

Alexandra Gardner

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# Time Unfolding

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Concerto for Alto Saxophone and Wind Ensemble

Piano Reduction

(2024)

PERUSAL SCORE — NOT FOR PERFORMANCE

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Concerto for Alto Saxophone and Wind Ensemble

(2024)

Piano Reduction

**Alexandra Gardner**

COMMISSIONED BY

**University of Arkansas**

Chris Knighten, conductor

Sarah Hetrick, saxophone (Co-organizer)

**Indiana University**

Tiffany J. Galus, conductor (Co-organizer)

**Duke Wind Symphony**

Verena Mösenbichler-Bryant, conductor

**Hickory Ridge High School**

Chris White, conductor

Dylan Ward, saxophone

**Maryland Winds**

Timothy J. Holtan, conductor

Doug O'Connor, saxophone

**Rowan University Wind Ensemble**

Joseph Higgins, conductor

Noa Even, saxophone

**The United States Coast Guard Band**

Adam Williamson, conductor

Joshua Thomas, saxophone

**University of Cincinnati College-  
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Kevin Holzman, conductor

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**University of Colorado Boulder**

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**University of Maryland Baltimore  
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**University of Michigan**

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**University of Nebraska at Omaha**

Joshua Kearney, conductor

**University of North Florida**

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Catherine Rand, conductor

Dannel Espinoza, saxophone

## Professional Saxophonists

Christopher Agnew • Scott Augustine • Logan Banister • Sterling Fry • Derek Granger • Kyle Blake Jones • Austin McFarland • Jason Oates • Doug O'Connor • Stephen Page • Tyrone Page • Shawna Pennock • Nicki Roman • Chance Stine • Joshua Thomas • Jack Thorpe • Fred Winkler

## Student Saxophonists

Zach Arthur • Joel Ferst • Toree Fogle • Jack Hammersly • Dylan Matheny • Olivia Phaneuf  
Eugene Ryoo • Tyler Trickey

# Time Unfolding

Concerto for Alto Saxophone and Wind Ensemble  
Piano Reduction

- I. **Abundance Ratio**
- II. **Infrared**
- III. **Metallicity**

Duration: ca. 12:00

## Performance Note

It is recommended (but not required) to perform this work with accompanying projections of digital images from the James Webb Space Telescope. To receive a curated set of images, please contact [alex@alexandragardner.net](mailto:alex@alexandragardner.net).

## Program note for *Time Unfolding*

**Time Unfolding** is inspired by the captivating images of galaxy and star formation from NASA's James Webb Telescope. The composition explores the profound implications of the nature of time, considering that the images, captured using infrared light, traveled billions of light years and provide glimpses into the early stages of the universe.

Each of the three movements is named for a method to capture information about the substance of stars and galaxies. The exuberant, bubbling opening movement, "Abundance Ratio," quantifies the amounts of individual elements in stars. In the slower, ethereal middle movement, "Infrared," I imagine the saxophone as a laser beam illuminating its surroundings as it sweeps through its full sonic range. "Metallicity" tracks the heavier metal elements in stars and nebulae; the final movement is a forceful, driving groove with racing passages for the saxophone and an explosive finish.

This music is dedicated to my father, who transitioned to stardust during the composition of this work.

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**A. Gardner Music**

# Time Unfolding

Concerto for Alto Saxophone  
Piano Reduction

Alexandra Gardner

## I. Abundance Ratio

♩ = 120 Playful, Bubbling

Alto Sax

Piano

7

12

A

17

ff f

p mf sempre

f

Detailed description: This system contains measures 17 through 23. The right hand starts with a melodic line marked *ff* and *f*. The left hand features a piano introduction marked *p* and *mf sempre*. A dynamic *f* is indicated at the end of the system.

24

f ff

(8)

f

Detailed description: This system contains measures 24 through 28. The right hand has a melodic line marked *f* and *ff*. The left hand has a piano introduction marked *f*. A repeat sign with the number (8) is shown above the left hand.

29

f

Detailed description: This system contains measures 29 through 33. The right hand has a melodic line marked *f*. The left hand has a piano introduction.

34

flowing

ff

Detailed description: This system contains measures 34 through 38. The right hand has a melodic line marked *ff* and *flowing*. The left hand has a piano introduction.

38

*f* *f*

8

43

**B**  
più mosso

48

*mp* *f*

a tempo

53

*f* *ff* *f* *ff* *f*

*f* *mp*

più mosso

59

fff ff

f

p

f

This system contains measures 59 through 63. The first staff is a single melodic line with a complex rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes, marked *fff* and *ff*. The piano accompaniment consists of a left hand with sustained chords and a right hand with chords and moving lines, marked *f* and *p*.

a tempo

64

f

mf

This system contains measures 64 through 69. The first staff continues the melodic line, marked *f*. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note bass line in the left hand and chords in the right hand, marked *mf*.

C

70

pp

f

mf

mp

f

This system contains measures 70 through 75. Measure 70 is marked *pp*. A section marker 'C' is placed above the first staff. The first staff has a melodic line marked *f*. The piano accompaniment has chords marked *mf* and *mp*, and a bass line marked *f*.

76

This system contains measures 76 through 80. The first staff features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with accents, marked *mf*. The piano accompaniment has chords in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand, marked *mf*.

81 *flowing*  
*ff*

85 **D**  
♩ = 172 Rollicking  
*ff*  
*f* *sempre*

89

95 *swirling*  
*f* *ff*  
*f* 3 3 3

**E**

100

Musical score for measures 100-103. The system includes a treble clef staff and a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). Measure 100 features a treble staff with a triplet of eighth notes and a dynamic marking of *fff*. The grand staff has a dynamic marking of *f* in the treble and *mf* in the bass. The time signature changes from 3/4 to 4/4 between measures 100 and 101.

104

Musical score for measures 104-108. The system includes a treble clef staff and a grand staff. Measure 104 has a dynamic marking of *f*. The grand staff has a dynamic marking of *mf* at the end of the system. The time signature changes from 4/4 to 3/4 between measures 107 and 108.

109

Musical score for measures 109-113. The system includes a treble clef staff and a grand staff. Measure 109 is marked with the instruction "swirling" and a dynamic marking of *f*. The treble staff has a dynamic marking of *fff* in measure 110. The grand staff has dynamic markings of *f* in measures 109 and 113, and *mf* in measure 112. The time signature changes from 3/4 to 4/4 between measures 110 and 111, and from 4/4 to 3/4 between measures 112 and 113.

114

Musical score for measures 114-118. The system includes a treble clef staff and a grand staff. Measure 114 has a dynamic marking of *fff*. The grand staff has dynamic markings of *f* in measures 114 and 118, and *mf* in measure 117. The time signature changes from 4/4 to 3/4 between measures 117 and 118.

119

*f* *ff* *p* *mp*

*cantabile*

125

*mf* *mp*

*gently*

132

*mp* *pp*

*rit.*

**F**  $\text{♩} = 120$

139

*f* *ff*

*più mosso*

a tempo

144

*f*

*mf*

150

*ff* *f* *ff* *f*

*mf* *f*

G

155

*fff* *f* *ff*

(8va optional)

159

*f* *mp* *p* *pp*

### II. Infrared

♩ = 84 Radiant, calm

165 (8)-----1

warmly

*pp*

*f* 3 *mp* *f* 3

Ped. (8)-----1 Ped. (8)-----1

172

*f* *pp* *mp*

*mp* *f* 3 *mp* *p*

sim.

180

*f* *p*

*f* 3 *p* 3 3 3 3 *mp* 3 3 *p* 3 *mf* 3 3 3 3 *p* *pp*

H

187

*mf*

*mf* *p* *mf*

5 6 3 6

192 *f* *f* *6* *6* *focused* *mf* *mf* *mp*

197 *mf* *3* *5* *6* *f* *6* *6* *8*

201 *f* *5* *mp* *f* *6* *5* *3* *mf*

206 *f* *3* *5* *6* *5* *3* *p* *mf* *3* *Sost.*

211

*mp* *f*

Sost. *mp*

216

I

*mp* *f*

Sost.

220

*mf* *ff*

Sost.

224

J

*l'istesso tempo*

*ff* *f*

Sost.

228

Musical score for measures 228-231. The system consists of three staves: a single treble staff at the top, and a grand staff (treble and bass) below. The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). Measure 228 starts with a 9/16 time signature, changes to 3/4 in measure 229, and returns to 9/16 in measure 230. Measure 231 ends with a 12/8 time signature. The music features a complex rhythmic pattern with many beamed sixteenth notes and slurs.

232

Musical score for measures 232-235. The system consists of three staves: a single treble staff at the top, and a grand staff (treble and bass) below. The key signature is three flats. Measure 232 starts with a 12/8 time signature, changes to 9/8 in measure 233, 9/16 in measure 234, and 3/4 in measure 235. A fortissimo (*ff*) dynamic marking is present in measure 232. The music continues with intricate rhythmic patterns and slurs.

236

Musical score for measures 236-238. The system consists of three staves: a single treble staff at the top, and a grand staff (treble and bass) below. The key signature is three flats. Measure 236 starts with a 4/4 time signature, changes to 12/8 in measure 237, and 5/8 in measure 238. Triplet markings (*3*) are used in measures 236 and 237. Dynamics include *mp* in measure 237 and *f* in measure 238. The music features complex rhythmic patterns and slurs.

239

Musical score for measures 239-242. The system consists of three staves: a single treble staff at the top, and a grand staff (treble and bass) below. The key signature is three flats. Measure 239 starts with a 3/4 time signature, changes to 4/4 in measure 240, 3/4 in measure 241, and 4/4 in measure 242. Triplet markings (*3*) are used in measures 241 and 242. The music features complex rhythmic patterns and slurs.

243

Measures 243-246. The right hand features a melodic line with dynamics *p*, *mf*, *f*, *p*, and *mp*. Fingerings 3, 5, 6, and 5 are indicated. The left hand has a triplet of eighth notes in measure 243 and sustained chords in measures 244-246.

**K**

247

Measures 247-252. The right hand has a melodic line with dynamics *mf* and *p*. The left hand features a triplet in measure 247 and a series of chords in measures 248-252. A *Sost.* (Sostenuto) marking is present in measure 252.

253

Measures 253-258. The right hand has a melodic line with dynamics *f*, *mp*, *p*, and *mf*. The left hand has a melodic line with dynamics *f*, *mp*, *p*, and *mf*. A *Sost.* marking is present in measure 253. A *l.h.* (left hand) marking is present in measure 256.

259

Measures 259-264. The right hand has a melodic line with dynamics *mp*, *f*, and *p*. The left hand has a melodic line with dynamics *f* and *p*. A *Sost.* marking is present in measure 259.

267

*f* 3 *pp*

*mf* 3 3 3 *mp* *p*

*p* Ped.

### III. Metallicity

♩ = 192 Heavy Groove

273

*ff* 7 7 7

*ff*

278

*fff* 7 7 7 *fff*

*ff* *ff*

L

282

*sfzp* *f*

*f*

291

*ff*

M

297

*f* *ff* *pp* *mf*

*f*

304

*f*

8

*mf*

308

*p*

(8)<sup>7</sup>

*mf*

*p*

*mf*

*mf*

*p*

*mf*

315

*mp*

*f*

*mf*

*f*

*p*

*mf*

*mf*

320

N

*sub. p*

323

O

*ff*

*ff*

*ff*

*ff*

328

P

333

ff f

338

Q

346

Explosive

ff

**R**

353

*p* *ff*

359

unmeasured—make a bubbling texture (okay to mix up notes!)

*mp* sotto voce *f*

362

*f* *pp* *f* *ff* gliss.

365

*ff* *fff* *fff* Sost.

369

ff fff

fff

fff

Detailed description: This system contains measures 369 through 372. The top staff (treble clef) features a melodic line starting with a forte (*ff*) dynamic, moving to fortissimo (*fff*) by measure 370. The middle and bottom staves (piano part) are marked with *fff* and feature dense chordal textures and rhythmic patterns. A large slur spans across measures 369 and 370 in the piano part.

373

(8va optional)

ff fff

fff

fff

Detailed description: This system contains measures 373 through 376. Measure 373 begins with a melodic line in the top staff marked *ff*. A dashed line with an '8' indicates an octave shift, with a downward arrow labeled '(8va optional)'. The piano accompaniment in the middle and bottom staves is marked *fff*. The system concludes with a double bar line.

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