

Klokken

Alissa Voth

Program Notes

Klokken, commissioned by Charles Lilly, is titled after a Hans Christian Anderson short story of the same name in which two young boys travel into the forest in search of a mystical bell, heard but never seen. Inspired by the story, I sought out to explore the distortion effect of vocalizing through a saxophone to imitate the unusual harmonic structure of a bell. I hope the result is as bewildering as the story implies.

Klokken is paired with another piece of mine, *Skyggen*, a solo work for a vocalizing flutist, also inspired by an Anderson story. In both pieces, I explore the relationship between performer and their instrument, their breath, and their physicality.

Performance Notes

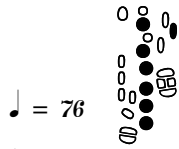
Fingerings for multiphonics can be found as they occur. Vocalized material are transposed with the saxophone. To accommodate players of different vocal ranges, any pitch can be sung in any octave. The intent of the vocalized parts are to "color" the saxophone through the effect of difference tones and distortion. Think of singing the pitches *through* the instrument instead of over it - or perhaps that the vocalized notes are just another type of breath.

To indicate playing with half pitch or partial pitch, I have written the expression marks "clean" and "breathy" with arrows indicating a gradation between them. It can be assumed that "clean" is fully pitched and "breathy" has audible air noise mixed within the sound. Rather than indicate ratios of "air" to "pitch," the amount of breathiness the performer wants to color their notes with depends on their comfortability and preference.

Klokken

Based on the short story "The Bell" (*Klokken*) by Hans Christian Andersen
Commissioned by Charles Lilley

Alissa Voth
2021



Alto Saxophone

5 5 5

n *p*

Voice

Alto Sax.

3

5 5

n

Voice

Alto Sax.

5 6 6 6 6

mf 6 6 6 6

Voice

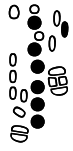
Alto Sax.

6 6 6 6 6

6 6 6 6 6

pitch *air*

Voice



9 *sub. pitch*

Alto Sax. *mf* 5 5 3 *p* 5 5

Voice

Alto Sax. 11 *mf* 3 5 3 5

Alto Sax. 14 *mp* *mf* *mf* 5 3 5

Alto Sax. 17 3 6 5 3 5

Alto Sax. 20 *mp* *f* 5 3 5 5 3

Alto Sax. 24 *mf* *f* *subp* *pitch* *breathy* *pitch*

Alto Sax. 27 *pitch* *breathy*

Alto Sax. 29 *pitch* *p* *ppp*

Voice


Alto Sax. 32 *p* *mp* *p*


Voice

Alto Sax. 36 *p* *mp* *p*

Voice

40

Alto Sax. 

Voice 

mf *p* *mp* *p* *mp*

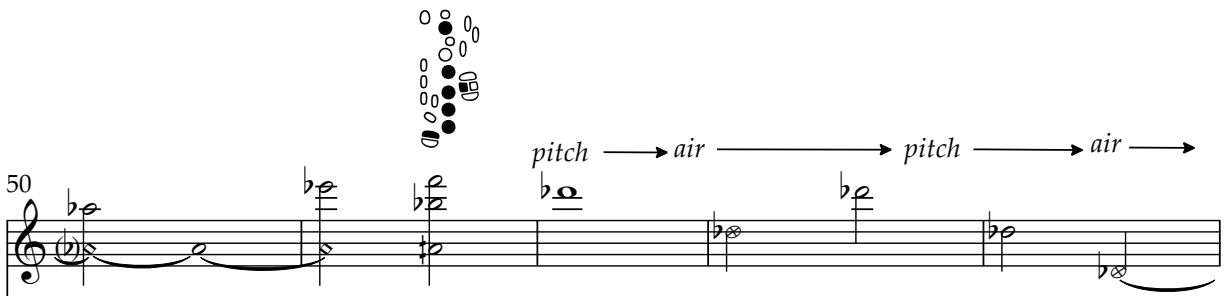
45


Alto Sax. 

Voice 

p *mp* *mf* *p*

50

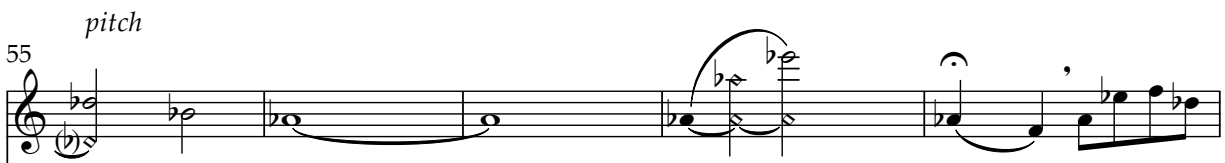
Alto Sax. 


Voice 

mp *pp* *mf*

pitch → *air* → *pitch* → *air* →

55

Alto Sax. 

Voice 

p *mp* *pp* *mf*

Alto Sax. 60 *pitch* *breathy*

Alto Sax. *f* *mp*

Voice

Alto Sax. 62 *pitch* *breathy*

Alto Sax. *mp* *p*

Voice

Alto Sax. 64 *sub. pitch*

Alto Sax. *mf* *mp*

Voice

Alto Sax. 66

Alto Sax. *n* *mf* *p*

Alto Sax. 69 *mf* 5 3 5 3 6

Alto Sax. 72 *mp* 5 3 5 3



Alto Sax. 75 *f* 5 3 5

Alto Sax. 78 5 3 6 3



Alto Sax. 81 *p* *f* *p* 6 3

Alto Sax. 84 *ff* 6 3 *subp* *pitch* →

Alto Sax. 88 *pp* → *mp* *air* →

Voice

Alto Sax. 90 *breathy* →

Voice

Alto Sax. 92 *air* →

Voice

Alto Sax. 94 *breathy* →

Voice

Alto Sax. 96 *pitch* *breathy*

Voice

Alto Sax. 99 *pitch* *freely through time* *n* *pp*

Voice

Alto Sax. 106 *p* *pp* *p* *pp* *n*

Voice