

# SARCASMS

*for alto saxophone and piano*

Takuma Itoh  
(2008)

## Instrumentation

*Alto Saxophone*

*Piano*

### *Program Note:*

*Sarcasms* is a set of five short movements for alto saxophone and piano. The name of this piece refers the series of short piano pieces written by Sergei Prokofiev of the same name. While this piece was not directly inspired by Prokofiev's work, the spirit of these movements felt similar enough to give it the same name.

Nothing is meant to be played pretty in this piece. Everything should be played full of irony, irreverence and, of course, sarcasm.

This piece was commissioned by Donald Sinta.

Score is Transposed

	<b>Movements</b>	<b>pg.</b>	<b>duration</b>
I.	<i>Primal; Obnoxious</i>	1	0:45 min
II.	<i>Crazy Circus Music</i>	3	1:45 min
III.	<i>Ugly; Like an Angry Duck</i>	8	1:15 min
IV.	<i>Another Wild Circus Music</i>	11	1:00 min
V.	<i>Manic-Depressive</i>	15	2:15 min
		<b>Total</b>	<b>7:00 min</b>

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I

♩ = 80 Primal; Obnoxious

The musical score is divided into four systems, each featuring an Alto Saxophone (A. Sax.) and Piano (Pno.) part. The tempo is marked as 80 beats per minute, with a character of 'Primal; Obnoxious'. The key signature is one flat (B-flat major/D minor), and the time signature is 7/4.

**System 1:** The Alto Saxophone part begins with a series of eighth notes, marked *fff*. The Piano part is mostly silent, with some low-frequency notes in the bass clef.

**System 2:** The Alto Saxophone part starts at measure 7 with a 'growl' effect, marked *p* and *ff*. The Piano part features a complex rhythmic pattern with *f* and *ff* dynamics. A 'molto rit.' (molto ritardando) section begins in the final measure of this system.

**System 3:** The Alto Saxophone part starts at measure 10, marked 'a tempo'. The Piano part continues with *f* and *ff* dynamics. A 'molto rit.' section is indicated, followed by a change in time signature to 3/4. The Alto Saxophone part has an octave transposition marking '(8va)'. Dynamics range from *p* to *pp*.

**System 4:** The Alto Saxophone part starts at measure 13, marked 'a tempo'. The Piano part features a 'freely' section with *mf* dynamics. The Alto Saxophone part has an octave transposition marking '(8va)'. Dynamics range from *pp* to *ff*.

15

A. Sx.

Pno.

*pp* *ff* *pp*

*ff* *ff*

17

A. Sx.

Pno.

growl

slap tongue

*p < f p < f p < f p* *ff* *sfz*

*ff*

21

A. Sx.

Pno.

*mf* *mp* softly as possible

*ff* *mf* *mp* *p* *pp*

## II

♩ = 120 Crazy Circus Music

Alto Sax.

Piano

r.h. sempre legato

*p*

*mp*

*sempre p*

4

honk!

*sfz*

*mp*

7

*mp*

10

*mf*

A. Sx.

Pno.

Pno.

A. Sx.

Pno.

A. Sx.

Pno.

13

A. Sx.

Pno.

*sfz sim.*

16

A. Sx.

Pno.

slap tongue

19

A. Sx.

Pno.

*mp*

22

A. Sx.

Pno.

III

♩ = 120 Ugly; Like an Angry Duck

Alto Sax. *ff* *sfz* *fp* *f*

Piano *sfz* *f* *sfz*

A. Sax. 5 *sfz* *mp* *f* *sfz* *mp*

Pno. *mp* *pp* *f* *mp* *p*

A. Sax. 9 *pp* *p* *f* *mp*

Pno. *f* *pp*

A. Sax. 13 *f*

Pno. *f*

17

A. Sx.

Pno.

*ff*

*ff*

*p sub.*

*ff sub.*

21

A. Sx.

Pno.

*p*

*p sub.*

*ff sub.*

*ff sub.*

24

A. Sx.

Pno.

*p*

*p sub. legato*

*f*

slap tongue

27

A. Sx.

Pno.

*mp gradual cresc. to end*

*mp gradual cresc. to end*



# IV

♩. = 46 Another Wild Circus Music  
*molto accel.*

Alto Sax.

Piano

*p* *cresc.*

A. Sax.

Pno.

♩. = 100

*mf*

A. Sax.

Pno.

♩. = 60 Cadenza-like

*f*

*8va*

A. Sax.

Pno.

*8va*

$\text{♩} = 54$  *molto accel.* -----  $\text{♩} = 100$

8

A. Sx. *p* *mf*

Pno. *p* *mf*

11

A. Sx.  $\text{♩} = 60$  *p*

Pno. *f* *p*

*8va*

13

A. Sx.  $\text{♩} = \text{♩}$  *f* *p*

Pno. *mf* *p* *echo-like*

15

A. Sx. *mp* *f*

Pno. *pp* *mp*

V

Manic-Depressive ♩ = 54

♩ = 92

Alto Sax. *pp* sneaky *ff* chaotic

A. Sax. *pp* *ff*

A. Sax. *pp* *ff*

A. Sax. *pp*

A. Sax. *ff* *sffz* honk! *sffz* *sffz* *sffz*

A. Sax. *fp* *ff* *pp*

A. Sax. *ff* *pp* *ff*

♩ = 54

A. Sx. *fp* > *pp*

Pno. *pp*

♩ = 100

A. Sx. *ff*

Pno. *ff*

A. Sx. *pp*

Pno. *pp*

A. Sx. *ff*

Pno.