

Messier 5

for spatialized alto saxophone quintet

Tyler Futrell (2011/13)



Durata: 10 min.

Glossary of Terms and Symbols

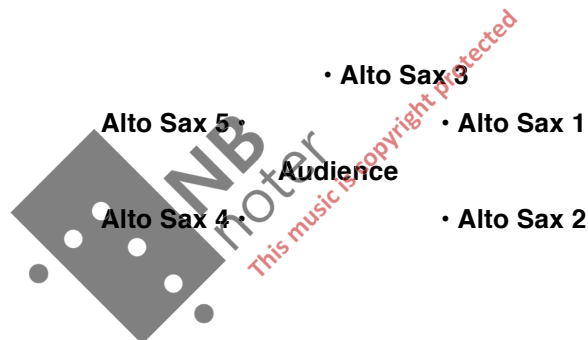
♯	1/4-tone sharp (50 cents sharp)	♭	1/4-tone flat (50 cents flat)
##	3/4-tone sharp (150 cents sharp)	♭♭	3/4-tone flat (150 cents flat)

sung	Sing the notes written in smaller noteheads while playing the larger ones on the instrument (sung notes are also transposed).
air-tone	Blow air through the instrument. No pitch.
niente swell	<i>Crescendo dal niente</i> to <i>fortissimo</i> evenly over the indicated duration.

Performance Notes

Spatialized staging

The five instruments nearly surround the audience, with no one on the stage (if there is one), in a modified pentagon:



Passing

Perhaps the most important musical effect used in this piece is the passing of notes from one instrument to another. This is done by pairing a fade-in on one instrument with a fade-out on another, on the same pitch. For the effect to work – that is, for the sound source to *appear* to travel – careful coordination between passer and receiver (usually, but not always, neighbors) must be maintained. Additionally, beginning the note *dal niente* is exceedingly important.

The “Black Hole”

In measures 63 to 67, all instruments converge from their starting pitches onto a mid-register F-natural (concert pitch), by way of an extremely gradual glissando. Most likely this glissando must be “faked”, using any tools the instrumentalist has at their disposal. This includes chromatic fingering, bending pitch by lip, or singing a glissando inside the instrument.

In each part pitches are written, however these are only signposts indicating when, approximately, each pitch should be passed. Every effort should be made so that the notated pitches are *not* emphasized; the goal is a smooth glissando.

Score in C

Messier 5 (version for alto saxophones)

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Molto Sostenuto ♩ = 48

Alto sax 1

Alto sax 2

Alto Sax 3

Alto sax 4

Alto sax 5

10

1

2

3

4

5

NB noter
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Messier 5

20

1 *ppp* *f* *ppp* *ppp* *f* *ppp* *ppp* *f* *ppp*

2 *ppp* *f* *ppp* *ppp* *f* *ppp* *ppp* *f* *ppp*

3 *f* *ppp* *ppp* *f* *ppp* *ppp* *f* *ppp* *ppp* *f* *ppp*

4 *ppp* *f* *ppp* *ppp* *f* *ppp* *ppp* *f* *ppp*

5 *ppp* *f* *ppp* *ppp* *f* *ppp* *ppp* *f* *ppp*

A

30

1 *ppp* *f* *ppp* *ppp* *f* *ppp* *ppp* *f* *ppp*

2 *f* *ppp* *ppp* *f* *ppp* *ppp* *f* *ppp*

3 *ppp* *f* *ppp* *ppp* *f* *ppp* *ppp* *f* *ppp*

4 *ppp* *f* *ppp* *ppp* *f* *ppp* *ppp* *f* *ppp*

5 *f* *ppp* *ppp* *f* *ppp* *ppp* *f* *ppp*

Messier 5

40

1 *f* *ppp* *f* *ppp* *f* *ppp* *f* *ppp* *f* *ppp*

2 *ppp* *f* *ppp* *f* *ppp* *f* *ppp* *f* *ppp* *f*

3 *ppp* *f* *ppp* *f* *ppp* *f* *ppp* *f* *ppp* *f*

4 *ppp* *f* *ppp* *f* *ppp* *f* *ppp* *f* *ppp* *f*

5 *f* *ppp* *f* *ppp* *f* *ppp* *f* *ppp* *f* *ppp*

B

50

1 *f* *ppp* *f* *ppp* *f* *ppp* *f* *ppp* *f* *ppp*

2 *ppp* *f* *ppp* *f* *ppp* *f* *ppp* *f* *ppp* *f*

3 *ppp* *f* *ppp* *f* *ppp* *f* *ppp* *f* *ppp* *f*

4 *ppp* *f* *ppp* *f* *ppp* *f* *ppp* *f* *ppp* *f*

5 *f* *ppp* *f* *ppp* *f* *ppp* *f* *ppp* *f* *ppp*

C One extremely gradual gliss.

61

1 *ppp* *f* *ff* *ppp*

2 *ppp* *f* *ff*

3 *ppp* *f* *ff* *ppp*

4 *f* *ppp* *f* *ff*

5 *ppp* *f* *ff* *ppp*

D

69

1 *ppp* *mf* *ppp* *ppp* *mf* *mf*

2 *mp* *ppp* *mf* *mp* *ppp* *mf* *pp*

3 *ppp* *mf* *ppp* *mf* *p*

4 sung *mp* *ppp* *ppp* *mf*

5 sung *ppp* *mf* *ppp* *ppp* *mf*

77

1 *pp* *pp* *sfz* *sfz*

2 *pp* *sfz* *sfz*

3 *pp* *pp* *ff* *pp* *ff* *pp* *ff* *pp* *sfz* *sfz*

4 *pp* *pp* *sfz* *sfz*

5 *pp* *pp* *sfz* *sfz*

Tempo I ♩ = 48

86

1 *pp* *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* *niente swells* *f* *pp* *ff*

2 *pp* *air-tone* *niente swells* *f* *pp* *ff*

3 *pp* *air-tone* *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* *f* *pp*

4 *pp* *air-tone* *niente swells* *f* *pp* *ff* *pp*

5 *pp* *air-tone* *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* *f* *pp* *ff*

air-tone *niente swells* *f* *pp* *ff*

92

1 *pp* *ff* *pp* *ff* *pp* *ff* *pp* *ff*

2 *pp* *ff* *pp* *ff* *pp* *ff* *pp* *ff*

3 *ff* *pp* *ff* *pp* *ff* *mp* *mp* *mp*

4 *ff* *pp* *ff* *pp* *ff* *pp* *ff* *pp*

5 *pp* *ff* *pp* *ff* *pp* *ff* *pp* *ff*

Più Mosso ♩ = 54

98

1 *pp* *ff* *ppp* *mf* *ppp* *mf*

2 *pp* *ff* *ppp* *mf* *ppp* *mf*

3 *mp* *mf*

4 *ff* *pp* *ff* *ppp* *mf* *mf*

5 *ff* *pp* *ff* *ppp* *mf* *ppp* *mf*

Messier 5

104

1 *mf* *ppp* *mf* *ppp* *mf*

2 *ppp* *mf* *mf* *ppp* *mf* *mf* *ppp*

3

4 *ppp* *mf* *ppp* *mf* *mf* *ppp*

5 *mf* *ppp* *mf* *ppp* *mf*

113

F

1 *mf* *ppp* *mf* *f* *p*

2 *mf* *ppp* *mf* *f* *p*

3 *mf* *ppp* *mf* *f* *p*

4 *mf* *ppp* *mf* *f* *p*

5 *mf* *ppp* *mf* *f* *p*

duration: approx. 10 min.