

SONG FOR THE TIDE

FOR SAXOPHONE OCTET

ANDREW STEFFEN

PERFORMANCE NOTES:

Song for the Tide is written and dedicated to the Saxophone Octet at Oklahoma State University for their 2016 performance at the Midwest Clinic (Chicago, IL).

This piece is an exploration/study of harmony and melody in creating a sense of yearning and longing. The tide's burning desire to experience what is beyond shore and the horizon from its dictated cycle of high and low. The various tempo changes represent the anxiousness and energy of the tide as it contemplates and dreams of knowing more than just the shore its seen for eons.

The consistent 'ebbing' in the melodies accompanimental parts should strive for passing pitches seamlessly between one another. The overall effect should be of the utmost connectivity of pitches and harmonic support to the melodic lines and generate energy created by melodic lines in their own part.

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Song for the Tide

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Ebbing, with rubato (♩ = 58 ca.)

The score is for an octet of saxophones in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major. It consists of eight staves, each for a different saxophone part. The tempo is marked 'Ebbing, with rubato' with a quarter note equal to approximately 58 beats per minute. The piece is divided into several sections with different tempo markings: 'rit.' (ritardando), 'a tempo', 'poco rit.' (ritardando), and 'a tempo' again. Dynamics range from piano (*p*) to mezzo-piano (*mp*). Articulation includes 'molto legato' and 'yearning' (indicated by slurs). The Soprano and Alto parts have melodic lines with triplets and slurs. The Tenor and Baritone parts play a steady eighth-note accompaniment. The Baritone parts enter in the final section with a melodic line.

Tempo markings: rit., a tempo, poco rit., a tempo

Dynamics: *p*, *mp*

Articulation: *molto legato*, *yearning*

Staff Labels: Soprano Sax 1, Soprano Sax 2, Alto Sax 1, Alto Sax 2, Tenor Sax 1, Tenor Sax 2, Baritone Sax 1, Baritone Sax 2

Poco Più Mosso (♩ = 76)

This musical score page contains eight staves, labeled S. Sx. 1 1, S. Sx. 2, A. Sx. 1, A. Sx. 2, T. Sx. 1, T. Sx. 2, B. Sx. 1, and B. Sx. 2. The music is in a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a 3/4 time signature. The score begins at measure 9, marked with a fermata. The woodwind parts (A. Sx. 1, A. Sx. 2, T. Sx. 1, T. Sx. 2) play a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes, starting in measure 10. The string parts (S. Sx. 1 1, S. Sx. 2) play a melodic line with slurs and accents, starting in measure 10. Dynamic markings include *mp*, *mf*, and *p*. A triplet of eighth notes is indicated in measures 11 and 12. The score concludes at measure 16 with a 3/4 time signature.

17 *mf* rit. **A tempo I**

S. Sax 1 & 2: Measures 17-19 feature a melodic line with a *mf* dynamic. Measure 20 is a whole rest.

A. Sax 1 & 2: Measures 17-19 feature a melodic line with a *mf* dynamic. Measure 20 is a whole rest.

T. Sax 1 & 2: Measures 17-19 feature a melodic line with a *f* dynamic. Measure 20 is a whole rest.

B. Sax 1 & 2: Measures 17-19 are whole rests. Measure 20 features a melodic line with a *mf* dynamic.

Performance Instructions: *mf*, *f*, *mp*, *molto legato*, triplets (3), *rit.*, **A tempo I**

poco rit. **Stirring** (♩ = 120)The musical score is written for eight staves, labeled S. Sx. 1 1, S. Sx. 2, A. Sx. 1, A. Sx. 2, T. Sx. 1, T. Sx. 2, B. Sx. 1, and B. Sx. 2. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The time signature starts as 4/4 and changes to 3/4 in the final measure of each system. The score features various dynamics including *mf*, *mp*, *p*, and *cresc. poco a poco*. It includes triplet markings and a *poco rit.* instruction. The first measure of the first system is numbered 23.

23

S. Sx. 1 1

S. Sx. 2

A. Sx. 1

A. Sx. 2

T. Sx. 1

T. Sx. 2

B. Sx. 1

B. Sx. 2

mf

mf

mf

mp

cresc. poco a poco

p

cresc. poco a poco

p

cresc. poco a poco

mf

mf

mf

31

The musical score consists of eight staves, each representing a different woodwind instrument. The notation includes various note values, slurs, and dynamic markings. The first staff (S. Sax 1) begins with a measure number '31' and a 'cresc. poco a poco' instruction. The second staff (S. Sax 2) also has a 'cresc. poco a poco' instruction. The third staff (A. Sax 1) has a 'mf' dynamic marking. The fourth staff (A. Sax 2) features a 'mf' dynamic marking and contains several triplet markings. The fifth staff (T. Sax 1) has a 'mf' dynamic marking. The sixth staff (T. Sax 2) has a 'mf' dynamic marking and contains several triplet markings. The seventh staff (B. Sax 1) has a 'cresc. poco a poco' instruction and a 'mf' dynamic marking. The eighth staff (B. Sax 2) has a 'cresc. poco a poco' instruction. The score is written in a key signature of two flats and a common time signature.

poco rit. **A tempo I**

S. Sx. 1 1

S. Sx. 2

A. Sx. 1

A. Sx. 2

T. Sx. 1

T. Sx. 2

B. Sx. 1

B. Sx. 2

39

mf yearning

mp

40

41

42

Poco Più Mosso (♩ = 76)

45

S. Sx. 1 1
mf

S. Sx. 2
mf

A. Sx. 1
f misterioso

A. Sx. 2
mp

T. Sx. 1
mf

T. Sx. 2
mf

B. Sx. 1
mf

B. Sx. 2
mp

Detailed description: This page of a musical score, numbered 9, contains measures 45 through 50. The tempo is 'Poco Più Mosso' with a quarter note equal to 76 beats per minute. The score is for a string quartet and woodwinds. The woodwinds (A. Sx. 1 and T. Sx. 1) play a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes, marked 'f' and 'misterioso'. The strings (S. Sx. 1, S. Sx. 2, T. Sx. 2, B. Sx. 1) play sustained notes with long bows, marked 'mf'. The woodwinds (A. Sx. 2, T. Sx. 2, B. Sx. 2) enter in measure 50 with a melodic line marked 'mp'. The score is in 2/4 time, with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). Measure numbers 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, and 50 are indicated at the top of each measure.

51

S. Sx. 1 1

S. Sx. 2

A. Sx. 1

A. Sx. 2

T. Sx. 1

T. Sx. 2

B. Sx. 1

B. Sx. 2

cresc. poco a poco

mf

cresc. poco a poco

mf

cresc. poco a poco

mf

cresc. poco a poco

mf

cresc. poco a poco

mf

cresc. poco a poco

mf

molto rit.

Detailed description: This page of a musical score, numbered 10, contains measures 51 through 55. It features eight staves: two for strings (S. Sx. 1 and 2), two for alto saxophones (A. Sx. 1 and 2), two for tenor saxophones (T. Sx. 1 and 2), and two for baritone saxophones (B. Sx. 1 and 2). The key signature is three flats (B-flat major/D-flat minor). The time signature starts in 4/4, changes to 2/4 at measure 52, and returns to 4/4 for the remainder of the page. The string parts play sustained chords with some movement in the upper register. The woodwind parts feature rhythmic patterns, including triplets in measures 51 and 52, and sixteenth-note passages in measures 53 and 54. Dynamic markings include *cresc. poco a poco* and *mf*. A *molto rit.* marking appears at the end of measure 55.

62

S. Sx. 1 1

S. Sx. 2

A. Sx. 1

A. Sx. 2

T. Sx. 1

T. Sx. 2

B. Sx. 1

B. Sx. 2

p lontano

mp misterioso *sim.*

mp dark