

Sonata for Alto Saxophone (or Clarinet) and Piano

My Saxophone Sonata was composed in late 2004 for the saxophonist Johanne McMullan, then a final year student at Edinburgh University, for her degree recital. It is in many ways a continuation of my exploration of the interface between the "serious" and the "popular" in music, the first manifestation of which was my 2002 Piano Quintet.

The first movement (*Prelude*) is driven by a harmonic logic which is essentially quartal, and a melodic one based around the whole-tone scale. The *Chorale and Passacaglia* is derived entirely from three distinct twelve-note rows, and is an attempt to re-imagine Schoenberg's early twelve-tone discoveries through a jazz-inflected aesthetic. The *Rondo* finale is an up-tempo chromatic work-out, the tonal centre of which is continually shifting. The piece covers the entire register of the alto saxophone, thus comprehensively demonstrating the technical capabilities of the instrument. In addition, the characteristic melodies contained within the piece ably demonstrate the lyrical capacity of the alto sax.

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The first performance of the Saxophone Sonata was given on 25th May 2005 in the Reid Concert Hall, Edinburgh by Johanne McMullan (alto saxophone) and Andrew Johnston (piano).

An arrangement of the piece for **piano and clarinet** was written in 2015 for the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. The third movement of this arrangement was premièred in St Mark's Unitarian Church, Edinburgh on 25 August 2015 by Jean Johnson (clarinet) and Andrew Johnston (piano).

The part for clarinet in B-flat is included within this PDF file. (Note that the piano part is the same for both the clarinet and saxophone versions).

Further information on the composer's work is available at www.julianwagstaff.com.