

Excerpt from

Writing for Saxophones: A Guide to the Tonal Palette of the Saxophone Family for Composers, Arrangers and Performers

by Jay C. Easton, D.M.A.

(for further excerpts and ordering information, please visit <http://baxtermusicpublishing.com>)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
List of Figures	iv
List of Printed Musical Examples and CD Track List	vi
Explanation of Notational Conventions and Abbreviations	xi
Part I: The Saxophone Family – Past and Present	1
An Introduction to the Life and Work of Adolphe Sax (1814-1894)	1
Physical Development of the Saxophone Family	13
A Comparison of Original Saxophones with Modern Saxophones	20
Changes in Saxophone Design and Production	26
Historical Overview of the Spread of the Saxophone Family	32
Part II: Writing for the Saxophone as a Solo Voice	57
The “Sound-of-Sax”	57
General Information on Writing for Saxophone	61
Saxophone Vibrato	63
The Saxophone Mouthpiece: “Classical” vs. “Jazz”	65
A Few Common Errors in Writing for Saxophone	68
The Family Gallery: a Portrait of Each Saxophone's Unique Character	70
Common Saxophones	74
B-flat soprano saxophone	74
E-flat alto saxophone	78

B-flat tenor saxophone	80
E-flat baritone saxophone	82
Specialty Saxophones	86
B-flat piccolo saxophone	86
E-flat soprano saxophone.....	88
B-flat bass saxophone	91
E-flat contrabass saxophone	94
B-flat subcontrabass saxophone.....	98
Historical Saxophones	102
C soprano saxophone	102
F mezzo-soprano saxophone.....	104
C tenor saxophone.....	108
Adolphe Sax-style instruments	110
Printed and Recorded Examples of Each Instrument of the Saxophone Family	112
A Single Scale, Many Saxophones	114
Fourteen Saxophones, Fourteen Melodies.....	115
Fourteen Saxophones, One Melody	128
Part III: Writing for the Saxophone in Ensemble	135
Saxophone Small Ensembles: Duo through Quintet.....	135
Saxophone Large Ensembles: Six or More Saxophones	140
Suggestions for Effective Ensemble Writing.....	142
Printed and Recorded Examples for Saxophone Ensemble Writing	144
Saxophone Quartet Timbral Permutations – Three Octaves of Quartets.....	144

Saxophone Quartet Timbral Permutations – Substituting One Saxophone	153
Saxophone Quartet Timbral Permutations – Four of a Kind	163
Saxophone Quartet Timbral Permutations – Mix and Match	167
Saxophone Quintet – SATB and Contrabass	183
Saxophone Sextet – Two Trios	189
Special Ensemble Colors and Effects for Saxophones	191
The Saxophone Family Subdivided	225
The Saxophone Family United	230
Part IV: Extended Techniques for Saxophone	237
Extending the Saxophone Range Upwards	239
Extending the Saxophone Range Downwards	243
Note Duration Extensions	244
Multiple Sounds	245
Non-standard Articulations	249
Microtones	253
Timbral Alterations	254
Non-standard Vibrato	258
Bent Pitches	259
Textural Sounds, Rhythmic Effects and Further Exploration	260
References	263
Appendix I: Information about the Recorded Examples	277
Appendix II: Guide to Saxophone Fingerings	281

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure	Page
Figure 1.1: Portrait of young Adolphe Sax.....	1
Figure 1.2: Mid-life photograph of Adolphe Sax	9
Figure 1.3: Adolphe Sax portrait by Charles Bagniet.....	12
Figure 1.4: Sketch of the saxophone family from the original patent of 1846	14
Figure 1.5: Quintet of saxophones made by Adolphe Sax.....	20
Figure 1.6: B-flat soprano and E-flat alto saxophones by Adolphe Sax.....	23
Figure 1.7: B-flat tenor saxophone by Adolphe Sax.....	23
Figure 1.8: E-flat baritone saxophones	24
Figure 1.9: B-flat bass saxophones	25
Figure 1.10: 1928 Mezzo-soprano saxophone advertisement.....	29
Figure 1.11: The Six Brown Brothers saxophone band	39
Figure 1.12: The Four Musical Cates saxophone band.....	41
Figure 1.13: Rudy Wiedoeft	42
Figure 1.14: Frank “Tram” Trumbauer and Adrian Rollini.....	45
Figure 1.15: Marcel Mule	52
Figure 1.16: Sigurd Raschèr	54
Figure 1.17: Sigurd and Carina Raschèr	56
Figure 2.1: B-flat soprano saxophones (straight and curved)	74
Figure 2.2: E-flat alto saxophone.....	78
Figure 2.3: B-flat tenor saxophone	80
Figure 2.4: E-flat baritone saxophones	82

Figure 2.5: B-flat piccolo saxophone.....	86
Figure 2.6: E-flat soprano saxophones (straight and curved)	88
Figure 2.7: B-flat bass saxophone.....	91
Figure 2.8: E-flat contrabass saxophone.....	94
Figure 2.9: B-flat subcontrabass saxophone	98
Figure 2.10: E-flat and B-flat Tubaxes	101
Figure 2.11: C soprano saxophone.....	102
Figure 2.12: F mezzo-soprano saxophone	104
Figure 2.13: 1928 Conn-O-Sax advertisement	107
Figure 2.14: C tenor saxophone	108

LIST OF PRINTED MUSICAL EXAMPLES AND CD TRACK LIST

Musical Example and CD Track	Page
Musical Example A: Saxophone register nomenclature chart.....	xi
Musical Example 1.1: recorded comparison of 1876 Adolphe Sax and 1999 Selmer bass saxophones, CD track 1	22
Musical Example 2.1: classical mouthpiece vs. jazz mouthpiece comparison, CD tracks 2 through 5	67
Musical Example 2.2: transposed range of B-flat soprano saxophone.....	75
Musical Example 2.3: transposed range of E-flat alto saxophone.....	78
Musical Example 2.4: transposed range of B-flat tenor saxophone	80
Musical Example 2.5: transposed range of E-flat baritone saxophone.....	82
Musical Example 2.6: transposed range of B-flat piccolo saxophone.....	87
Musical Example 2.7: transposed range of E-flat soprano saxophone	89
Musical Example 2.8: transposed range of B-flat bass saxophone.....	92
Musical Example 2.9: transposed range of E-flat contrabass saxophone.....	95
Musical Example 2.10: transposed range of B-flat subcontrabass saxophone	99
Musical Example 2.11: range of C soprano saxophone.....	102
Musical Example 2.12: transposed range of F mezzo-soprano saxophone	105
Musical Example 2.13: transposed range of C tenor saxophone	109
Musical Example 2.14: range chart of complete family of twelve saxophones	112
Musical Example 2.15: scale to demonstrate typical standard range of each saxophone, CD tracks 6-19.....	114
Musical Example 2.16: B-flat piccolo saxophone demo, CD track 20.....	116
Musical Example 2.17: E-flat soprano saxophone demo, CD track 21	117

Musical Example 2.18: C soprano saxophone demo, CD track 22	118
Musical Example 2.19: B-flat soprano saxophone demo, CD track 23	119
Musical Example 2.20: B-flat soprano (Adolphe Sax-type) demo, CD track 24	120
Musical Example 2.21: F mezzo-soprano saxophone demo, CD track 25	121
Musical Example 2.22: E-flat alto saxophone demo, CD track 26	122
Musical Example 2.23: E-flat alto (Adolphe Sax-type) demo, CD track 27	123
Musical Example 2.24: C tenor saxophone demo, CD track 38	123
Musical Example 2.25: B-flat tenor saxophone demo, CD track 29	124
Musical Example 2.26: E-flat baritone saxophone demo, CD track 30	124
Musical Example 2.27: B-flat bass saxophone demo, CD track 31	125
Musical Example 2.28: E-flat contrabass saxophone demo, CD track 32	126
Musical Example 2.29: B-flat subcontrabass saxophone demo, CD track 33	127
Musical Example 2.30: B-flat piccolo saxophone lyrical demo, CD track 34	128
Musical Example 2.31: E-flat sopranino saxophone lyrical demo, CD track 35	129
Musical Example 2.32: C soprano saxophone lyrical demo, CD track 36	129
Musical Example 2.33: B-flat soprano saxophone lyrical demo, CD track 37	130
Adolphe Sax-type B-flat soprano lyrical demo, CD track 38	
Musical Example 2.34: F mezzo-soprano saxophone lyrical demo, CD track 39	130
Musical Example 2.35: modern E-flat alto saxophone lyrical demo, CD track 40	131
Adolphe Sax-type E-flat alto saxophone lyrical demo, CD track 41	
Musical Example 2.36: C tenor saxophone lyrical demo, CD track 42	131
Musical Example 2.37: B-flat tenor saxophone lyrical demo, CD track 43	132
Musical Example 2.38: E-flat baritone saxophone lyrical demo, CD track 44	132
Musical Example 2.39: B-flat bass saxophone lyrical demo, CD track 45	133

Musical Example 2.40: E-flat contrabass saxophone lyrical demo, CD track 46.....	133
Musical Example 2.41: B-flat subcontrabass saxophone lyrical demo, CD track 47	134
Musical Example 3.1: five-part jazz big band saxophone writing, CD track 48	139
Musical Example 3.2: <i>Eventide</i> scored for S-A-T-B quartet, CD track 49	145
Musical Example 3.3: <i>Eventide</i> scored for picc-Sno-S-A quartet, CD track 50.....	146
Musical Example 3.4: <i>Eventide</i> scored for T-B-Bs-Cb quartet, CD track 51.....	147
Musical Example 3.5: all three versions of <i>Eventide</i> stacked vertically into a large ensemble and played simultaneously, CD track 52	148
Musical Example 3.6: <i>Gaudete</i> scored for S-A-T-B quartet, CD track 53.....	154
Musical Example 3.7: <i>Gaudete</i> , higher scoring: Sno-S-A-T, CD track 54	157
Musical Example 3.8: <i>Gaudete</i> , lower scoring: A-T-B-Bs, CD track 55	160
Musical Example 3.9: <i>Southwell</i> scored for S-S-S-S quartet, CD track 56.....	163
Musical Example 3.10: <i>Southwell</i> scored for A-A-A-A quartet, CD track 57	164
Musical Example 3.11: <i>Southwell</i> scored for T-T-T-T, CD track 58	165
Musical Example 3.12: <i>Southwell</i> scored for B-B-B-B, CD track 59	166
Musical Example 3.13: <i>Chorale 91</i> scored for C soprano-F mezzo-C tenor-B, CD track 60	168
Musical Example 3.14: <i>Chorale 91</i> scored for S-A-T-B, CD track 61	170
Musical Example 3.15: <i>Chorale 91</i> scored for F mezzo-A-T-B, CD track 62	172
Musical Example 3.16: <i>Chorale 91</i> scored for A-A-T-B, CD track 63.....	174
Musical Example 3.17: <i>Chorale 91</i> scored for quintet: A-A-T-B-Bs, CD track 64...	176
Musical Example 3.18: <i>Chorale 91</i> scored for large saxophone ensemble with shifting instrumentation to create contrasting textures, CD track 65.....	179
Musical Example 3.19: S-A-T-B-Cb quintet example, CD track 66.....	184

Musical Example 3.20: S-A-A-T-B-Bs sextet example, CD track 67	189
Musical Example 3.21: two-voice timbral tremolo example, CD track 68	192
Musical Example 3.22: “clouds of sound” examples, CD track 69	193
Musical Example 3.23: excerpt of Hartley’s <i>Octet for Saxophones</i> , CD track 70	196
Musical Example 3.24: saxophone large ensemble from piccolo through bass, CD track 71	198
Musical Example 3.25: saxophone large ensemble from sopranino through contrabass, CD track 72	210
Musical Example 3.26: “pizzicato” (slap tongue) ensemble, CD track 73	222
Musical Example 3.27: subdivided ensemble and soloist, CD track 74	225
Musical Example 3.28: 20-piece saxophone choir example, CD track 75	230
Musical Example 4.1: altissimo range of B-flat soprano saxophone, CD track 76	242
Musical Example 4.2: altissimo range of E-flat alto saxophone, CD track 77	242
Musical Example 4.3: altissimo range of B-flat tenor saxophone, CD track 78	242
Musical Example 4.4: altissimo range of E-flat baritone saxophone, CD track 79	242
Musical Example 4.5: various saxophone multiphonics, CD track 80	246
Musical Example 4.6: “Vox-Sax” demonstration, CD track 81	247
Musical Example 4.7: playing two saxophones simultaneously, CD track 82	248
Musical Example 4.8: double- and triple-tonguing, CD track 83	250
Musical Example 4.9: half-tongue damping, CD track 84	250
Musical Example 4.10: four types of slap tongue demo, CD track 85	252
Musical Example 4.11: saxophone quarter-tones demo, CD track 86	253
Musical Example 4.12: tonal results of embouchure alterations, CD track 87	254
Musical Example 4.13: subtone and overblowing demo, CD track 88	255

Musical Example 4.14: fluttertongue and growl demo, CD track 89	256
Musical Example 4.15: singing and reverse tone demos, CD track 90	257
Musical Example 4.16: various types of vibrato demo, CD track 91	258
Musical Example 4.17: portamento, smear, bend, scoop, fall, scream and “doit” demo, CD track 92	260
Musical Example 4.18: Rudy Wiedoeft and Benny Krueger laugh, CD track 93	260