

Excerpt from "Part III: Writing for the Saxophone in Ensemble"

Writing for Saxophones: A Guide to the Tonal Palette of the Saxophone Family for Composers, Arrangers and Performers
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In Musical Example 3.18 the lowest and highest saxophones join together with all of the instruments used in the previous examples, thus expanding the chorale into the full saxophone ensemble. The voicing is shifted with each phrase of the chorale to demonstrate some of the variety of colors available to an ensemble using all twelve available types of saxophone. This includes a phrase using only E-flat saxophones, another using only B-flat saxophones, and several combinations of the full range of C, F, E-flat and B-flat instruments from piccolo through subcontrabass:

Chorale 91 BWV 42.7

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

The image displays a musical score for the chorale 'Chorale 91' (BWV 42.7) by Johann Sebastian Bach, arranged for a full ensemble of saxophones. The score is written in 4/4 time and the key of B-flat major. The instrumentation includes: B♭ Piccolo Saxophone, E♭ Sopranino Saxophone, C Soprano Saxophone, B♭ Soprano Saxophone, F Mezzo-soprano Saxophone, E♭ Alto Saxophone, C Tenor Saxophone, B♭ Tenor Saxophone, E♭ Baritone Saxophone, B♭ Bass Saxophone, E♭ Contrabass Saxophone, and B♭ Subcontrabass Saxophone. The score shows the first four measures of the piece. The B♭ Soprano Saxophone, F Mezzo-soprano Saxophone, E♭ Alto Saxophone, and B♭ Tenor Saxophone parts begin with a piano (*p*) dynamic marking. The C Soprano Saxophone part begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic marking in the third measure. The other instruments (Piccolo, Sopranino, Tenor, Baritone, Bass, Contrabass, and Subcontrabass) are marked with rests throughout the first four measures.

Musical Example 3.18: *Chorale 91* scored for full ensemble with shifting instrumentation to create contrasting textures, CD track 65.

5

The image shows a musical score for a saxophone section, measures 5 through 9. The score is written for eight parts: Sno. Sax., C Soprano Sax., S. Sax., F Mezz. Sax., A. Sax., C Ten. Sax., T. Sax., and Bs. Sax. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats) and the time signature is 4/4. The score begins with a dynamic marking of *mf* (mezzo-forte) at the start of measure 5. The saxophone parts are arranged in a balanced, homophonic texture. The C Soprano Sax., S. Sax., F Mezz. Sax., A. Sax., and C Ten. Sax. parts all play a similar melodic line, while the T. Sax., B. Sax., and Bs. Sax. parts provide harmonic support. The dynamic marking *mp* (mezzo-piano) is used for the C Soprano Sax., S. Sax., F Mezz. Sax., A. Sax., and C Ten. Sax. parts in measures 6, 7, and 8. The score concludes in measure 9 with a final *mf* dynamic marking.

Sno. Sax.

C Soprano Sax.

S. Sax.

F Mezz. Sax.

A. Sax.

C Ten. Sax.

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

Bs. Sax.

mf

mp

mp

mp

mp

mp

mp

mf

mf

Musical Example 3.18 continued.

10

Picc. Sax.

Sno. Sax.

C Soprano Sax.

S. Sax.

F Mezz. Sax.

A. Sax.

C Ten. Sax.

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

Bs. Sax.

Sub. Sax.

f

Detailed description: This is a musical score for a saxophone section, measures 10 through 14. The score is written for ten parts: Piccolo Saxophone, Soprano Saxophone, Contralto Soprano Saxophone, Soprano Saxophone, F Mezzo Saxophone, Alto Saxophone, Contralto Tenor Saxophone, Tenor Saxophone, Baritone Saxophone, and Bass Saxophone. The key signature is two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 2/2. The Piccolo Saxophone part is mostly silent, with a final note in measure 14. The Soprano Saxophone part starts with a quarter note G4, followed by eighth notes A4, B4, and C5 in measures 10-11, then rests in measures 12-13, and a final quarter note G4 in measure 14. The Contralto Soprano Saxophone part starts with a quarter note G3, followed by eighth notes A3, B3, and C4 in measures 10-11, then rests in measures 12-13, and a final quarter note G3 in measure 14. The Soprano Saxophone part starts with a quarter note G3, followed by eighth notes A3, B3, and C4 in measures 10-11, then rests in measures 12-13, and a final quarter note G3 in measure 14. The F Mezzo Saxophone part starts with a quarter note G3, followed by eighth notes A3, B3, and C4 in measures 10-11, then rests in measures 12-13, and a final quarter note G3 in measure 14. The Alto Saxophone part starts with a quarter note G3, followed by eighth notes A3, B3, and C4 in measures 10-11, then rests in measures 12-13, and a final quarter note G3 in measure 14. The Contralto Tenor Saxophone part starts with a quarter note G3, followed by eighth notes A3, B3, and C4 in measures 10-11, then rests in measures 12-13, and a final quarter note G3 in measure 14. The Tenor Saxophone part starts with a quarter note G3, followed by eighth notes A3, B3, and C4 in measures 10-11, then rests in measures 12-13, and a final quarter note G3 in measure 14. The Baritone Saxophone part starts with a quarter note G3, followed by eighth notes A3, B3, and C4 in measures 10-11, then rests in measures 12-13, and a final quarter note G3 in measure 14. The Bass Saxophone part starts with a quarter note G3, followed by eighth notes A3, B3, and C4 in measures 10-11, then rests in measures 12-13, and a final quarter note G3 in measure 14. A dynamic marking of *f* (forte) is present at the end of measure 14 for the Soprano Saxophone part.

Musical Example 3.18 continued.

15

Picc. Sax.

Sno. Sax.

C Soprano Sax.

S. Sax.

F Mezz. Sax.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

Bs. Sax.

Sub. Sax.

mp

mp

mp

mp

mp

mp

mp

mp

mp

20

Picc. Sax.

Sno. Sax.

C Soprano Sax.

S. Sax.

F Mezz. Sax.

T. Sax.

Bs. Sax.

Sub. Sax.

mf

mf

mf

mf

mf

mf

mf

mf

mf

Musical Example 3.18 continued.

24

Picc. Sax.
 Sno. Sax.
 C Soprano Sax.
 S. Sax.
 F Mezz. Sax.
 A. Sax.
 C Ten. Sax.
 T. Sax.
 B. Sax.
 Bs. Sax.
 Cb. Sax.
 Sub. Sax.

Musical score for saxophone section, measures 24-27. The score includes parts for Piccolo Saxophone, Soprano Saxophone, C Soprano Saxophone, Saxophone, F Mezzo Saxophone, Alto Saxophone, C Tenor Saxophone, Tenor Saxophone, Baritone Saxophone, Bass Saxophone, Contrabass Saxophone, and Subcontrabass Saxophone. Dynamics range from mezzo-forte (mf) to fortissimo (f).

Musical Example 3.18 continued.