

Alexandra Gardner

Cypress

baritone saxophone and soundtrack

(2019)

PERUSAL SCORE - NOT FOR PERFORMANCE

About the work:

Cypress for baritone saxophone and soundtrack is the 13th work in my series of compositions for solo instrument with electronics. As is my habit with these pieces, the two parts are woven together into an aural landscape of shifting rhythms and textures based upon the sonic material of the acoustic instrument. The electronic part of *Cypress* is comprised entirely of acoustic saxophone sounds, some of which are easily identifiable, and others of which have been processed into completely different forms using a variety of software tools.

The cypress tree is considered a symbol of both mourning and immortality in many cultures and makes appearances in legends from Greek mythology to Christianity. It has often been planted to mark graveyards, with the idea that its straight, tall stature helps guide departed souls towards heaven.

This work is also part of my saxophone quartet *Tides*. I wanted a complete movement of that work dedicated exclusively to the baritone saxophone's capacity for warmth, strength, and agility.

Commissioned by The Peabody Saxophone Studio with support from the Robert W. Deutsch Foundation Rubys Artist Grant.

Performance Notes:

For audio soundtrack, please contact alex@alexandragardner.net

The saxophone should be lightly amplified, with a small amount of reverb, and mixed with the electronic track to attain proper balance. Monitors may be necessary depending on the performance space.

The soundtrack should be mixed as if it is another performing instrument — very present.

The performers should seek to enter the sound world of the electronic track as much as possible. For example, crossfades between performers and electronics should sound as if the two parts are melting together.

Accidentals apply for the length of one measure.

Clock timings are indicated throughout the score to help the performer stay oriented in time, and to note significant events and audible cues in the electronic track. These timings are moderately flexible — 1-2 seconds of “wobble room” is always available.

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♩ = 60 lyrical

Bari Sax

Soundtrack

Start audio file (silent until ~ 0:23) drone fades in...

0:00 0:20 0:23

8

more focused / intense

0:29 0:38

13

number of notes played is approximate; go for the acceleration gesture.

trills span a whole step unless otherwise indicated

rhythmic clicks / "satellite" sounds

0:58

19

rhythmic clicks / "satellite" sounds

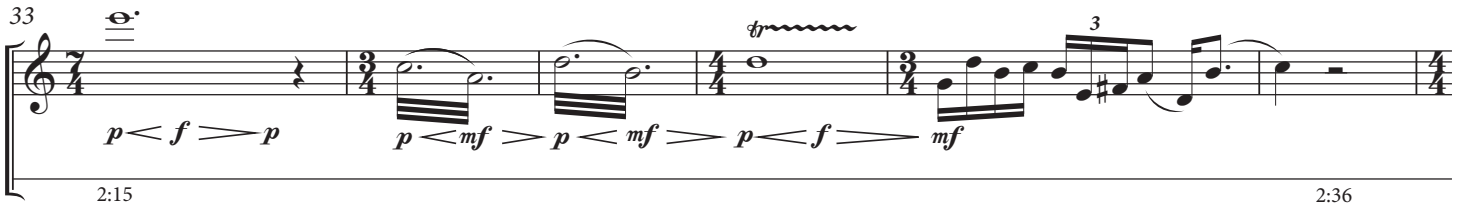
1:34

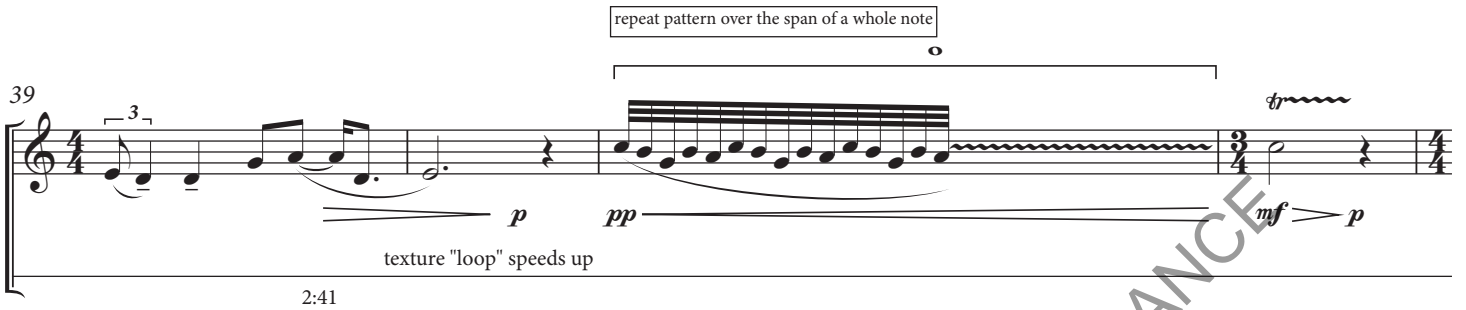
24

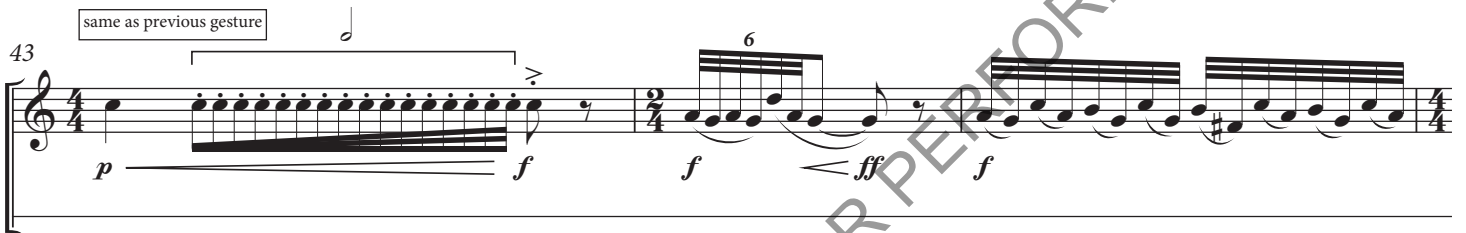
same as previous gesture

29

Cypress

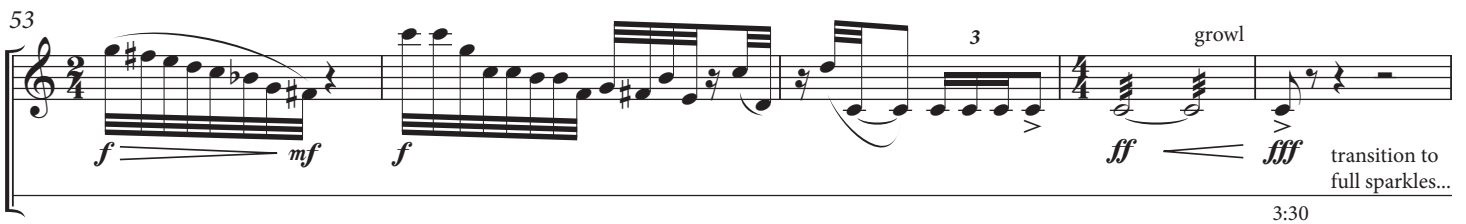
33 
p < *f* > *p* *p* < *mf* > *p* < *mf* > *p* < *f* > *mf*
2:15 2:36

39 
repeat pattern over the span of a whole note
texture "loop" speeds up
2:41

43 
same as previous gesture
p *f* *f* < *ff* > *f*

46 
agitated
ff *ff* *mp*

49 
ferocious
f *f* *ff* *ff*
10:8
sparkles...
3:18

53 
f *mf* *f* *ff* *fff*
growl
transition to full sparkles...
3:30