

wax lyrical

two alto saxophones
bass clarinet
violin
piano
conductor

nicholas a. batina

alto saxophone
alto saxophone
bass clarinet
violin (+ spoken word)
piano
conductor

1. Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high
2. Where knowledge is free
3. Where the world has not been broken up into fragments
4. ... by narrow domestic walls

— interlude 1 —

5. Where words come out from the depth of truth
6. Where tireless striving stretches its arms towards perfection
7. Tuning Dance
8. Where the clear stream of reason has not lost its way into the desert sand of dead habit

— interlude 2 —

9. Where the mind is led forward by thee into ever-widening thought and action
10. Conductor Resistance
11. Into that heaven of freedom, my Father, let my country awake.

— interlude 3 —

12. Unison Dance
13. A Donkey Story

performance note:

Perhaps the most important thing to discuss are the extra-musical elements happening in Wax Lyrical. Movement 5 is only notated for the conductor, who will essentially take on the role of a magician, wizard, or sorceress of the ensemble, casting spells with the baton into the performers. It works best to pulse in 4/4, and mime conducting gestures à la *Fantasia*, it is very open ended but incentivizes exploring odd conducting planes. The closing structure mirrors the ending of movement 6, too. Movement 13, *A Donkey Story*, operates as a “talkin’ blues”; the violinist will speak one line for each indicated whole note, and typically play the fiddle while doing so. It is recommended that the violinist wears a cowboy hat, and speaks in a country accent as best they can in deadly seriousness.

* *A Donkey Story* is derived from Dewayne Noal’s speech, *The Donkey....It’s Just His Nature*.

program note:

Wax Lyrical is all about the theme of obsessiveness in the hunt for meaning. I ask you to consider the interconnectedness of titles, subtitles, body language, story-telling, control and liberation in music. Explore how each part shines a new light on all others, how a new movement changes your perspective on the previous, how an interlude walls off certain ideas, how a movement can be any duration.

wax lyrical
excerpt 1

47

A. Sax. 1

A. Sax. 2

B. Cl.

Vln

Pno

53

A. Sax. 1

A. Sax. 2

B. Cl.

Vln

Pno

55 C

A. Sax. 1
A. Sax. 2
B. Cl.
Vln
Pno

This system contains measures 55 through 58. It features five staves: A. Sax. 1, A. Sax. 2, B. Cl., Vln, and Pno. A rehearsal mark 'C' is enclosed in a box above measure 55. The music is in 7/8 time. The saxophones and clarinet play a rhythmic melody with eighth and quarter notes. The violin plays a similar rhythmic line. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and moving lines in both hands, with some grace notes and accents.

59

A. Sax. 1
A. Sax. 2
B. Cl.
Vln
Pno

This system contains measures 59 through 62. It features the same five staves as the previous system. The music continues in 7/8 time. The saxophones and clarinet play a rhythmic melody. The violin plays a similar rhythmic line. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and moving lines in both hands, with some grace notes and accents. The system ends with a double bar line and repeat signs.

63 D ♩ = 110

A. Sax. 1
pp

A. Sax. 2
pp

B. Cl.
pp

Vln
pp

Pno
pp

Detailed description: This system contains measures 63 through 66. It features five staves: A. Sax. 1, A. Sax. 2, B. Cl., Vln, and Pno. The music is in 7/8 time with a tempo of 110. A key signature change to D major is indicated by a box labeled 'D' at the beginning of measure 63. The dynamics are marked *pp* (pianissimo) for all instruments. The saxophones and clarinet play melodic lines with eighth and sixteenth notes. The violin and piano provide harmonic support with chords and arpeggiated figures.

67

A. Sax. 1

A. Sax. 2

B. Cl.

Vln

Pno

Detailed description: This system contains measures 67 through 70. It features the same five staves as the previous system. The music continues in 7/8 time. The dynamics remain *pp*. The saxophones and clarinet continue their melodic lines, while the violin and piano maintain their harmonic accompaniment.

71

A. Sax. 1

A. Sax. 2

B. Cl.

Vln

Pno

75

A. Sax. 1

A. Sax. 2

B. Cl.

Vln

Pno

79 **E** ♩ = 120

A. Sax. 1
mf

A. Sax. 2
mf

B. Cl.
mf

Vln
mf

Pno
mf

83

A. Sax. 1

A. Sax. 2

B. Cl.

Vln

Pno
sfz

87 $\text{♩} = 125$

A. Sax. 1

A. Sax. 2

B. Cl.

Vln

Pno

91

A. Sax. 1

A. Sax. 2

B. Cl.

Vln

Pno

wax lyrical
excerpt 2

3. Where the world has not been broken up into fragments

Largo (♩ = c. 40)

Alto Saxophone 1 dolce non vib. *p*

Alto Saxophone 2 dolce non vib. *p*

Bass Clarinet dolce non vib. *mp*

A. Sax. 1 *tr* *pp*

A. Sax. 2 *tr* *pp*

B. Cl. *pp*

A. Sax. 1 dolce *mp* *mf*

A. Sax. 2 *mp* *gliss.* *mf*

B. Cl. *mp* *mf*

A breaking in and out of audible range (♩ = c. 110)

strange noise sounds

A. Sax. 1 *pp* *f* *pp*

A. Sax. 2 *pp* *f* *pp*

B. Cl. *pp* *f* *pp*

14

A. Sax. 1

A. Sax. 2

B. Cl.

19

A. Sax. 1

A. Sax. 2

B. Cl.

21

A. Sax. 1

A. Sax. 2

B. Cl.

B

26

A. Sax. 1

A. Sax. 2

B. Cl.

36

A. Sax. 1

A. Sax. 2

B. Cl.

49

C

transform into air in the horn

A. Sax. 1

A. Sax. 2

B. Cl.

pp sub.

ppp

pp sub.

55

transform into air in the horn

A. Sax. 1

A. Sax. 2

B. Cl.

ppp

D (♩ = c. 70)

57

Slowly transform sound into pitched material

A. Sax. 1

A. Sax. 2

B. Cl.

pp sub.

p

pp

wax lyrical
excerpt 3

13. A Donkey Story

Harmonica-like; telling stories around a fire (♩ = c. 50)

The musical score is arranged in five systems, each with a different instrument. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The tempo is marked as ♩ = c. 50. The score consists of five measures, each ending with a repeat sign.

- Alto Saxophone 1:** Plays a melodic line with notes G4, A4, B4, and C5. Dynamics range from *f* to *n*. Includes fingerings *IV* and *V*.
- Alto Saxophone 2:** Plays the same melodic line as Saxophone 1. Dynamics range from *f* to *n*. Includes fingerings *IV* and *V*.
- Bass Clarinet:** Plays a lower melodic line with notes G3, A3, B3, and C4. Dynamics range from *f* to *n*. Includes fingerings *VI* and *V*.
- Violin:** Plays a sustained harmonic accompaniment. Dynamics range from *f* to *n*. Includes the instruction *non vib.* (no vibrato).
- Piano:** Provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords in both hands. Dynamics range from *f* to *mf*.

6

A. Sax. 1 *Sotto voce, textural, pp; like crackle of campfire*

A. Sax. 2 *Sotto voce, textural, pp; like crackle of campfire; Key Clicks*

B. Cl. *Sotto voce, textural, pp; like crackle of campfire, Key Clicks*

This mornin, I'm gonna tell you a story,
 I'm goin to tell you a donkey story, all-right?
 Uh... got a partagas black label goin on this morning,
 got a good burn... it's burning good...
 it's a nice cigar...
 it's a little darker, richer than what I normally do over morning,
 but I was in the mood for something a bit more...

*Spoken; without much inflection,
 or animation; not deadpan;
 slight southern drawl, if possible*

Vln (non vib.)

p *n* *p* *n* *p* *n* *p* *n*

Time Chord Changes with spoken text in Vln;
 Kitchy piano underscore

Pno

p

10

A. Sax. 1

A. Sax. 2

B. Cl.

Vln

(non vib.)

p *n* *p* *n* *p* *n*

Pno

sfz

*(with a sort-of "sly" twang)

Robust...

14

A. Sax. 1

Sotto voce, textural, pp; like crackle of campfire

A. Sax. 2

Sotto voce, textural, pp; like crackle of campfire; Key Clicks

B. Cl.

Sotto voce, textural, pp; like crackle of campfire, key Clicks

Pizz, pp, Guitar-style, lightly strumming ad lib.

so there's a little boy walking down the road,
its a black gravel country road
in the summertime, the sun's beating down, it's hot, boy's barefoot
got a pair of overalls on, he's about 10, 12 years old
he's heading down the road to his grandpa's house
grandpa told him he wanted 'em to come down and help hoe out the garden

Vln

Same as before; Vln is switching to aleatoric pizz.

Pno

p

Detailed description: This is a page of a musical score for '13. A Donkey Story'. It features five staves: A. Sax. 1, A. Sax. 2, B. Cl., Vln, and Pno. The saxophone parts are marked with 'Sotto voce, textural, pp; like crackle of campfire' and 'Key Clicks'. The violin part includes lyrics and a performance instruction: 'Pizz, pp, Guitar-style, lightly strumming ad lib.' The piano part is marked with a piano dynamic (*p*) and includes the instruction 'Same as before; Vln is switching to aleatoric pizz.' The score begins at measure 14. The saxophone parts have boxed-in sections in the first two measures. The violin part has a boxed-in section in the first two measures. The piano part consists of a continuous sequence of chords with grace notes.

Molto rall.

Any high/low note, adlib, aligning on final 16th subdivided in 4, molto rall.

A. Sax. 1

A. Sax. 2

B. Cl.

Vln

f *pp*

f *pp*

f *pp*

f *n*

Molto rall.

Shreddy gliss across all strings arco, Molto Sul Pont.

Flutter lightly w/ fingers 2 and 3
Move up and down strings III and IV
Molto Sul Pont.

Vln

Pno

n *p* *n*

mf *ppp* *n*

Tempo I

22

A. Sax. 1

A. Sax. 2

B. Cl.

Vln

Pno

The musical score consists of five staves. The first four staves are for woodwinds and strings, and the fifth is for piano. Each staff has four measures. The woodwinds (A. Sax. 1, A. Sax. 2, B. Cl.) play a melodic line with a dynamic marking of *f* and a breath mark *n*. The Vln part is marked *non vib.* and plays a similar melodic line with a dynamic marking of *f*. The Pno part plays a harmonic accompaniment with a dynamic marking of *mf* and a breath mark *n*. The tempo is marked *Tempo I* and the measure number is 22.

26

A. Sax. 1

A. Sax. 2

B. Cl.

Breathing through instrument, in time, measured
(in-out; out held until next inhalation)

uh... so he's heading down there,
and he's got his hands in his pockets,
and he's shufflin along,
and he's daydreamin,
and wall gatherin,
and,
and just going along thinking his thoughts,
and all of a sudden he hears this...

Vln (non vib.)

p *n* *p* *n* *p* *n* *p* *n* *p* *n* *p* *n* *p* *n*

Pno *mf* *n* *mf* *n* *mf* *n* *mf* *n* *mf* *n* *mf* *n* *mf* *n* *mf* *n*

34

A. Sax. 1

A. Sax. 2

B. Cl.

Vln

Pno

this sound that startles him... and this sound...
this sound... it's loud,
and it's coarse,
it's not melodic, it's not pleasant,
it's just kinda raucous and,
just... startling,

37

Timbral Trills

A. Sax. 1

A. Sax. 2

B. Cl.

Vln

Pno