

SEAN WK TURNER

# NEUTRINO

for unaccompanied  
alto saxophone

FOR PERSAL ONLY

# NEUTRINO

A neutrino is an elementary, chargeless subatomic particle, a member of the subgroup of fermions, which are the subatomic particle that constitutes ordinary matter. Even by subatomic standards, neutrinos are infinitesimally small – so small we have yet to determine their mass. This means that even gravity cannot affect them measurably; of the four fundamental forces in the universe, only the weak nuclear interaction has any effect on them. They are produced by the kinds of nuclear reactions that make stars burn, and shoot off into space in vast quantities – over 65 billion neutrinos pass through every square centimeter on the Sun's side of Earth every second. The neutrino is a paradox, simultaneously born of the blazing crucibles that grant our planet life and as yet inconsequential, harmless, and unnoticeable to humans.

It was with this concept in mind that I set out to write my first unaccompanied saxophone piece. Sitting in a gymnasium during a boring commencement address, I began to jot down ideas for unmetred solo music, trying to avoid making a scene as I fingered through the riffs I was writing. I wanted something introspective, something furious, something serene and dangerous, something to showcase not only the versatility of the saxophone, but also the vastness of the space around the lonely neutrino and the tiny radioactive dance it zigs as it hurtles through infinity.

The piece is divided into six continuous movements:

I – Wandering: The vastness of the universe compared to the tiny size of the wandering neutrino is explored with various extended techniques and pitch-class tonal content. The movement is unmetred to give a sense of the massive emptiness around each of us.

II – Dance: The high and low registers of the instrument are explored as the gamma-infused dance begins with key clicks, gradually building in complexity. The *scherzo* rhythms, inspired by Latin music, jazz, and rock, build to nuclear fissure.

III – Introspection: 91 trillion neutrinos pass through our bodies every second; this must give us pause to see what they encounter on their journey. This unmetred movement is played in subtone within the middle octave of the saxophone, for quiet and gentle, but not always serene, contemplation.

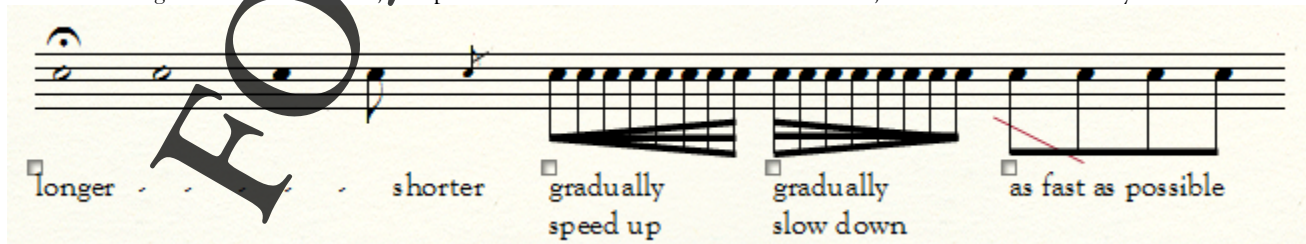
IV – Fury: Chromaticism, sudden pulses of heavy volume, and uneven phrase lengths make this an unsettling journey through the fires that bear forth the light of the universe.

V – Simplicity: A pseudo-minimalist movement highlights the simplicity of the neutrino, maintaining an unassuming but ever slightly changing *ostinato*.

VI – Wandering: After all this, the neutrino and we are still wandering through the universe together, lonely and erratic. The first movement is reprised here and fades into the oblivion of an edgeless, expanding void.

Sean WK Turner  
7 May 2014

NB. During unmetred sections, no specific note durations are notated. Rather, this relative duration system is used:



In addition, the breath mark (,) is used to indicate a pause of approximately one second, though musicality may require longer or shorter pauses.

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1 Semplice e spazioso open Accidentals in unmetered sections apply only to the notes immediately following.

*n* *ff* *pp* *fp* *f* *ff* *mp* *mf* *pp* *f* *mf* *f* *mf* *f* *fp* *growl* *sostenuto* *f* *mp* *f* *mp* *ff*



3 Gentile

*p* sempre subtone

*f* *ppp* *ffppp* *ffppp* *ffppp* *ff*

*pp* *ff*

4.1 Furioso ♩ = 132

*mp* *f* full tone

4.8

*mf* *ff* *mp*

*mp*

Detailed description: This is a musical score for a piece titled 'Gentile'. It consists of ten staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a common time signature, and a key signature of one flat. The music is marked 'p sempre subtone'. The second staff continues the melodic line. The third staff features a dynamic range from 'f' to 'ppp' with a series of slurs and accents. The fourth staff starts with 'pp' and 'ff'. The fifth staff includes a section marked '4.1 Furioso ♩ = 132' with a 5/4 time signature and a dynamic of 'f full tone'. The sixth and seventh staves show complex rhythmic patterns with various time signatures (7/8, 4/4) and dynamics. The eighth staff is marked '4.8' and includes dynamics 'mf', 'ff', and 'mp'. The ninth and tenth staves conclude the piece with a 'mp' dynamic and a 4/4 time signature.

Musical staff with notes and dynamics. The staff contains a sequence of notes with various accidentals (sharps and flats) and rests. A dynamic marking of *mf* is present at the end of the staff.

4.17

Musical staff with notes and dynamics. The staff contains a sequence of notes with various accidentals and rests. A dynamic marking of *mp* is present below the staff.

Musical staff with notes and dynamics. The staff contains a sequence of notes with various accidentals and rests.

Musical staff with notes and dynamics. The staff contains a sequence of notes with various accidentals and rests. A dynamic marking of *ff* is present below the staff.

5.1 Andante cantabile  $\text{♩} = 72$

Musical staff with notes and dynamics. The staff contains a sequence of notes with various accidentals and rests. A dynamic marking of *p* and the instruction *poco cresc.* are present below the staff.

Musical staff with notes and dynamics. The staff contains a sequence of notes with various accidentals and rests. A dynamic marking of *mp* and the instruction *poco cresc.* are present below the staff.

Musical staff with notes and dynamics. The staff contains a sequence of notes with various accidentals and rests.

5.13

Musical staff with notes and dynamics. The staff contains a sequence of notes with various accidentals and rests.

Musical staff with notes and dynamics. The staff contains a sequence of notes with various accidentals and rests.

6 Semplice e spazioso

The musical score consists of ten staves of music. The first staff begins with a *mf* dynamic and includes a circled '6' in a box. It features a series of eighth notes, a whole rest, and a half note with a fermata. Dynamics include *n*, *ffpp*, *fp*, and *f*. Articulations include 'open' and 'covered open'. The second staff has a *ff* dynamic and a *mp* dynamic. The third staff starts with *mf* and includes a tremolo section. The fourth staff has a *pp* dynamic and a *f* dynamic. The fifth staff has *mf* and *f* dynamics. The sixth staff has a *fp* dynamic and a 'growl' marking. The seventh staff has *pp*, *f*, and *mp* dynamics, with a 'sostenuto' marking. The eighth staff has *f* and *mp* dynamics. The ninth staff has *f* and *ff* dynamics.