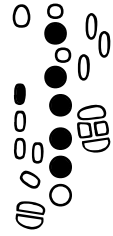
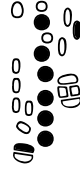
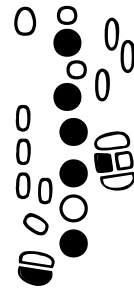


Fragile Dyads

for one or more alto saxophones

Kenneth Wilkinson



Fragile Dyads

Kenneth Wilkinson (2015)

Programme notes

Fragile Dyads: small fragile units of sound building up into a larger moving texture. Narrow bands of controlled instability, exhibiting fragility and flaws giving a natural life span (World Saxophone Congress 2015).

This piece reflects the fragility and complexity of life. The dyads (two notes played simultaneously) are produced using saxophone multiphonics. They are deliberately moderately difficult to play in order to introduce an element of struggle and fragility. Although the dyads can be sustained they might eventually break. The performer/s should then move to the next dyad. Each performer interprets the same graphic score, adding their individual voice to create an overall organic moving texture. The overall texture should be delicate, blended and subtle.

Performance

The performer/s start at any point on the circle and use the given fingering to create a dyad. If the fingering graphic is larger, play with greater volume, if smaller, lesser volume. Volume is dictated to some extent by the dyad itself: it will be most successful within a narrow dynamic range. Spaces between fingerings indicate time between dyads. There is no correct speed.

In a large reverberant space the overlapping colours of the dyads are heard, creating a complex detailed moving timbre.

The musical notation consists of two staves of music. The first staff contains ten dyads with fingerings 5, 96, 97, 98, 69, 21, 22, 10, 16, and 58. The dynamics are *p*, *mp*, *p*, *pp*, *mf*, *pp*, and *p*. The second staff contains seven dyads with fingerings 59, 58, 16, 10, 22, 21, 69, 98, 97, 96, and a boxed 5. The dynamics are *pp*, *mf*, *pp*, *p*, and *mp*. A bracket under the boxed 5 is labeled "beginning of sequence".

The sequence of dyads is symmetrical as shown in the voice-leading diagram. Numbers relate to multiphonic definitions in *The Techniques of Saxophone Playing* (Weiss & Netti 2010).

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The image displays musical notation for 'Fragile Dyads' by Kenneth Wilkinson (2015). The notation is arranged in a grid-like pattern across the page. Each notation element consists of a staff with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a time signature of 4/4. The notes are represented by circles, some filled (black) and some empty (white). The notation is organized into several groups, with some groups containing multiple staves. The overall layout is sparse and minimalist, focusing on the rhythmic and melodic relationships between the notes.