

Grand Jeu

for saxophone quartet

Timothy Kramer

2022

Performance Notes

- Accidentals carry through the measure, but never in a different octave.
- All tempos in this piece have strict metric relationships marked in the score.

Duration: 6 minutes, 30 seconds

Program Notes

This work was written for the ~Nois saxophone quartet in cooperation with the Composers Alliance of San Antonio for a concert in March of 2023.

Grand Jeu is a particular registration on French organs of the 17th and 18th centuries that includes heavy reeds (8' and 4') and mutations. The effect is very robust, loud and bright. Works written with this registration may also feature dialogues that offer softer divisions of the organ and lighter textures. As I thought about the wide variety of sounds that a saxophone quartet can make, I first envisioned them sounding together - like an organ - all playing in strict parallel motion of fourths and fifths. This block of sound was my starting point. (I wondered how the early saxophone may have been received in churches in France as it developed in the 19th century, noting that the Catholic Church banned saxophones in the early 1900s.) In this piece, we also hear quieter sections in the middle – some in an almost reverent tone - but much of the work presents a wall of sound.

About the Composer

Timothy Kramer's works have been performed by major orchestras (Indianapolis, Detroit, San Antonio) and chamber ensembles (North/South Consonance, SOLI Ensemble, ONIX Ensemble, Detroit Chamber Winds, Luna Nova, Ensemble Mise-en). He has received grants from the Guggenheim Foundation, the NEA, the MacDowell Colony, Meet the Composer, BMI, ASCAP, and the AGO, and commissions from the Midwest Clinic, the Utah Arts Festival, and the Detroit Chamber Winds, among others. He was Composer-not-in-Residence with the San Francisco Choral Artists from 2019-2022. Originally from Washington State, he went to Pacific Lutheran University (B.M.) and the University of Michigan (M.M., D.M.A.), and he was a Fulbright Scholar to Germany. He taught at Trinity University in San Antonio for 19 years, where he founded the Composers Alliance of San Antonio. In 2010 he moved to Illinois College as Chair of Music and named the Edward Capps Professor of Humanities in 2013, and Professor Emeritus in 2020. More information is at www.timothykramer.com.

Grand Jeu

for the ~Nois Saxophone Quartet

Timothy Kramer

Like an Organ $\text{♩} = 44$

Soprano Sax Alto Sax Tenor Sax Baritone Sax

f

f

f

f

f

f

f

f

S. Sx. A. Sx. T. Sx. B. Sx.

f

f

f

f

f

f

f

5

With Energy $\text{♩} = 132$

Musical score for measures 5-6. The score consists of four staves, each representing a different instrument: S. Sx. (Soprano Saxophone), A. Sx. (Alto Saxophone), T. Sx. (Tenor Saxophone), and B. Sx. (Bassoon Saxophone). The key signature is F major (one sharp). The time signature is common time (indicated by '4'). Measure 5 starts with a rest followed by eighth-note patterns. Dynamic markings include ***ff*** (fortissimo) and ***mf*** (mezzo-forte). Measure 6 continues the pattern with similar dynamics.

6

Continuation of the musical score for measures 5-6. The four staves (S. Sx., A. Sx., T. Sx., B. Sx.) continue their eighth-note patterns. The dynamics remain consistent with measure 5, featuring ***ff*** and ***mf***.

Grand Jeu

3

7

S. Sx.

A. Sx.

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

9

S. Sx.

A. Sx.

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

Grand Jeu

12

S. Sx. A. Sx. T. Sx. B. Sx.

Measures 12: 6/4 time. Dynamics: *ff*, *mf*, *ff*, *mf*. Measure 13 starts with a measure of 3/4.

13

S. Sx. A. Sx. T. Sx. B. Sx.

Measures 13: Measure 13 starts with a measure of 3/4. Measures 14-15: 3/4 time. Dynamics: *ff*, *mf*, *ff*, *mf*.

Grand Jeu

5

14

S. Sx.

A. Sx.

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

ff

ff

17

S. Sx.

A. Sx.

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

ff

(♩=♪)

126

126

126

126

Grand Jeu

19 (♩. = 176)

S. Sx.

A. Sx.

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

22

S. Sx.

A. Sx.

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

Grand Jeu

7

25

S. Sx.

A. Sx.

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

28

S. Sx.

A. Sx.

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

Grand Jeu

31

S. Sx. *fff*

A. Sx. *fff*

T. Sx. *fff*

B. Sx. *fff*

Measure 31: The score consists of four staves for Soprano (S. Sx.), Alto (A. Sx.), Tenor (T. Sx.), and Bass (B. Sx.) saxophones. The key signature is A major (no sharps or flats). The music begins with eighth-note patterns on the first two beats, followed by sixteenth-note patterns on the last two beats. The dynamics are marked *fff*. The time signature is 3/4.

Measure 32: The score continues with the same four staves. The first beat consists of a rest. The second beat begins with eighth-note patterns, followed by sixteenth-note patterns on the last two beats. The dynamics remain *fff*. The time signature changes to 6/4.

33

Presto $\text{♩} = 176$

S. Sx. *mf* *ff*

A. Sx. *mf* *ff*

T. Sx. *mf* *ff*

B. Sx. *mf* *ff*

Measure 33: The score consists of four staves for Soprano (S. Sx.), Alto (A. Sx.), Tenor (T. Sx.), and Bass (B. Sx.) saxophones. The key signature is A major (no sharps or flats). The music begins with eighth-note patterns on the first two beats, followed by sixteenth-note patterns on the last two beats. The dynamics are marked *mf* and *ff*. The time signature is 6/4.

Measure 34: The score continues with the same four staves. The first beat consists of a rest. The second beat begins with eighth-note patterns, followed by sixteenth-note patterns on the last two beats. The dynamics remain *mf* and *ff*. The time signature is 6/4.

Grand Jeu

9

34

S. Sx.

A. Sx.

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

35

S. Sx.

A. Sx.

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

Grand Jeu

36

S. Sx.

A. Sx.

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

pp

ppp

38 Hovering ($\text{♩} = 176$)

S. Sx.

A. Sx.

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

pp lontano

pp lontano

pp lontano

pp lontano

Grand Jeu

11

40

S. Sx.

A. Sx.

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

ppp

42

S. Sx.

A. Sx.

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

pp

ppp

Grand Jeu

44

S. Sx.

A. Sx.

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

46

S. Sx.

A. Sx.

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

Grand Jeu

13

48

S. Sx.

A. Sx.

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

50

S. Sx.

A. Sx.

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

Grand Jeu

52

S. Sx.

A. Sx.

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

54

pp

2 4 -

2 4 -

4 -

p

pp

2 4 -

2 4 -

4 -

pp

2 4 -

4 -

p

55

S. Sx.

A. Sx.

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

p

-

p

p

p

mp

p

mp

Grand Jeu

15

57

S. Sx.

A. Sx.

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

mp

mf

59

S. Sx.

A. Sx.

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

60

mf

mf

mp

61

S. Sx.
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
B. Sx.

f
mf
f
mf
f
f

63

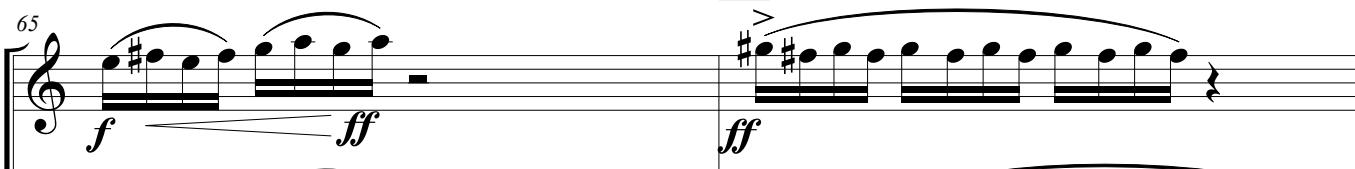
S. Sx.
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
B. Sx.

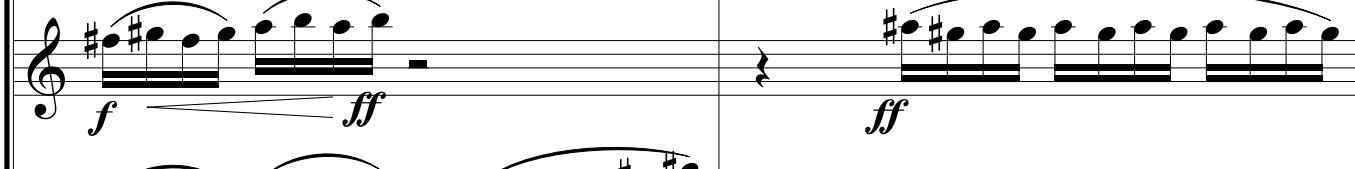
mf
f
mf
f
f
f
ff

Grand Jeu

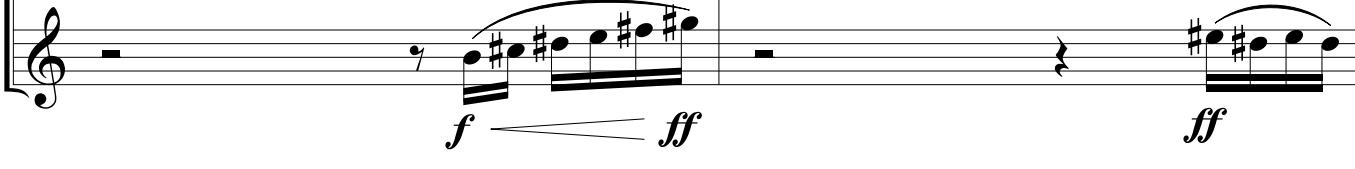
17

65

S. Sx. 

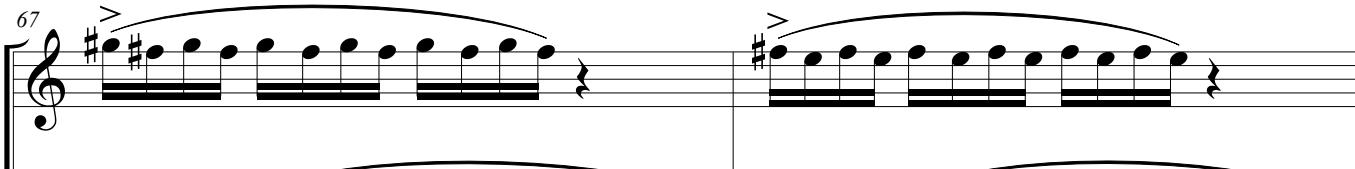
A. Sx. 

T. Sx. 

B. Sx. 

66

67

S. Sx. 

A. Sx. 

T. Sx. 

B. Sx. 

Grand Jeu

69

S. Sx.

A. Sx.

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

>

>

-

-

-

-

71

S. Sx.

A. Sx.

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

72

>

-

-

-

-

-

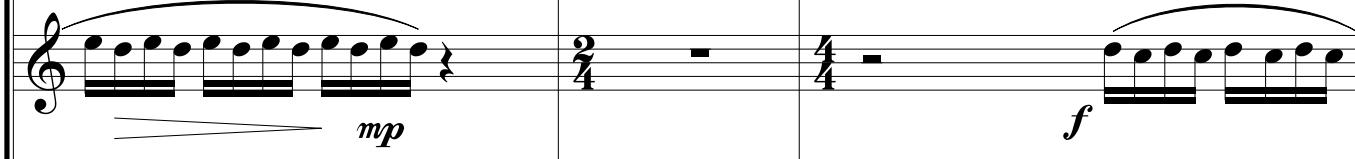
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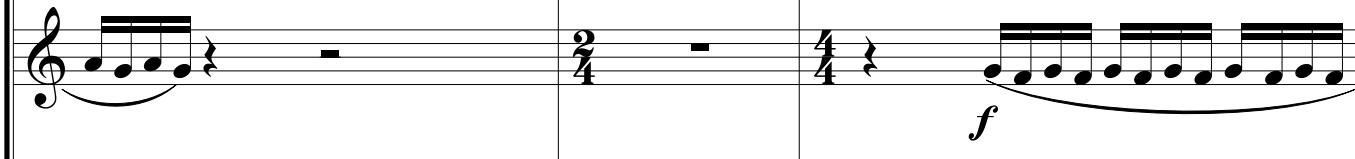
Grand Jeu

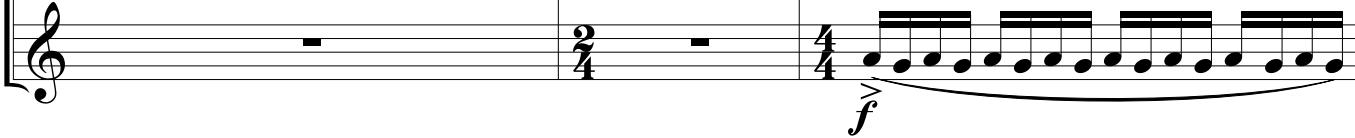
19

73

S. Sx.  *p* *f*

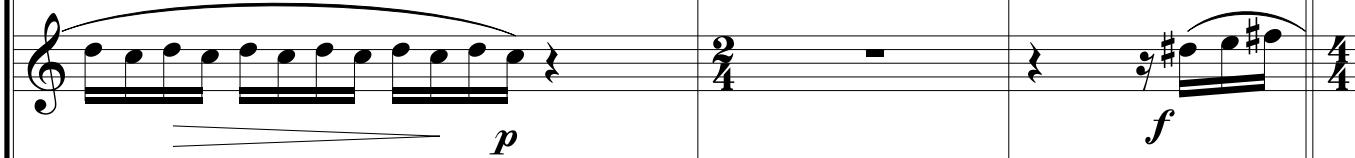
A. Sx.  *mp* *f*

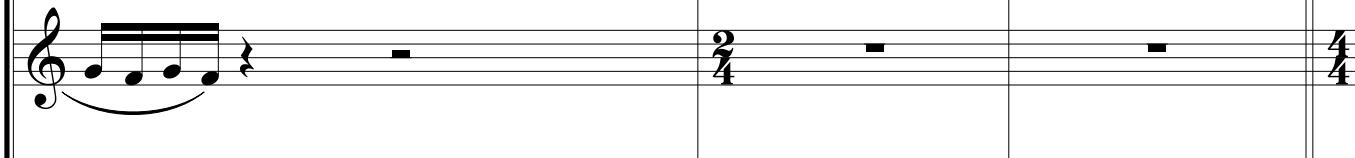
T. Sx.  *f*

B. Sx.  *f*

76

S. Sx.  *pp* *f*

A. Sx.  *p* *f*

T. Sx.  -

B. Sx.  -

79 Like an Organ $\text{♩} = 44$

S. Sx.

A. Sx.

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

fp \nearrow *f*

3

81

82 Floating ($\text{♩} = 44$)

S. Sx.

A. Sx.

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

p

pp \nearrow *mp* \nearrow *pp* \nearrow *pp*

pp \nearrow *mp* \nearrow *pp* \nearrow *pp*

pp \nearrow *mp* \nearrow *pp*

pp \nearrow *pp*

Grand Jeu

21

86

S. Sx. 

A. Sx. 

T. Sx. 

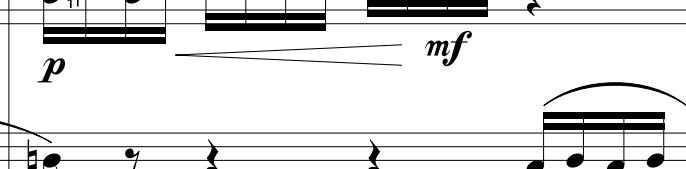
B. Sx. 

88









89

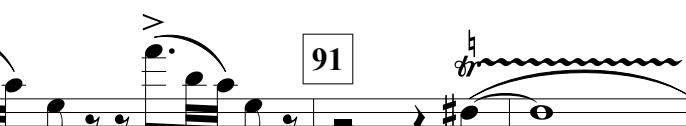
S. Sx. 

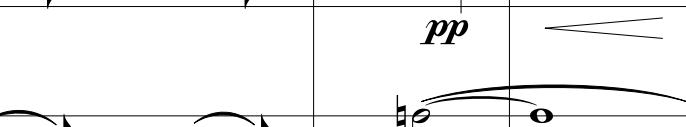
A. Sx. 

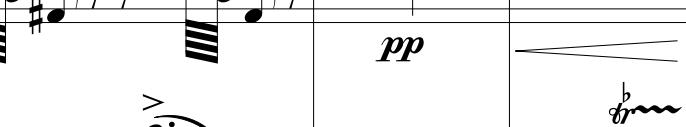
T. Sx. 

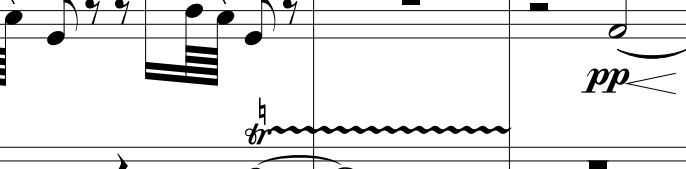
B. Sx. 

91









Grand Jeu

93

S. Sx.

A. Sx.

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

98

99

S. Sx.

A. Sx.

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

102

103

S. Sx.

A. Sx.

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

p *mp*

mp *f* — 3 —

105

106 (♩ = 88)

Tempo Doppio

S. Sx.

A. Sx.

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

ff

mf

ff

mf

p

mf

Grand Jeu

(♩=♩)

108

S. Sx.

A. Sx.

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

f

f

f

ff

ff

110

Presto ♩ = 176

S. Sx.

A. Sx.

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

ff

ff

ff

ff

Grand Jeu

25

113

114
(♩ = ♩.) > (♩. = 176)

12/16 16/16 12/16 16/16

S. Sx.
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
B. Sx.

116

116

S. Sx.
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
B. Sx.

Grand Jeu

119

S. Sx.

A. Sx.

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

121

122

S. Sx.

A. Sx.

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

Grand Jeu

125

S. Sx.

A. Sx.

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

127 Like an Organ $\text{♩} = 44$

S. Sx.

A. Sx.

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

129

With Energy $\text{♩} = 132$

S. Sx.

A. Sx.

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

130

S. Sx.

A. Sx.

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

Grand Jeu

29

131

S. Sx.

A. Sx.

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

132

S. Sx.

A. Sx.

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

Grand Jeu

133

S. Sx.

A. Sx.

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

135

S. Sx.

A. Sx.

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

137

S. Sx.

A. Sx.

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

3/4

139

S. Sx.

A. Sx.

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

3/4

142

S. Sx.

A. Sx.

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

— 3 — 3 — 5

— 3 — 3 — 5

— 3 — 3 — 5

— 3 — 3 — 5

144

S. Sx.

A. Sx.

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

— γ —

— γ —

— γ —

— γ —

146

S. Sx.

A. Sx.

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

148

S. Sx.

A. Sx.

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

151 Like an Organ $\text{♩} = 44$

S. Sx.

A. Sx.

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

November 30, 2022
Jacksonville, Illinois