{tr} \cdot \text{e} \cdot$ 10" r $\text{e} \cdot \text{e} \cdot \text{e} \cdot$ 25" s (excl.) $\text{e} \cdot \text{e} \cdot \text{e} \cdot$ 45"

pp d $\text{e} \cdot \text{e} \cdot \text{e} \cdot$ $\text{e} \cdot \text{e} \cdot \text{e} \cdot$ t $\text{e} \cdot \text{e} \cdot \text{e} \cdot$

Tape

pp $\text{e} \cdot \text{e} \cdot \text{e} \cdot$ 8 varied length varied length



(excl.) varied length

♩ = 66

Alto Sax.

t $\text{e} \cdot \text{e} \cdot \text{e} \cdot$ 1'10 1'30 $\frac{6}{4}$ $\frac{7}{4}$

Pno.

(single) $\text{e} \cdot \text{e} \cdot \text{e} \cdot$ 6 (excl.) $\text{e} \cdot \text{e} \cdot \text{e} \cdot$ 1'10 1'30 (single) $\text{e} \cdot \text{e} \cdot \text{e} \cdot$ 6 *p* $\frac{6}{4}$ $\frac{7}{4}$

Tape

(single) $\text{e} \cdot \text{e} \cdot \text{e} \cdot$ 8 $\text{e} \cdot \text{e} \cdot \text{e} \cdot$ Ped. $\frac{6}{4}$ $\frac{7}{4}$

ff

Alto Sax.

Pno.

Tape

Alto Sax.

Pno.

Tape

Alto Sax.

Alto Saxophone staff with notes, trills, and dynamic markings. Includes a triplet of eighth notes and trills marked with 'tr' and wavy lines.

Pno.

Piano accompaniment staff with chords and pedal markings. Includes a 'Ped.' marking with a wedge-shaped symbol.

Tape

Tape staff with rests and time signature changes from 7/4 to 6/4 and back to 7/4.

Alto Sax.

Alto Saxophone staff with notes and dynamic markings. Includes dynamic markings *pp*, *p*, and *pp* with wedge-shaped symbols.

Pno.

Piano accompaniment staff with notes and pedal markings. Includes a 'Ped.' marking and '(pedal freely)'.

Tape

Tape staff with notes and rests. Includes a double bar line and a rest.

a measure

varied length

begin to freely
displace octave 8^{vb} , 15^{mb}

sparser and sparser
subtone

15

Alto Sax.

Alto Saxophone staff with musical notation. It starts with a whole rest, followed by two eighth notes with a slur. Then another whole rest, followed by two eighth notes with a slur. A box labeled 'varied length' contains a note with a 't' above it. The staff continues with a series of wavy lines representing tremolos, which become sparser towards the end. A box labeled '30"' is at the end of the staff.

pp

Pno.

Piano staff with musical notation. It features sustained chords in both hands. A box labeled 'v' contains a chord with a sharp sign, and a box labeled 'w' contains a chord with a flat sign. A double-headed arrow is between these boxes. A box labeled 'x+' contains a note with a plus sign above it. The staff continues with a series of wavy lines representing tremolos, which become sparser towards the end. A box labeled '30"' is at the end of the staff.

pp

(occasionally)

sparser and sparser

Tape

Tape staff with musical notation. It features a series of chords with accents (>) above them. The staff continues with a series of wavy lines representing tremolos, which become sparser towards the end. A box labeled '30"' is at the end of the staff.