

# 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 Primal; Obnoxious.

- 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 *p* dynamic, followed by a *growl* and a *ff* dynamic. The Piano part features a complex rhythmic pattern with *f* and *ff* dynamics, and a *molto rit.* section. There are *Leg.* markings under the piano part.
- System 3:** The Alto Saxophone part starts at measure 10 with an *a tempo* marking. The Piano part continues with *f* and *ff* dynamics, followed by a *molto rit.* section and a *p* dynamic. There are *Leg.* markings under the piano part.
- System 4:** The Alto Saxophone part starts at measure 13 with an *a tempo* marking. The Piano part features a *freely* section with *pp* and *mf* dynamics, and a *ff* dynamic. There are *Leg.* markings under the piano part.

15

A. Sx.

Pno.

Musical score for measures 15-16. The system includes an Alto Saxophone (A. Sx.) and Piano (Pno.) parts. The A. Sx. part starts with a circled measure number 15. It features a dynamic of *pp* (pianissimo) in measure 15, followed by a crescendo to *ff* (fortissimo) in measure 16, and then a decrescendo back to *pp*. The Pno. part consists of a triplet of eighth notes in the right hand and a triplet of eighth notes in the left hand, both marked *ff*. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 2/4.

17

A. Sx.

Pno.

Musical score for measures 17-18. The system includes an Alto Saxophone (A. Sx.) and Piano (Pno.) parts. The A. Sx. part starts with a circled measure number 17. It includes performance instructions: "growl" in measure 17 and "slap tongue" in measure 18. Dynamics include *p* (piano), *f* (forte), *ff* (fortissimo), and *sfz* (sforzando). The Pno. part is mostly silent in measure 17, then plays a triplet of eighth notes in the right hand and a triplet of eighth notes in the left hand, both marked *ff*, in measure 18. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 2/4.

21

A. Sx.

Pno.

Musical score for measures 21-25. The system includes an Alto Saxophone (A. Sx.) and Piano (Pno.) parts. The A. Sx. part starts with a circled measure number 21. Dynamics include *mf* (mezzo-forte) and *mp* (mezzo-piano). The instruction "softly as possible" is written at the end of the system. The Pno. part features a triplet of eighth notes in the right hand and a triplet of eighth notes in the left hand, with dynamics ranging from *ff* (fortissimo) to *pp* (pianissimo) across the measures. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 2/4.

## 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. Sx. 5 *sfz* *sva-1* *f* *sfz* *mp*

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

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

Pno. *f* *pp*

A. Sx. 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*

♩ = 54 *molto accel.* ----- ♩ = 100

8

A. Sx. *p* *mf*

Pno. *p* *mf*

11 ♩ = 60 ← ♩ = ♩ →

8va

A. Sx. *p*

Pno. *f* *p*

13 ♩ = ♩

A. Sx. *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.