

Flat Circle

For Alto Saxophone and Live Electronics

Carter John Rice

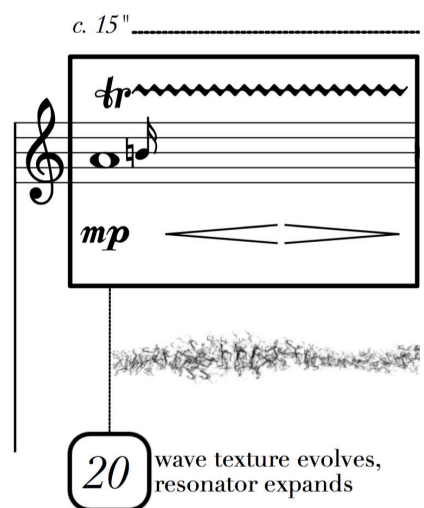
About the Work:

Flat Circle draws inspiration from the concept of time as a function of space. If one were to remove themselves from spacetime they might see all the matter of the universe as a static object, a flat circle. All events, all decisions, all causes and effects, would be viewable as a continuum that has no beginning and no end. Musically, this concept was actualized via the unit circle and its realization as a sine tone. Nearly all parameters of the piece slowly modulate with wave-like qualities, ranging from steady and circular to spontaneous and stochastic.

This piece was written for saxophonist Noa Even, and is happily dedicated to her.

Technical Notes:

Flat Circle contains an electronic component (called a patch) which runs through Cycling 74's MaxMSP (a stand-alone version of which can be downloaded from cycling74.com). The saxophone requires a single microphone which should be routed to a computer running MaxMSP. The output of the patch should be sent to two loudspeakers, one on each side of the saxophonist (please note that a 7.1 version of the patch may be requested). A usb-footpedal or a MIDI pedal is required for the performer to advance electronic cues as seen in the score:



The image shows a musical score snippet. At the top, a measure is marked with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a dynamic marking of *mp*. The notation includes a wavy line and a note. Below the staff, there is a box containing a wavy line and a diamond shape. To the right of this box, text reads: "Advance the patch for each notated cue. The visual display of the patch will display the current cue." Below the staff, there is a section of dense, textured notation. At the bottom, a box contains the number "20" and the text "wave texture evolves, resonator expands".

c. 15"

Advance the patch for each notated cue. The visual display of the patch will display the current cue.

20 wave texture evolves, resonator expands

Should a footpedal not be available, the patch may also be advanced by pressing the spacebar key at the indicated cues.

The patch contains detailed instructions on the technical setup, and can be obtained by contacting the composer at carterricecomposer@gmail.com

for Noa

Flat Circle

for alto saxophone and live-electronics

Carter John Rice

slowly, out of time

Alto Saxophone

Electronics

c. 12"
flz.
sfz p *ff* *pp*

c. 5"

1 sweeping gesture from back to front speakers

2 low drum hit, drone, harmonization/tremolo

3 sweeping gesture, drone fades, live processing fades

c. 10"
no vib. *slight vib.* *no vib.*

sfz p *mp* *pp*

c. 12"
no vib. *slight vib.* *no vib.*

p *f* *pp*

4 low drum hit, drone returns, harmonizer adds P8, pitched tremolo slowly enters

5 sweeping gesture, drone evolves

6 low drum hit, harmonizer adds P5, tremolo rate increases

7 sweeping gesture, drone evolves

c. 10"
no vib.

mp *pp*

c. 20"
no vib. *molto vib.* *no vib.*

mf

8 low drum hit, harmonizer adds P8, tremolo rate increases

9 drone fades, sweeping gesture

10 low drum hit

c. 15"
accel. *no vib.* *molto vib.* *rit.* *no vib.* *molto vib.*

pp *mf* *pp*

11 sweeping sound, drone evolves

12 huge drum impact, harmonizer/tremolo con't

13 rapid sweeping sound

c. 15"
accel. *molto vib.*

f *ff* *mp*

c. 5"

14 huge drum impact, processing to the max, drone evolves fully

15 drone con't, final sweeping sound, processing fades, wave texture fades in

16 low drum hit, rapid addition of gnarly processing

c. 8"

Sax. *mf* *fff* *flz.*

E. *17* massive impact, full gnarly processing, wave texture expands

18 all processing fades, wave texture evolves

c. 15"

Sax. *p*

E. *19* wave texture continues

increase and decrease trill speed as the amplitude of the wave-like gestures in the electronics rises and falls

c. 15"

Sax. *mp*

E. *20* wave texture evolves

increase and decrease trill speed as the amplitude of the wave-like gestures in the electronics rises and falls

c. 15"

Sax. *mf*

E. *21* wave texture evolves

tremolo speed constant, alternate between straight tone and flutter tongue in tandem with the amplitude of the electronics

c. 10"

Sax. *f*

E. *22* waves increase in frequency

tremolo speed constant, alternate between straight tone and flutter tongue in tandem with the amplitude of the electronics

c. 10"

Sax. *p* *ff*

E. *23* large sweeping gesture overpowers all

full tone, tremolo speed constant, crescendo

c. 25"

Sax. *ppp - p* *6*

E. *24* minimal processing

fast/loud
match tempo and dynamic (within the notated range) along the contour of the graphic wave over the notated duration
slow/quiet

25 rapid sweep

short pause

c. 25"

Sax. *pp - mp* *6*


E. *26* processing intensifies

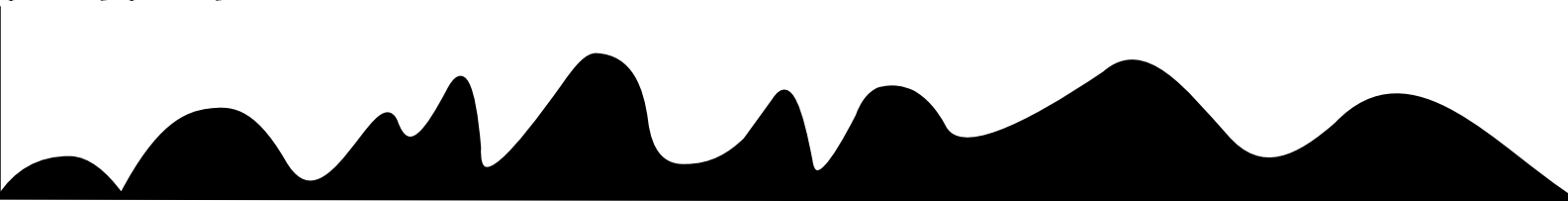
27 rapid sweep

short pause

c. 15"

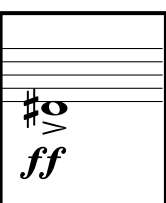
finger the written pitch and explore the harmonic series in tandem with the provided graphic, tongue and breath as needed

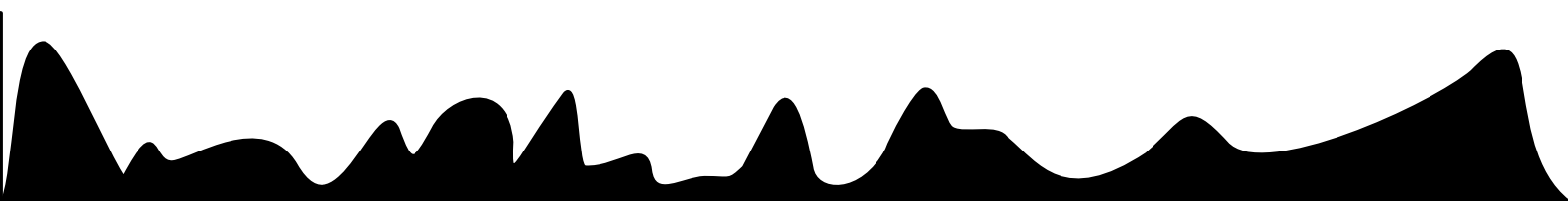
Sax. 

E. 

35 reverb freeze, low resonant drone, deep impact


c. 15"

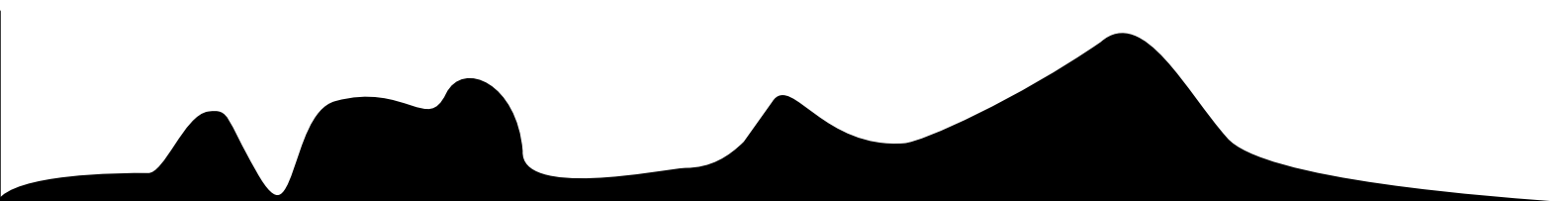
Sax. 

E. 

36 deep impact, drone evolves

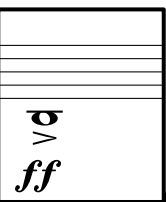
c. 15"

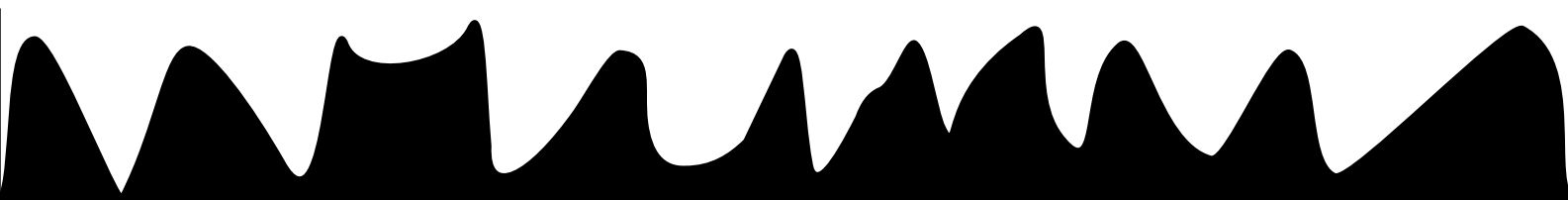
Sax. 

E. 

37 deep impact, drone evolves

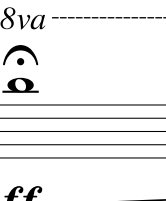
c. 20"

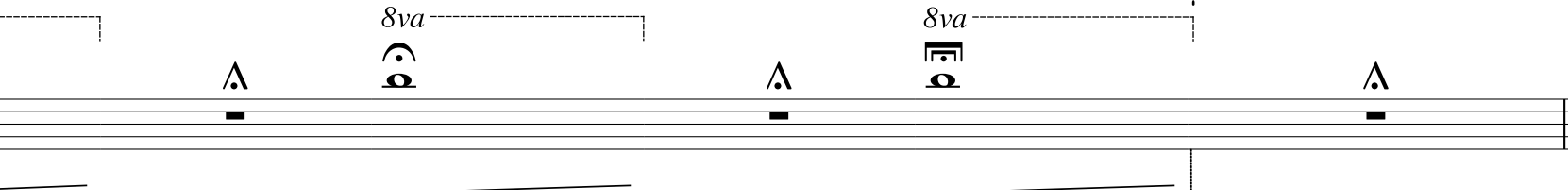
Sax. 

E. 

38 new reverb freeze, deep impact, drone accelerates to warp drive

c. 20"

Sax. 

E. 

39 rapid harmonization in a downward harmonic series

40 wait for all to fade