

Transposed Score

Note: Not all pages are included in this perusal score.

Write Your Own Way

Sonata for Alto Saxophone and Piano

Parker Fritz
(2025)

Commissioned by Joseph Luloff

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Write Your Own Way

Sonata for Alto Saxophone and Piano

Parker Fritz (b. 1997)

Duration: ca. 22 min.

Commissioned by Joseph Lulloff

I. Tethered Sway (6 min.)

II. Unabashed (3 min.)

III. The Weight of Calm (8.5 min.)

IV. Machine Jam (4.5 min.)

Thank you to Joseph Lulloff, Yu-Lien The, and Ricardo Lorenz for their guidance, mentorship, and artistry in bringing this piece to life.

Program Note

Write Your Own Way is a piece about the self—about what it means to be an artist, a musician, and a human being. It explores themes of self-discovery, reflection, and maturation through synthesizing the musical styles and characteristics of the saxophone which sparked my initial interest in becoming a musician: the saxophone's lyricism and likeness to the human voice, post-minimalism's treatment of rhythm and motive, and the expressive virtuosity of early Romantic-era piano music. I approached writing this work in a nonlinear, organic way, allowing the music to unfold naturally and assume its own identity while I simply guided it along, drawing a parallel between the development of the music and the growth of my own artistic identity.

This piece is cast in four movements, each depicting a different aspect of self-discovery. The first movement, "Tethered Sway," is a brooding, dark dance wishing to cast aside its self-imposed limitations. "Unabashed" is an off-kilter, naive and overconfident scherzando. "The Weight of Calm" respects and admires the process of gaining wisdom through overcoming personal challenges. The final movement, "Machine Jam," is a return to form inspired by the experiences that set the journey of self-discovery in motion.

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1. Tethered Sway

Constrained, dance-like ♩ = 134

The musical score is presented in three systems. The first system (measures 1-6) features the Alto Saxophone with dynamics *pp*, *mf*, *pp*, *mf*, and *pp*, and the Piano with dynamics *p* and *Red.*. The second system (measures 7-11) includes a first ending bracket labeled 'A' over measures 7-8, with dynamics *mf*, *pp*, *mf*, and *pp* for the saxophone, and *p*, *mp*, and *p* for the piano. The third system (measures 12-15) continues with dynamics *mf*, *p*, *mf* for the saxophone and *mf*, *p*, *mf* for the piano. The score is in 4/4 time and includes various articulations and phrasing slurs.

16 **B**

Musical score for section B, measures 16-22. The piano part (left hand) features a rhythmic accompaniment with chords and moving lines. The right hand part has melodic lines with dynamics ranging from *f* to *p*. A *Red.* (Reduction) line is shown below the piano part.

23 **C**

Musical score for section C, measures 23-27. The piano part continues with a similar accompaniment. The right hand part includes a triplet in measure 27. Dynamics range from *pp* to *f*. A *Red.* line is present below the piano part.

28

Musical score for section C, measures 28-32. The piano part continues with a similar accompaniment. The right hand part includes a quintuplet in measure 31. Dynamics range from *p* to *f*. A *Red.* line is present below the piano part.

33 **D**

Musical score for section D, measures 33-39. The piano part continues with a similar accompaniment. The right hand part includes a melodic line with dynamics ranging from *mp* to *f*. A *Red.* line is present below the piano part.

38

Musical score for measures 38-43. The system includes a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line starts with a *cresc.* marking and ends with a *f* marking. The piano accompaniment also features a *cresc.* marking and a *f* marking. The music is in a complex, multi-measure structure with various time signatures.

44

E

Musical score for measures 44-48. The system includes a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line begins with a *p leggiero* marking. The piano accompaniment features a *f* marking and a *p grooving* marking. A *Red.* marking is present at the bottom of the piano part. A box containing the letter 'E' is positioned above the vocal line.

49

Musical score for measures 49-52. The system includes a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line has a *f* marking followed by a *p* marking. The piano accompaniment has a *f* marking followed by a *p* marking. There are four *Red.* markings at the bottom of the piano part.

53

Musical score for measures 53-58. The system includes a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line has a *f* marking. The piano accompaniment has a *f* marking. There are four *Red.* markings at the bottom of the piano part.

58 *fp* *f* *sub. p* *mp*

F

molto rall...... *a tempo*

63 *p* *p leggiero* *pedal sim.*

69 *mf*

G

75 *p* *with pedal, as before*

81

89 **H**

96

I
103

2. Unabashed

Striking, frenetic ♩ = 84

rit.....

Alto Saxophone

Piano

ffurioso *sfz* *p*

ffurioso *p*

Red.

6 a tempo

f *sfz* *p*

f *p*

12 a tempo

sub.f *p*

f *p*

Red.

* All cesura in this movement should be brief.

Musical score for measures 17-21. The system consists of three staves: a single treble clef staff at the top, and a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) below. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 2/4. Measure 17 starts with a piano (*pp*) dynamic. Measures 18-20 feature a forte (*f*) dynamic with sixteenth-note runs, each marked with a '6' and a slur. Measure 21 has a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic with a triplet of eighth notes. The word 'Red.' is written below the grand staff in measures 18, 20, and 21.

A Scherzando ♩ = 168-188

Musical score for measures 22-27. The system consists of three staves: a single treble clef staff at the top, and a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) below. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 2/4. Measure 22 starts with a piano (*p*) dynamic and a triplet of eighth notes. Measure 23 has a piano (*p*) dynamic with the instruction 'p leggiero'. Measures 24-27 continue with piano (*p*) dynamics and various rhythmic patterns, including triplets and slurs. The word 'Red.' is written below the grand staff in measure 22.

Musical score for measures 28-32. The system consists of three staves: a single treble clef staff at the top, and a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) below. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/8. Measure 28 starts with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic and a triplet of eighth notes. Measures 29-32 continue with dynamics ranging from piano (*p*) to mezzo-forte (*mf*), featuring various rhythmic patterns and slurs. The word 'Red.' is written below the grand staff in measure 32.

Musical score for measures 33-37. The system consists of three staves: a single treble clef staff at the top, and a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) below. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/8. Measure 33 starts with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic and a triplet of eighth notes. Measures 34-37 continue with dynamics ranging from mezzo-forte (*mf*) to piano (*p*), featuring various rhythmic patterns and slurs.

39

mf *p*

mf *p*

Red.

B

43

f intense

f intense

sfz *Red.* *sfz* *Red.* *sfz*

49

fp *ff*

fp *ff*

Red.

53

sub. p

Red. *Red.*

3. The Weight of Calm

Begin when piano note has mostly decayed

Frozen, suspended ♩ = 56

Alto Saxophone

Piano

pp *non vib.* *mp* *espress.* 5

Gradually add vibrato

(held from previous movement)

7 *p* 5 *pp* *a piacere, gently* 5

13 *rall.....* **A** *a tempo, very free* ♩ = 56 *p* 5 6

p lush 5 6

17 5 *rubato espress.* 5

31

p *mf* *mf*

(Red.) Red.

34

C *a tempo*

pp *mf* *espress., a piacere*

p legato *mf*

Red. Red.

39

p *p* *mf*

p *mf*

Red.

43 *p dolce*

45 *mf*

47 *p* poco accel..... $\text{♩} = 68$ *rall.* **D** *Con moto* $\text{♩} = 76$ *f passionato*

4. Machine Jam

Incessant, bristling $\text{♩} = 96$

Alto Saxophone

Piano

fp *fp* *wild* *f* *punchy*

4

staccato sim.

7

10

ff *ff* *con fuoco*

5 5 6 6 6

Red.

12

8va
dim.....
(sc.)

15

A floating
pp *leggiero*

mp *p*

18

21

24

Musical notation for measures 24-26. Treble clef with eighth notes and slurs. Piano part with eighth notes and slurs. Bass clef with whole notes.

27 **B**

mp espress.

mp

legato

5

Musical notation for measures 27-29. Treble clef with quarter notes and slurs. Piano part with eighth notes and slurs. Bass clef with quarter notes. Dynamic markings include *mp espress.*, *mp*, and *legato*. A '5' is written above the piano part.

30

Musical notation for measures 30-32. Treble clef with eighth notes and slurs. Piano part with eighth notes and slurs. Bass clef with quarter notes and slurs.

33 **C**

f driving

enh.

f

Musical notation for measures 33-35. Treble clef with quarter notes and slurs. Piano part with eighth notes and slurs. Bass clef with quarter notes and slurs. Dynamic markings include *f driving*, *enh.*, and *f*. A 'C' is written above the treble clef.

36 *staccato sim.*

39 **D**

43 *passionato*

47 **E**

staccato sim.

50

53

56

59

mf

mf

dim.

p

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