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## The University of Southern Mississippi

# A PERFORMANCE PROJECT WITH AN HISTORICAL AND ANALYTICAL

## PERSPECTIVE ON THE CONCERTO FOR ALTO SAXOPHONE AND

# ORCHESTRA, OP. 31 BY PETER JONA KORN

by

Brian Sanford Ransom

A Dissertation Submitted to the Graduate School of The University of Southern Mississippi in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Doctor of Musical Arts

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Approved:

December 2009

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# BRIAN SANFORD RANSOM

2009

# The University of Southern Mississippi

# A PERFORMANCE PROJECT WITH AN HISTORICAL AND ANALYTICAL PERSPECTIVE ON THE CONCERTO FOR ALTO SAXOPHONE AND ORCHESTRA, OP. 31 BY PETER JONA KORN

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Brian Sanford Ransom

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December 2009

#### ABSTRACT

# A PERFORMANCE PROJECT WITH AN HISTORICAL AND ANALYTICAL PERSPECTIVE ON THE CONCERTO FOR ALTO SAXOPHONE AND ORCHESTRA, OP. 31 BY PETER JONA KORN

## by Brian Sanford Ransom

#### December 2009

Peter Jona Korn (1922-1998) is not a name immediately recognized in American music circles, yet during the 1940s and '50s he led a successful career as an American composer. His *Saxophone Concerto* – composed in 1956 for the virtuoso Sigurd Rascher, and revised by Korn in 1982 – is an important contribution to the saxophone repertoire.

Many composers, including Glazounov, Ibert, and Larsson, wrote concertos for Sigurd Rascher. These works, once considered highly virtuosic, are now studied and performed by college level saxophonists. The original version of Korn's *Concerto*, among the most technically demanding works, has remained in obscurity for over forty years. Nevertheless, the work is not only playable, but also compositionally sound and aesthetically pleasing.

The *Concerto* received few performances and was never widely promoted, due to both the extremely demanding solo part as well as political factors pertaining to the composer. The intent of this dissertation is to reveal the work's substantive value to the field of serious saxophone performance and pedagogy.

Methodology includes the study of existing texts, personal interviews with Barbara Korn (widow of the composer), and computer music transcriptions. A wealth of information is available in a variety of documents in English and German by and about

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the composer. With the permission of Barbara Korn, I obtained the orchestra scores to the original *Concerto* and the 1982 revision, a score reduction of the original (rendered by Laurence Wyman), and the piano reduction of the 1982 version done by the composer. After analyzing and comparing these documents, this author transcribed the original *Concerto* into Finale computer program and made a piano reduction using Korn's reduction of the 1982 revision as a template.

Conclusions include the possibility of extra-musical content and its effect on the future of the *Concerto*. The oddly anticlimactic ending Korn wrote for the soloist raises questions about the *Concerto's* acceptance by the saxophone community and the concertgoing public. It is this author's hope that an analysis and discussion of the programmatic elements in the ending will encourage such acceptance.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I would like to thank those individuals without whose assistance this project would not have been possible. Dr. Lawrence Gwozdz taught me the skills I needed to understand and perform the Concerto. Barbara Korn made available full orchestra scores for the original and 1982 revision, found and helped locate other crucial information, and clarified facts about her late husband's life and aspirations. She has also provided much support and inspiration for this project. Carina Rascher has been accommodating and generous in providing the collection of letters and other documents that her late father saved that has added to the depth and scope of this project. I also want to thank Laurence Wyman (friend and colleague of Sigurd Rascher), Wildy Zumwalt (Associate Professor of Saxophone at the State University of New York at Fredonia, who is overseeing the Rascher collection), Nancy Price and Mae Gaska (respectively daughter and wife of Zigmont Gaska), John Sampen and Steve Mauk (both involved with events surrounding the performance of the 1982 revision), and Sonja Luther (my German translator). I owe much gratitude to Sun Hee Beak for her unfaltering cooperation and musicianship in helping demonstrate this work using a reduction of the full score, a document that contained far too many notes for a single pianist.

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#### CHAPTER I

#### **BIOGRAPHY OF PETER JONA KORN**

Peter Jona Korn is not a familiar name in American music circles today, yet at one time he was considered a promising young American composer. German by birth and Jewish by heritage, he gained American citizenship and went to great lengths to preserve it. Although he was a fairly prolific composer, no single composition gained him widespread fame. His *Saxophone Concerto*, composed in 1956, is a reflection of his unique American experience.

Peter Jona Korn was born in 1922 in Berlin, Germany, the son of Georg Korn (1885-1940), an employee in a textile firm, and his wife Lisa (1899-1950). Peter Jona Korn lived almost 76 years, passing away in Munich just weeks before his birthday in 1998.

When Hitler came to power in 1933, the students at the Fichte-Gymnasium, Peter Korn's school in Berlin-Wilmersdorf, celebrated. Korn, already having strong opinions at the age of 11, "went across the street and began to make a speech against the new regime, for which the other boys beat him up."<sup>1</sup> When his mother discovered what had happened, she moved him to London, where he attended the new Beltane School and studied the piano with Edmond Rubbra.<sup>2</sup>

Even at that age, Korn was showing great talent for music. He had composed

<sup>2</sup> Paraphrased from website: Teachers and educators forced out of Germany after 1933 on political grounds founded more than 20 boarding schools oriented towards the German progressive educational reform tradition of *Landerziehungsheime*, or "countryside educational homes." Hildegard Feidel-Mertz, Integration and Formation of Identity: Exile Schools in Great Britain. *Shofar: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Jewish Studies*; Fall 2004, Vol. 23 Issue 1, p. 71-84.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Barbara Korn, telephone interview, 10 March 2005.

<sup>&</sup>lt;a href="http://web.ebscohost.com.lynx.lib.usm.edu/ehost/detail?vid=3&hid=9&sid=da57da80-cb8f-4719-9ff1-5c8778056fb5%40sessionmgr9>Internet; accessed 5 June 2007.">http://web.ebscohost.com.lynx.lib.usm.edu/ehost/detail?vid=3&hid=9&sid=da57da80-cb8f-4719-9ff1-5c8778056fb5%40sessionmgr9>Internet; accessed 5 June 2007.</a>

highly dissonant music, had done a harpsichord performance that was broadcast on radio, and had sung in a Paris opera production.<sup>3</sup>

In 1936, at the age of 14, he was awarded a highly coveted scholarship to the Palestine Conservatory, where he studied composition with his most influential teacher, Stefan Wolpe. Having been influenced by Schoenberg and Webern, as well as by Jewish folk music and Arabic classical music, Wolpe sought to apply serial principles to tonal harmony in order to combine dodecaphonic and tonal composition. While under Wolpe's tutelage, Korn also studied the works of Bartók, Stravinsky, and Mahler.<sup>4</sup>

In 1941 Korn came to the United States under the sponsorship of his aunt, Hanna, and uncle, Otto Fenichel, an important psychoanalyst in Los Angeles. Korn had intended to continue studies with Wolpe on the East Coast where Wolpe now lived but was forced to remain with his family in California.<sup>5</sup>

He studied with Schoenberg at UCLA, but later complained about Schoenberg's strict and methodical approach.<sup>6</sup> Korn never completed his degree, but continued to compose, and in 1944 obtained American citizenship. Later he studied with Ernst Toch, Hanns Eisler, and Miklos Rosza, all successful composers of music for movies and films. Of the three, Toch would have the most influence on Korn's compositional career.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Barbara Korn, Peter Jona Korn: a short biography, unpublished (2005).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> See Appendix A for *Recollections of Stefan Wolpe by former students and friends*, http://grace.evergreen.edu/~arunc/texts/music/wolpe/wolpe/Peter\_Jona\_Korn.html, accessed 1 December 2007.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Restrictive immigration laws and financial factors may have made such relocation prohibitive. Barbara Korn, telephone interview, 10 March 2005.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Korn wrote, "After I studied with Schoenberg, I probably wrote [Wolpe] some letters tearing Schoenberg apart." *Recollections of Stefan Wolpe by former students and friends*, http://grace.evergreen.edu/~arunc/texts/music/wolpe/wolpe/Peter Jona Korn.html, accessed 1 Dec. 2007.

During the 1940s and '50s Korn's "American dream" began to materialize. In 1946 he founded the New Orchestra of Los Angeles, an ensemble of musicians dedicated to performing unheard works by aspiring young composers. It was during this time that Korn met his future wife Barbara, an active pianist in the Los Angeles area. In subsequent years she would be of great professional assistance to him, playing the piano parts of his works, premiering his piano music, and creating piano reductions of some of his orchestral scores.

In 1954 the Louisville Orchestra commissioned Korn's *Variations on a Tune from the Beggar's Opera*, Op. 26. Korn also won first prize in the Joseph Eger Horn Competition in 1952, and the Frank Huntington Beebe award in 1957. Boosey and Hawkes agreed to publish some of his works and, in 1955, a small orchestral work, *In Media Res*, Op. 21, was performed in the Hollywood Bowl. His *Third Symphony*, Op. 30, was composed in early 1956 and premiered the following year by the Los Angeles Philharmonic, with Eduard van Beinum conducting. In the spring of 1956, immediately following the completion of the *Third Symphony*, Korn began work on the *Saxophone Concerto*, Op. 31.

Despite many successes, Korn became frustrated with his career in America and yearned to return to Germany. As in his youth, he was viewed as the outsider, rebelling against social and political forces, unable to gain widespread acceptance for his compositional views. During the next year, Korn began a long struggle to maintain an active career on both sides of the Atlantic. Lukas Foss, then professor of composition and conducting at UCLA, had offered Korn a conducting opportunity in Germany for a year.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Barbara Korn, personal interview, 16 March 2005.

Korn accepted the offer, made by the Frank Huntington Beebe Foundation of Boston, and moved his family in March of 1957. The award gave Korn a \$3000 stipend for a one-year residence in Europe for the purpose of establishing contacts as a conductor.<sup>8</sup>

In 1960 Korn returned to the United States due to laws concerning naturalized citizens and remained there long enough to satisfy his citizenship requirement. He then returned to Germany and in 1967, became the Director of the Richard Strauss Conservatory in Munich. Although this job would leave him less time to compose, Korn flourished in this position until his retirement in 1987. During this time, he composed a number of orchestral, chamber, keyboard, and choral works.

In later years Korn also served as chair of the Association of Munich Musicians (1974–78), vice-president of the German Composers' Association and co-founder of the Richard Strauss Society. He was awarded the City of Munich Prize for Music in 1968 and the Distinguished Service Cross of Bavaria in 1984. Korn resided in Germany for the remainder of his life, yet never renounced his status as an American citizen.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Barbara Korn, personal email, 17 July 2009.

#### CHAPTER II

#### HISTORY OF THE KORN SAXOPHONE CONCERTO

Korn composed the *Concerto for Alto Saxophone and Orchestra*, Op. 31 in 1956 for Sigurd Raschèr. Raschèr premiered the concerto on January 6, 1957 in Elkhart, Indiana with the Elkhart Symphony, Zigmont Gaska conducting. Later the same year Raschèr performed the work again with the Oklahoma City Symphony, Guy Fraser Harrison conducting. Then, on April 1, 1958, Raschèr performed the European premiere in Hamburg with the Norddeutscher-Rundfunk (North German Radio Orchestra) with Korn as the conductor.<sup>1</sup> The only other known performance by Raschèr took place at a youth concert in Brisbane Australia with the Queensland Symphony, Rudolf Pekarek conducting, on October 26, 1959.

Raschèr was known for approaching composers with the idea of composing for him, with the promise of performances. For an aspiring composer such as Peter Jona Korn, this would have been an opportunity for public exposure. Raschèr inspired many composers by demonstrating his technical expertise, lyrical style, four-octave range, and special effects such as flutter-tongue and slap-tongue. Korn used these elements to draw parameters within which he would compose, "a serious symphonic concerto in the best tradition for an instrument whose capabilities and possibilities are as yet unknown to the greater part of the music public."<sup>2</sup>

The events surrounding the origin of the *Saxophone Concerto* are chronicled in a number of sources, including personal correspondence, newspaper articles, and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Anthony Wright, *Stretto Magazine*, No. 3, June 1958, Mills Music, London; Hamburger Rundfunkorchester Musikdatenbank Internet printout, 28 Feb. 2008.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Program Notes, Elkhart Symphony Orchestra Concert, 6 Jan. 1957. See Appendix A.

interviews with acquaintances of Korn and Rascher. These sources detail how they met, the obstacles they faced in planning the premiere and other performances, and their developing friendship. These sources also help to clarify connections to other composers, conductors, orchestras, and premieres.

How much Korn and Raschèr communicated is not known. Although they likely spoke by telephone and in person, their main mode of communication seems to have been by personal letter. Raschèr kept the correspondence that he received from Korn and copies of many letters that he wrote to Korn at his house in Shushan, NY. The entire collection covers a timespan of almost three years, April 1956 through January 1959, and includes 22 letters and a postcard from Korn to Raschèr and 13 letters from Raschèr to Korn, and one postcard from Korn dated May 1, 1967. While Raschèr had the foresight to make copies of his letters before mailing them, the Korn family was not able to keep such memorabilia due to frequent relocation in the years following the composition of the *Concerto.*<sup>3</sup>

The letters contain details of their initial acquaintance, what Korn learned about Rascher's abilities, the form and substance of the *Concerto*, plans for the premiere and subsequent performances, and possibilities for recording the work, with references to contemporary composers and conductors.

The first letter, dated April 15, 1956, is addressed to Mr. Raschèr. Korn began the letter by thanking Raschèr for the recording of the Henry Brant *Concerto* that he had sent. This album revealed Raschèr's virtuosic abilities including his four-octave range, slap tongue, and phenomenal technique. Like many composers who wrote for Raschèr, Korn

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Barbara Korn, personal interview, 15 March 2005.

was inspired to include these elements in his Saxophone Concerto.

The April 15 letter includes mention of their first meeting in Pasadena. Barbara Korn confirms that this occurred at a performance of the Pasadena Symphony in March of 1956 at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium.<sup>4</sup> The conductor, Richard Lert, was a mutual friend who had come to the United States from Europe because of the political instability there.<sup>5</sup>

According to Barbara Korn, her husband worked on the *Concerto* feverishly and obsessively.<sup>6</sup> In his first letter to Rascher, Korn wrote the following:

I had planned to wait for awhile before tackling the projected saxophone concerto, because I had worked very hard on my third symphony (which I finished the week following our meeting in Pasadena) and thought I should take a breather. But somehow I found myself working on it quite inadvertently, and I am now beginning to hit a good stride with it. I am planning to do the whole work before summer, but I don't want to rush anything, so I can't be certain about this right now.<sup>7</sup>

The last page of the first movement of the existing orchestra score shows the date

May 24, indicating that it took only five weeks for Korn to compose it. Korn completed

the Concerto on August 7, 1956.

Early in the compositional process Korn and Rascher discussed the length and scope of the work, as well as details concerning orchestration. In a letter to Rascher dated May 6, less than a month after the first, Korn referred to a letter in which Rascher had apparently requested sketches of the first movement as soon as possible, since Korn's

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Barbara Korn personal email, 11 Dec. 2007.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Lert was appointed director of the Pasadena Symphony in 1936 and served in that post for 36 years. http://www.sgvmedia.com/Pasadenasym.com/history.html, accessed 11 Dec. 2007.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Barbara Korn personal interview, 15 March 2005.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Korn letter to Rascher, 15 April 1956.

original plan was to sketch the whole concerto first and orchestrate it later. He went on to write:

The first movement is close to 10 minutes long, and is written so that it could be performed as a separate piece. I am planning to limit the 2 other movements not to exceed a combined 10 to 12 minutes, so that the whole work won't run much over 20 minutes. The two other movements will be played uninterrupted.<sup>8</sup>

This paragraph demonstrates that Korn conceived the Concerto as a three-

movement work, even though the final score shows only movements I, Allegro con

spirito, and II, Andante sostenuto – Cadenza - Allegretto.<sup>9</sup>

Korn wrote in the same letter:

I am using (as it stands now) a not too large orchestra, including woodwinds in pairs, four horns, timpani and strings. I don't need trumpets, and I think I will be able to manage without trombones and tuba; I always try to do with as little as possible, for artistic as well as economical reasons.<sup>10</sup>

Already Korn and Rascher were seeking opportunities for a premiere. In the same

letter of May 6, Korn mentioned a visit with George Barati, the conductor of the

Honolulu Symphony, who informed him of Rascher's performance in Honolulu the

following March and inquired about any plans or commitments for the premiere. Their

hopes of a premiere of the concerto in Hawaii did not come to fruition, but Korn and

Raschèr also considered other possibilities. One prospect was a recording with the

members of the Symphony of the Air managed by Spencer Moore of Zephyr Records in

Hollywood, California. Moore's name was also mentioned in connection with the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Korn letter to Rascher, 6 May 1956.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> The informal division of the second movement into two parts, each referred to as movements, is not unprecedented. For example, the second movement of Jacques Ibert's *Concertino da Camera*, another work dedicated to Rascher, is often referred to as a second and third movement, consisting of a substantial slow section followed by a faster finale. In order to simplify some examples, this author will refer to the *Andante* sostenuto as Movement II and the *Allegretto* as Movement III.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Korn letter to Raschèr, 6 May 1956.

production of the educational film that Rascher eventually made for the Buescher Band Instrument Company in February 1957 in Oklahoma City, where Rascher recorded the Korn *Concerto* for radio broadcast.<sup>11</sup> Mr. Moore had no involvement with the film.<sup>12</sup>

Other prospects for a premiere included Richard Lert and the Pasadena Symphony, and Korn's own ensemble, which was "just a reading group at present."<sup>13</sup> In a letter dated August 21, Korn wrote that Maurice Abravanel in Santa Barbara was very interested in premiering the concerto on February 20, "provided that [Raschèr] happened to be in the vicinity." None of these plans were realized.

Then in a letter dated October 16, Raschèr wrote "Here it is: January 6th, Elkhart Indiana Symphony Orchestra, first performance of Korn Concerto. Conductor: Zigmont Gaska, himself a very able violinist." Raschèr supplemented his announcement by praising Gaska and reassuring Korn that it would be a successful premiere.

Prior to receiving this letter Korn had already sent a note dated October 17, detailing his attempts to coordinate Rascher's schedule with the educational film for Buescher using a "Mr. Hall" of the University of Southern California Cinema Department and the premiere of the *Saxophone Concerto* with Richard Lert and the Pasadena Symphony.

The next day he received Rascher's letter from October 16. He responded quickly:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Korn letter to Rascher, 21 June 1956. See Appendix A for newspaper articles pertaining to this event.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Raschèr gained support from James Neilson, director of the Oklahoma City University band and Buescher Band Instrument Co. Ned Hockman of Oklahoma University directed the production, Wayne Rock and Jeff Griffin were the cameramen and Gene Welch was the sound technician. *The Oklahoman*, Nov. 21, 1956 and Jan 16, 1957.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Korn letter to Raschèr, 16 Aug. 1956.

I am happy to read about the Elkhart premiere; I think a well-prepared performance in more modest surroundings is much to be preferred to a slipshod affair with one of the majors, particularly since we don't seem to have a chance to do a reading prior to that to catch the inevitable mistakes in parts and score, etc.

Korn went on to write enthusiastically:

It would give me great pleasure, if we would have opportunities to do the Concerto here and there in Europe. As soon as we know each other's schedule we could see how we could arrange this; in the time that I shall be there, roughly between April '57 and October '58 (perhaps later) I am planning to travel anywhere anytime for a conducting engagement, regardless of the expenses involved.<sup>14</sup>

In the October 26 letter Rascher mentioned another possible performance of the *Concerto*, with the Oklahoma City Symphony. He also wrote that he would be on the West Coast on his way to Hawaii for a March 29 performance and offered to arrive a week early for a possible session with Lert.

Korn's answer on October 30 expressed excitement about the possibility of another performance and suggested that Raschèr send out press releases to *Musical America, Musical Courier*, and the *New York Times* for publicity. Later in the same letter Korn described conflicts that were threatening to derail any hopes of getting together: sailing for Germany on March 23, he needed to leave for New York no later than March 5 or 6. Finally Korn indicated that he would have the orchestra parts soon and that he would send a reserve set of parts and score to the Fleischer Library in Philadelphia.<sup>15</sup>

Rascher's next letter, dated November 5, described the possible solution of a session in California in mid-February, although it would require an extra trip. Korn's

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Korn letter to Rascher, 18 Oct. 1956.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> The score, without parts, remains in the Fleischer Collection of the Philadelphia Free Library, and another in the UCLA Library. The two scores are identical in every way and contain no additional markings that might indicate their having been used for performance.

response of November 14 detailed a complicated set of possibilities, including another return trip for himself from New York in mid-March at extra expense. By the end of the letter it is apparent that schedules were becoming serious obstacles and that Korn's hopes of conducting the *Concerto* for the recording were becoming dim.

In his November 23 letter, Rascher wrote the following:

I just returned from Oklahoma. . . I will be in that city in January in order to make an educational film. On occasion of my stay I want to play the concerto on a broadcast. It will not be a public concert. These concerts are given by the Oklahoma Symphony Orchestra for their pension fund and I will not receive a fee. You see, I am interested to get another performance so as to get better acquainted with the work, before playing it on the record. And I think it is great publicity for you, to be on that national hookup. . . Recording date: March 15 or immediately before. . .

Documents show that the recording actually took place on January 20, 1957, and

broadcast on February 10. Rascher closed his letter with the line "Let's hope the

powderkeg will not explode . . . "<sup>16</sup>

Aside from the difficulty of obtaining and scheduling a premiere, Rascher and

Korn discussed the difficulty of the solo itself. In his July 13 letter Rascher wrote:

I have started working on the concerto a few hours every day, and do not yet find it much easier. But I have learned great patience with former new works, so we'll just see how it will sound in a few weeks...

...9 measures from #10: identical for 10 measures with 9 measures from #23 ... These two spots, up to #11, resp. the coda, will take considerable practising [sic]. The F# just before #11 is nasty, and so is the last measure of the very end.<sup>17</sup>

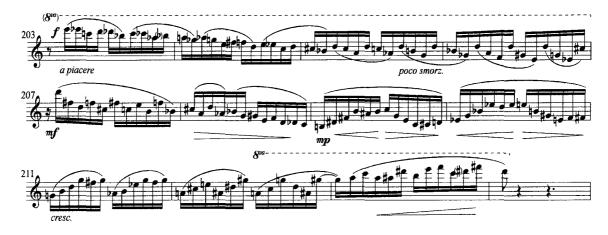
Rascher's comments concerned two especially difficult passages in Movement I,

measures 203-214 and 486-498. The first of these, beginning 9 measures after rehearsal

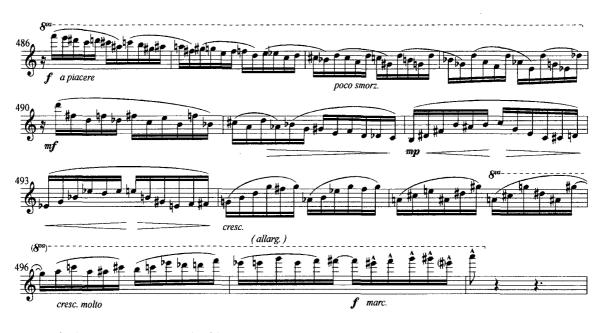
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> Raschèr letter to Korn, 23 Nov. 1956.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> Raschèr letter to Korn, 13 July 1956.

number 10 in the original score,<sup>18</sup> is shown in Example 1. The second section to which Rascher referred, beginning 9 measures after rehearsal number 23 in the original score, is shown in Example 2. The two passages are nearly identical and serve parallel formal functions, the first coming at the end of the exposition and the second at the climax of the first movement.



Example 1. Mvt. I, mm. 203-214.



Example 2. Mvt. I, mm. 486-498.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> Since measure numbers are indicated in the modern reproduction of the score, rehearsal numbers have been omitted.

In the same letter, Rascher wrote " 'Quasi Pizz' can't be carried into the extended register, therefore I'll have to use straight tone before #19." The passage, beginning in measure 392 of the first movement, in which Korn indicated pizzicato effect (a.k.a. slap tongue) is shown in Example 3.



Example 3. Mvt. I, mm. 392-401. Korn used the symbol "v" to indicate pizzicato effect.

The acoustical barrier that limits the use of slap tongue to the saxophone's natural range meant that the pizzicato effect could be applied to the first 23 tones in the passage, but not to the G or G-sharp in measures 397 and 398.<sup>19</sup> The effect is not indicated in the score, but does appear on the solo part.

Korn responded to Rascher in his letter of July 20, in which he wrote:

The F# just before 11 - - - if this one note is particularly troublesome, it could be changed to C# a fourth below.

The last measure before the end: this can be broadened out in tempo as much as you like; if it should be a problem even at a broad tempo, we can change it, if necessary. We can decide that later. I know that you will suggest changes only when the status quo presents real problems. And eventually I will have to devise assorted ossias anyway, for some distant future when ordinary mortals may wish to tackle the concerto.

Incidentally, these two passages (before 11 and before the end) are in lieu of cadenzas and are designed to go to the limit of technical possibilities. If I overstepped the bounds, a million pardons. I rather hope they will be playable, though.<sup>20</sup>

Raschèr's report of August 23 reads:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> In the recording Rascher made in Hamburg in April, 1958, he modified the passage, using slap tongue on only four tones, the repeated E in measure 394 and the repeated A-flat in measure 395.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> Korn letter to Rascher, 20 July 1956.

Every day with more practising, the concerto becomes more familiar, and here and there I catch myself, going through a few measures without looking at the music. Some of the difficult passages are passable, some of the very difficult ones come slowly, and the worst ones seem to be possible. There is hope, even with me.<sup>21</sup>

Two letters in the present collection, November 27 and December 23 are both to

Raschèr from Korn, while an intervening letter to Korn from Raschèr is missing. Korn's

letter of December 23 (answering the missing letter from Rascher) reveals Rascher's

misgivings about the piece. It is possible, from Korn's response, to guess the nature of

Raschèr's query:

I thank you warmly for your last epistle of the 18th.; as to the various complexities of technical nature in the concerto, it goes without saying that anything that you feel needs to be changed, such as putting it down one octave, has my blessing. Any of those passages that will, in your opinion, remain perilous even with many performances under your belt, I will of course change permanently. (in the score)<sup>22</sup>

Without the missing letter of December 18, it is difficult to know whether Rascher

was complaining, seeking support, or simply clarifying the nature of the challenges of the

concerto. While Korn may have thought he was requesting changes in the solo part,

Rascher had a history of opposing such revisions.<sup>23</sup>

Raschèr's next letter, dated December 27, only eleven days before the premiere in

Elkhart, indicated that he was still having trouble playing parts of the concerto. He wrote:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> Raschèr letter to Korn, 23 Aug. 1956.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> Korn letter to Raschèr, 23 Dec. 1956.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> For example, the Ingolf Dahl Concerto composed for Rascher in 1949 was revised several times. Rascher continued to perform the original version despite pleas from the composer to learn subsequent versions, reasoning that he did not want to memorize the work all over again and that he preferred the original on purely musical grounds. Paul Cohen, *The Original 1949 Saxophone Concerto of Ingolf Dahl: A Historical and Comparative Analysis.* (Teaneck, New Jersey: To The Fore, 1985) 31-32.

Am still chewing away at a few spots. Can't play yet end of 1st mvt up in the stratosphere well enough to risk it...all other spots will get a test as they stand, except the trills in the last mvt. Can't get them well enough yet – there is hope.<sup>24</sup>

He also mentioned the proposed trip to Los Angeles and asked about getting a contract with Spencer Moore "not that I'm worried about anything, but just to have it proper." Korn's last letter before the premiere, dated January 1, indicates Spencer Moore's willingness to draw up the contract with Rascher. Korn wrote "nothing new about the Feb. 14 situation," referring to their plans to spend a day at Rascher's house in Shushan, New York. He closed by writing "all the best wishes for Sunday night's concert! Please extend also my greetings and warm thanks to all the people in Elkhart..." It is clear that Korn did not attend the premiere.

On January 6<sup>th</sup>, 1957 the Elkhart Symphony had two concerts, an afternoon performance entitled "Young People's Concert" and another that evening for the general public. Both concerts featured Rascher and a group of eight saxophonists. The afternoon concert was comprised of virtually the same music for that evening, so a separate program was not printed. Example 4 shows the program for that evening.<sup>25</sup>

Gypsy Baron Overture	Strauss
Coppelia, Ballet Music	
Concerto for Alto Saxophone and Orchestra, Op. 31	

#### INTERMISSION

Symphony No. 2, "London"	Haydn
Prelude and Fugue in G Minor	•
Bolero	

*Example 4*. The program of January 6, 1957, Elkhart Symphony, Zigmont Gaska conductor.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> Raschèr letter to Korn, 27 Dec. 1956.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> See Appendix A for a photocopy of the program and newspaper articles pertaining to the event.

The Gaska family kept a reel-to-reel tape recording of the afternoon concert. If that recording accurately represents the events of that afternoon, we gain a clear understanding of that performance. In the recording Rascher spoke before each piece, as instruction for the young audience. The first two works on the evening program were not performed that afternoon. Instead the concert began with the introduction of Rascher, who spoke pedagogically about the saxophone and the Korn *Concerto*. He then performed the second and third movements of the concerto, omitting the first movement. This was followed by a performance of *Arietta for Saxophone and Strings* by Waldemar Welander, and then the pieces by Handel, Bach-Loboda, and Ravel listed in Example 4.

No recording of the evening concert has surfaced, but we know that Rascher performed the entire *Concerto* because *The Elkhart Truth* contained a review of the performance. The reviewer (unknown, but with the initials V.G.) was generally complimentary, indicating that Rascher received three "enthusiastic ovations" and played one encore. In describing the performance, the reviewer wrote the following:

The *Concerto*, with its complex tonal structures, was definitely a modern and original composition. In general, like many works in modern art, it had the passionless beauty of a great machine. However, there were passages, especially in the second movement, that were thought-provoking, even plaintive.

From this synopsis we can at least surmise that V.G.'s expression "great machine" likely refers to the continuously rhythmic quality of the first movement. The reviewer complimented the orchestra for its "excellent performance of a difficult composition" and wrote that Rascher deserved his title as "Paganini of the Saxophone." The article also mentions and reviews the other works that were on the program, and makes reference to the Young People's Concert earlier that afternoon.<sup>26</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> Elkhart *Truth*, January 1957. See Appendix A for the full review.

In Oklahoma City, the local newspaper, *The Oklahoman*, began running articles in January, 1957 about the upcoming performance of the Korn *Concerto*. Those articles were tied together with Rascher's plans for making the educational movie for the Buescher Company, and *The Oklahoman* had carried articles beginning in November of the previous year detailing the film and related events. While the historical importance of this film is significant, Rascher's performance of the Korn *Saxophone Concerto* during his visit has been virtually forgotten.

In the months preceding Rascher's visit to Oklahoma City, *The Oklahoman* ran at least eleven articles covering one or more aspects of his visit, some concerning the film, others the *Concerto*, and some containing information about both events. A chronological list with short descriptions of some of those articles, including references to the *Concerto* and the Buescher film, is shown in Example 5.

Nov. 21, 1956: Picture with Neilson, article about planning the film.
Nov. 25, 1956: Rascher and Neilson "plotting the movie."
Jan. 11, 1957: Announcement of film with Neilson and Mutual Broadcast concert.
Jan. 14, 1957: Announcement of film, with a list of participants.
Jan. 16, 1957: Swedish heritage, mother's background, describes film.
Jan. 17, 1957: Announcement of *Concerto* and film.
Jan. 19, 1957: Picture with Karen (Carina) and E. G. Ty Dahlgren, mentions *Concerto*.
Feb. 9, 1957: Mention of *Concerto* performance, described as "world premiere."<sup>27</sup>

*Example 5*. Articles in *The Oklahoman* announcing Rascher's visit to Oklahoma City the week of January 20, 1957.<sup>28</sup>

Most of the articles referred to Rascher as a Swedish saxophonist, even though he

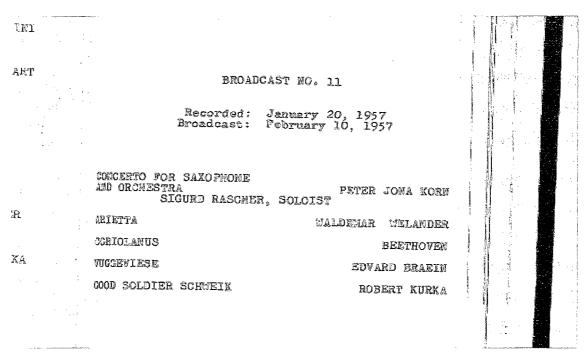
was born in Germany, had lived in Sweden in the 1930s and had long since taken

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> The Korn website, www.peterjonakorn.com, also lists the Oklahoma performance as the world premiere. Barbara Korn, webmaster of the site, is aware of the error.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup> See Appendix A for photocopies of the Jan. 17, Jan. 19, and Feb. 9 articles.

American citizenship.<sup>29</sup> The many references to his Swedish heritage can be attributed to members of the Scandinavian Club "rallying around to give him a hand"<sup>30</sup> in Oklahoma City. The article of November 21, 1956 is subtitled "Swedish-Born Artist to Show Method in Film." Interestingly, the second page of the article reads, " 'It's the American way' [Rascher] said, boasting a little of his American citizenship."<sup>31</sup>

Since the purpose of the session was for radio broadcast, the program for the Oklahoma City performance was only listed in an orchestra record book, shown in Example 6.



*Example 6.* Photograph of the page from the Oklahoma City Symphony records.

From internet email, Michelle Winters, Director of Marketing, Oklahoma City Philharmonic Orchestra, 8 March 2005.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup> Raschèr's life in Sweden during the 1930s included collaborations with composers of some of the saxophone's best known works, and the start of his lifelong marriage to Ann-Marie Wigen. Raschèr embraced his German, Swedish, and American heritages.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>30</sup> The Oklahoman, 17 Jan. 1957, p. 13.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>31</sup> *The Oklahoman*, 21 Nov. 1956, p. 6-7.

Although the question of a possible audio recording has been asked of the family of G.F.Harrison, Joel Levine (current director of the Oklahoma City Philharmonic), Dr. Jerry Neil Smith (clarinetist with the OCS in 1957 who studied with Rascher), Air America, and the CBC Radio Archives, no recording of the broadcast has surfaced.

In March of 1957 Korn left for Germany, hoping to expand his career as a composer and conductor. The months following the Oklahoma City broadcast are somewhat of a mystery, as there are no documents connecting Korn with Rascher until the next letter in Rascher's collection, dated December 26, 1957. The letter, written by Korn to Rascher, made clear that communication had not ceased, because Korn indicated the receipt of a letter from Rascher.

In the letter Korn mentioned their meeting in Los Angeles, writing "seems like ages ago that we sat on Second Helena Drive,<sup>32</sup> sipping cocktails and cussing Zephyr records." Apparently the recording project (involving the Korn *Concerto* as well as the Ibert *Concertino* and the Welander *Arietta*) had been cancelled. It is not clear whether or not Rascher had another engagement in Los Angeles or if he only stopped there to make the recording on the way to his engagement in Hawaii.<sup>33</sup>

In the December 26 letter Korn also wrote, "the Concerto is a valuable piece of property for a publisher to have, and have decided <u>not</u> to let any publisher have it, unless it ties in with some other commitments regarding other works, or opens the door to a new publisher."<sup>34</sup> Then in his very next letter, dated January 22, 1958 he wrote that Mills

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>32</sup> A reference to Korn's own address. In the first letter he included his return address, which was 12302 Second Helena Dr., Los Angeles 49, CA.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>33</sup> See Appendix A for the Los Angeles *Sunday Examiner* article discussing Rascher's collaboration with Korn on the *Concerto*.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>34</sup> Korn letter to Raschèr, 6 Dec. 1957.

Music in London was now the publisher of the *Concerto*. The reason for this sudden decision is not known, although it is evident that Mills Music in London was a part of the powerful publishing firm that later became Belwin-Mills, and later CPP/Belwin. The Mills copyright does not appear on any extant score, only on the manuscript of the original saxophone solo. The copyright on the bottom of page 1 of the solo is shown in Example 7:



*Example 7.* Photocopy of the Mills copyright, bottom of page 1 of the solo.<sup>35</sup>

In the January 22 letter Korn also wrote "Lert was sort of unhappy that he did not have the premiere of the concerto, feeling somewhat that it all started under his nose." He suggested that Rascher might like to ask Lert if he would like to do it in Pasadena in the next season. Rascher never performed the *Concerto* in Pasadena.

In that same letter of January 22, Korn wrote that April 1 would be the only available date for the session in Hamburg. Rascher's response on February 3 showed enthusiasm and agreement; he did play the *Concerto* in Hamburg on April 1, 1958, and Korn was the conductor. Orchestra records indicate that the performance was not for the public, but rather for the purpose of making an audio recording.<sup>36</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>35</sup> Mills Music Ltd. of London was then located at 20 Denmark Street in so-called Tin Pan Alley near Soho. CPP/Belwin-Mills is now listed at 15800 N.W. 48<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Miami, FL 33014.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>36</sup> Internet printout of Hamburg Orchestra records, http://ndr-go.ivz.cn.ard.de/cgi-bin/yjcgi.cgi, accessible only by Hamburg Orchestra.

Raschèr's letter dated February 3, 1958 also mentioned the possibility of playing the *Concerto* with Izler Solomon in Indianapolis during the next season. Raschèr did not play Korn's concerto in Indianapolis. Letters dated February 11, March 5, October 10, and December 8, 1958 are filled with suggestions concerning various conductors, and other peripheral events, but their only success was the session in Hamburg on April 1, 1958.

The penultimate letter in the collection, dated January 2, 1959 from Rascher to Korn, expresses plans for a performance of the *Concerto* in Brisbane, Australia on October 26. According to Antoni Bonetti, archivist with the Brisbane Symphony, Rascher performed the *Concerto* on a youth concert with the Queensland Symphony Orchestra conducted by Rudolf Pekarek.<sup>37</sup> Gordon Williams, archivist for Symphony Australia, uncovered a tentative itinerary sent to Rascher by the ABC (Australian Broadcasting Commission).<sup>38</sup> The Brisbane newspaper, the *Courier Mail*, carried a highly critical newspaper review of the event confirming that the performance did occur.<sup>39</sup> However, since it was a youth concert, the ABC did not print a program or make an audio recording.

The next documented communication between Korn and Rascher is a postcard dated May 1, 1967 in which Korn informed Rascher of his appointment as Director of the Richard Strauss Conservatory in Munich. Research suggests that Rascher may have never performed the *Concerto* again, as no further evidence has been recovered.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>37</sup> Antoni Bonetti, personal email, 15 March 2008.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>38</sup> Gordon Williams, personal email, 15 July 2009. See Appendix A for a photocopy of Rascher's tentative itinerary.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>39</sup> State Library of Queensland, personal email, 21 July 2009. See Appendix A for a photocopy of the review.

In 1981-82 Korn completed a major revision of the Concerto, which was

performed in 1982 at the World Saxophone Congress in Nurnberg with saxophonist John Sampen<sup>40</sup> and the Nurnberg Symphony Orchestra, Klauspeter Seibel, conducting.<sup>41</sup> Dates written on the cover of the revision show that Korn completed it in Dorfgastein, Austria between December 23, 1981 and January 5, 1982, a period of only about two weeks.

John Sampen remembers receiving a call in April of 1982 from Steven Mauk, then President the North American Saxophone Alliance, asking Sampen to perform the work because the originally intended performer had relinquished the opportunity.<sup>42</sup> Mauk offered Sampen the chance to perform the *Concerto*, because he knew Sampen would already be in attendance. In an email message Mauk wrote:

Another NASA member had proposed performing a concerto by an American composer, which our US committee sent along to the Germans. The Nurnberg organizers got back to me stating that the "conductor didn't like the piece and wondered if the performer would play the Korn instead." Naturally, the American performer was very upset and refused the chance to play the Korn.<sup>43</sup>

Even though the concert was scheduled for July 8, giving Sampen only about two

months to learn the work, he agreed to play the Concerto.<sup>44</sup>

Sampen recalls that Korn was in attendance for rehearsals and that they discussed

tempos and possibly some aspects of the revision. Sampen wrote that, having never seen

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>40</sup> John Sampen (b. 1949) is Professor at Bowling Green State University and past president of the North American Saxophone Alliance, http://www.naxos.com/artistinfo/John\_Sampen/61800.htm. [accessed 22 May 2009].

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>41</sup> Klauspeter Seibel is currently Principal Guest Conductor of the Louisiana Philharmonic, http://www.lpomusic.com/?q=Orchestra/Musician/KlauspeterSeibel [accessed 22 May 2009].

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>42</sup> John Sampen, personal email, 30 Jan. 2005.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>43</sup> Steven Mauk, personal email, 2 March 2005.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>44</sup> John Sampen, personal email, 30 Jan. 2005.

the work prior to 1982, he did not know much about it, especially the nature of the revisions, and he believed the changes were mostly in the orchestration.

Both Sampen and Mauk expressed dismay that the 1982 performance was listed in the program as a "world premiere" and regretted the turmoil caused by that error.

Sampen recalls that Rascher was furious over the incident and wrote in an email to Mauk:

After my performance in 1982, I remember there was considerable anger and anguish from Sigurd Rascher and friends who thought that I was trying to take credit for a premiere which Sigurd had done in the 1950s. Of course I had no part in this situation and I know you and NASA were equally innocent. As I understand it, Peter Korn had made some orchestration changes and then decided to call this a 'world premiere.'<sup>45</sup>

Sampen wrote that he had "no involvement with revisions or changes" and

proposed that the erroneous listing likely resulted because "the Congress organizers

wanted to list as many premieres as possible in the program."46

The 7<sup>th</sup> World Saxophone Congress presented a total of six orchestra concerts and

two band concerts, along with many performances and lectures. The entire review of

Sampen's performance in the Saxophone Symposium reads as follows:

After the intermission John Sampen did the premiere performance of Peter Jona Korn's *Konzert für Altsaxophon und Orchester*, opus 31. This fine concerto received an excellent performance by one of America's top saxophone soloists.<sup>47</sup>

It is not clear whether Sigurd Rascher was in attendance at the Congress, but he

did not perform there. The Rascher Saxophone Quartet, which then included his daughter

Carina, Bruce Weinberger, Linda Bangs and newest member John Edward Kelly, did

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>45</sup> Steven Mauk, personal email, 2 March 2005.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>46</sup> John Sampen, personal email to Steven Mauk, 30 Jan. 2005.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>47</sup> Harry Gee, "The 7<sup>th</sup> WSC – more highlights," *The Saxophone Symposium*, Vol. VII, No. 4 (Fall, 1982) 8.

perform. It is not known whether any members of the Rascher Quartet attended Sampen's performance of the Korn *Concerto* on the second night of the conference. It appears that the saxophone community has not shown any further interest in the revision, and that no other performances with orchestra have been given.

Korn used the saxophone in other compositions, including the *Passacaglia and Fugue* for eight saxophones, Op. 17a (1952, originally for eight horns), *Berolina Suite*, Op. 34 (1959, a small orchestral work that includes a baritone saxophone), a large wind band work entitled *Salute to the Lone Wolves*, Op. 69 (1980), a smaller wind band work, *Dorfgasteiner March* (1981, no opus designation), "...*Ruft uns die Stimme*," Op. 81 (1985, for trombone or tenor saxophone and organ) and his Symphony No. 4, "*Ahasver*," Op. 91 (1989-90, large orchestra with saxophone section).

#### CHAPTER III

# KORN'S AESTHETIC APPROACH TO MUSIC AND ITS APPLICATION TO THE SAXOPHONE CONCERTO

Korn was a proponent of traditional compositional methods, but pursued a unique and personal style through a synthesis of sources. His music was partly shaped by the turmoil of his youth and his eternal longing for home. These elements are reflected in his *Saxophone Concerto*, a classically conceived composition that, in many ways, reflects Korn's life.

Peter Jona Korn was, by his own admission, a controversial figure in compositional circles. He fought twentieth century trends that continue to be popular in the larger part of the classical music community – the avant-garde, serialists, and other experimental schools of composition. Among his many writings, his book *Musikalische Umveltverschmutzung* (Musical Environmental Pollution, 1975) is probably his most important and influential treatise. In the book Korn describes his unique compositional style and his ideas for the direction of new music, often at odds with the opinions of experimental composers in the United States and Europe. He considered himself an innovator and believed that music should strike out in new directions, but he also supported tonality. In the book, he wrote:

Tonality is not only a source of satisfaction for the listener, but also an important factor for communication, because tonal constructions – in their simplest form triads – are points of orientation, ... It is not crucial whether the connection to tonality is dictated by nature or simply the result of hundreds of years of development in listening habits: on one hand the overtone sequence – and therefore the resulting triad – is a fact of nature, and on the other hand listening habits do not develop as arbitrarily as twentieth century composers create new systems – allegedly equal to tonality – out of thin air.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Peter Jona Korn, *Musical Environmental Pollution* (Weisbaden: Breitkopf & Härtel, 1975) 25.

In an article entitled *Musik als Kontra-Punkt zur Zeit* (Music as Counterpoint to Time), subtitled *Betrachtungen eines traditionalistischen Einzelkämpfers* (observations of a traditionalistic lone crusader), Korn described the overly complex methods used by modern composers through a story in which a snail confuses a millipede by convincing it to analyze its own steps. Korn asserted that composers are trapped into composing for modern audiences, believing their music must somehow be "provocative," that it is no challenge to write ugly music, and that the language of music should mirror that of spoken language, a natural arrangement that cannot be replaced on a whim.<sup>2</sup>

By 1956 Korn had composed many works with traditional titles such as "symphony," "overture," "sonata," and "string quartet." His debt to the classical traditions of composition had been instilled in him by his teacher at the University of Southern California, Ernst Toch (1887-1964). A proponent of the avant-garde for many years, Toch returned to his traditional roots late in his career, writing seven Romantic symphonies from 1950-64.<sup>3</sup> Korn learned much from his mentor, including a universal outlook on composition with tonality at its core. The *Saxophone Concerto*, while highly chromatic, is tonal. His use of contrasting themes, tertian harmony, and classical forms reveals Korn's allegiance to tradition.

During his life Korn wrote many articles containing explanations of his perspectives on musical aesthetics. Although most of his writings are in German, one American textbook contains a chapter written by him in English. The chapter, entitled

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Norbert Düchtel, Heindl Christian, Horst Leuchtmann, Franzpeter Messmer, Helga Maria Palm-Beulich, Günther Weiß, *Komponisten in Bayern*, Band 21: "Peter Jona Korn," Hans Schneider, ed. (Tutzing: H. Schneider 1989) 55-60.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Anja Oechsler, "Toch, Ernst" in *Grove Music Online*. Oxford Music Online, http://www.oxfordmusiconline.com.lynx.lib.usm.edu/subscriber/article/grove/music/28037 [accessed 7 March 2008].

"The Symphony in America," is part of a two volume series entitled *The Symphony*, and contains commentary on the direction of American symphonists since World War II. While the text is essentially scholarly, Korn expressed his views, discussing melodic and harmonic treatments by modern symphonists, and established a platform for his opinions on composition in general. He cited faults of atonal/twelve-tone composers, especially criticizing Arnold Schoenberg for glorifying the work of Charles Ives, who Korn condemned as "by no stretch of imagination...a great composer...in fact, not even a very good one."<sup>4</sup>

In the chapter Korn praised American symphonists Roy Harris (1898-1979), Aaron Copland (1900-1990), Walter Piston (1894-1976), William Schuman (1910-1992), Henry Cowell (1897-1965), Ernst Bacon (1898-1990), George Antheil (1900-1959), Samuel Barber (1910-1981), Howard Hanson (1896-1981), and Paul Creston (1906-1985). While Korn admitted that some of these composers had stretched tonality, he considered their commitment to tonality an important common factor.

Korn also discussed composers of atonal symphonic music, namely Wallingford Riegger (1885-1961) and Roger Sessions (1896-1985). He cited Sessions' *Second Symphony* as "among the best atonal symphonies written in America…" pointing out Schoenberg's "obvious" influence. However Korn again criticized Schoenberg, writing that Sessions "avoids Schoenberg's unfortunate habit of cross-breeding a multitude of constantly changing rhythmical patterns which…result[s] in a sort of rhythmical mush."<sup>5</sup> By contrast, Korn's use of rhythm was extremely precise, as demonstrated in his

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Peter Jona Korn, "The Symphony in America," in *The Symphony*, Vol. 2, Robert Simpson, ed. (Baltimore: Penguin Books 1976) 246.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Ibid, 261.

Saxophone Concerto; string tremolos in the slow movement, pictured in Example 8, are measured in precise thirty-second note subdivisions.



Example 8. Mvt. II, mm. 11-18, string tremolos.

While Korn believed in traditional forms, harmonies, and compositional

procedures, his themes were often collected from a wide variety of sources. Toch had

taught him to create a unique sound using this approach. Korn described Toch's

compositional technique in the following paragraph:

Toch's idiom has, at all times, been highly chromatic; but he has discovered the secret of achieving a perfect equilibrium between chromatic and diatonic material, without transmitting a feeling of stylistic schizophrenia. ...[T]here is no change of style, of character, or even of mood as Toch progresses from the chromatic quality of one section to the diatonic structure of the next. [He] unites widely divergent techniques into a coherent musical language that is unmistakably his own.<sup>6</sup>

Korn summarized the chapter with a passage that may seem as much an

autobiographical statement as a description of Toch:

Ernst Toch's late style is a synthesis of various earlier periods in his development, which, however, all grew from a deep understanding of musical culture in Western civilization. This kind of synthesis occurs every so often in the history of music. Such a fusion must, of necessity, transcend national boundaries; the symphonies of Ernst Toch, Austrian-

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> "The Symphony in America," 265-6. In the paragraph, Korn illustrated his point using two dissimilar passages in Toch's *Symphony No. 2*, Op. 73 (1951).

born world citizen of American nationality, serve as a reminder that the significant music of an era is not national, but cosmopolitan in nature.<sup>7</sup>

To offer a contrasting case, Korn discussed Charles Ives, often considered an innovator years ahead of other experimental composers. He cited Schoenberg's praise of Ives' accomplishments, but then proceeded to argue that Schoenberg was mistaken, because "the preoccupation with new devices has become all important to a point where the quality of the music itself is no longer a criterion for its evaluation." Korn went on to argue that "a composer must be judged on the merit of his works, never on his attitudes or intentions. To have done something 'first' means very little; to have done it 'best', a great deal." Korn declared that Ives "mix[ed] many techniques, and he master[ed] none," citing musical examples that, in his opinion, showed Ives never developed a musical language of his own. Korn wrote that "every composer since Bach has been in some measure an eclectic," but that a good composer is able to "forge divergent stylistic elements into a [musical] language."<sup>8</sup>

In the program notes for the 1978 premiere of his opera, *Heidi in Frankfurt*, Korn made the following statement:

I am firmly convinced that after a protracted period of stylistic experimentation an epoch of stylistic synthesis must follow. ...I use every musical possibility that I need, from strict tonality (which for me has always been the definitive beginning and end of all musical experience) to free atonality and dodecaphony. ...With this I openly declare myself to be eclectic.<sup>9</sup>

Like most of his output, the Saxophone Concerto was strongly affected by Korn's

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> "The Symphony in America" 266-7.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Ibid., 245-7.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Program notes for *Heidi in Frankfurt* (1978).

surroundings and life experiences. He did not compose music in such a way as to intentionally portray images, stories, or feelings. Rather, he allowed everyday occurences to influence his work. The *Saxophone Concerto* is a reflection of Korn's life in the United States: the places he went, the music he heard, including everything from film music to jazz, and children's songs that he heard from his daughter, Heidi, 4 years old at the time of the *Concerto*'s composition.

However, it was not only because he synthesized various elements that Korn considered himself an American composer and the *Concerto* an American work. In "The Symphony in America" Korn argued that there was more to nationalism than simply using music native to a particular land. Using Roy Harris as an example, Korn wrote:

Harris's language is perhaps more characteristically American than that of any other composer; it is American music as Brahms is German, Debussy is French or Vaughan Williams is English, not because of an occasional use of folk material, but because of an inherent national flavour that defies definition."<sup>10</sup>

Because he used events and sounds from his daily life as the building blocks of his art, the very fact that Korn had lived and worked in America for years meant that his music sounded American. Korn had a wry sense of humor as well, and sometimes the music to which he was exposed often appeared in his compositions, sometimes overtly and sometimes cleverly hidden.

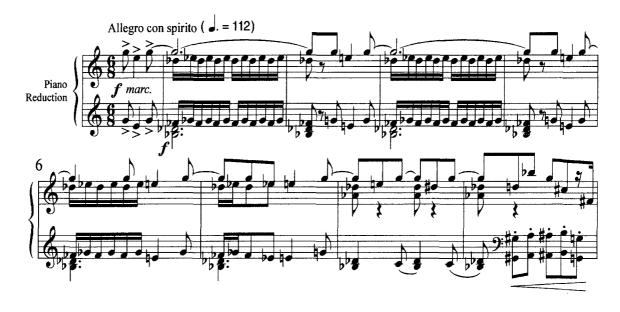
For example, jazz, an historically American product, appears in the *Concerto*. Barbara Korn recollects that they spent late evenings listening to jazz and that it represented an aspect of Americana to her husband.<sup>11</sup> While many composers have

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> "The Symphony in America," 249.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Barbara Korn personal interview, 15 March 2005.

viewed the saxophone as a jazzy sounding instrument, having earned that reputation in the early part of the twentieth century, Korn considered the saxophone to be simply a part of the American landscape.<sup>12</sup> He did not imbue the solo with specific jazzy effects that associated the saxophone with jazz music, such as pitch bend, subtone, or improvisation over standard chord sequences. Instead, while interjecting rhythms, chords, and melodies that he associated with jazz music, he treated the saxophone as a classical instrument with unique capabilities.

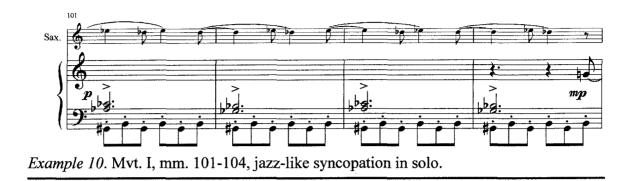
One resulting manifestation of jazz in the *Concerto* is through the appearance of a characteristic syncopated rhythm in the opening measures and used throughout Movement I (Example 9).



Example 9. Mvt. I, mm. 1-10, jazz-like syncopation in melody.

Another example is a passage appearing in the solo beginning in measure 101 that uniquely evokes jazz standards of the day, shown in Example 10.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Barbara Korn personal interview, 16 March 2005.



In what may seem a self-contradiction, Korn is quoted as making the following

statement in the program notes for the premiere in Elkhart:

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I have endeavored to treat the solo instrument with the same respect and consideration I would treat any of the established 'solo instruments,' — violin, piano, cello or others, — and renounced any temptation to supply it with funny effects, jazzy passages and the like.

Korn did not use jazzy elements to be comical or cliché, but simply as building

blocks. The same approach applies to his use of other miscellaneous sources, as with the

children's song Three Blind Mice, which appears in measures 148-158 (Example 11).



*Example 11*. Mvt. I, mm. 148-158. Korn's use of the children's song *Three Blind Mice*, enclosed in boxes.

As shown in Example 11, Korn disguised the song as an accompanying part played by the flutes and oboes, and drew attention to the solo saxophone with a technically challenging passage involving extended arpeggios in the altissimo register.

Korn's intention to create a serious work was not diminished by the influence of jazz or children's songs as these effects do not appear as clichés, nor are they obvious to the listener; the jazz does not sound "jazzy" and the quotation of *Three Blind Mice* is masked by other parts. Furthermore, while reviews of performances were mixed, there is no mention of the reviewers having noticed anything jazzy or cliché.

Korn was a self-admitted wanderer, the eternal Jew without a country. In *The Symphony*, Korn lauded Ernst Toch, dedicating the last five pages of the chapter to him. While Toch had influenced him in developing a personal contemporary musical vocabulary seated in the Classical-Romantic tradition, Korn also identified with Toch as a wanderer, forever displaced from his home.

Korn wrote that three of Toch's four symphonies, Nos. 1, 2, and 4, are dedicated to specific persons, but that the *Third Symphony* had no dedication. Korn surmised that Toch's message was contained in the motto that preceded the *Third Symphony*. It was a passage by Goethe that read "Indeed I am a wanderer, a pilgrim on the earth – but what else are you?"<sup>13</sup> The "wanderer" was a concept that Korn carried with him throughout his life; his own last symphony was entitled *Ahasver*, a name that symbolizes the concept of the wandering Jew.<sup>14</sup>

Korn did not wander aimlessly or passively. Beginning with his exile from

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> "The Symphony in America," 264.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> According to medieval legend, Ahasver was the Jew who mocked Jesus on his way to the cross, and was therefore condemned to wander until Judgement Day.

Germany as a youth, he had spent his life fighting for what he believed and searching for a true home. In the dedication to his ambitious *Salute to the Lone Wolves*, Korn's Symphony for Large Concert Band (composed in 1980), Korn wrote:

Lone wolves are skeptics. They search for their own way, deeply mistrusting those who claim to have found the only possible "right one." They reject the current fashion, often pointing in the direction of what will be fashionable tomorrow. Lone wolves – my brothers – I salute you!<sup>15</sup>

Korn considered Toch, like himself, an American composer, after settling in the United States in 1935 and taking citizenship in 1940. Korn described Toch as an "integral part of the American musical scene."<sup>16</sup> Korn asserted that Toch's *Third Symphony* was at least "quasi-biographical" and portrayed feelings shared among those of Jewish heritage "in the course of wars and persecutions in our time."<sup>17</sup> According to Barbara Korn, her husband's symphony *Ahasver* was also somewhat autobiographical.<sup>18</sup>

The *Saxophone Concerto* was influenced by Korn's turbulent life as observed in the final passages. Within the last measures, the first item that draws attention is the direction *Poco nostalgico*, found in the 1982 revision and apparently an expression of Korn's original intent. Here theme 1 from the first movement returns in augmentation creating a definite impression of a nostalgic farewell. The composition of these measures coincides with the period in which Korn was preparing to leave his American home. In the following section marked *Poco commodo*, the saxophone has a brief waltz-like duet

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> Salute to the Lone Wolves, title page of score.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> "The Symphony in America," 263.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> Ibid, 264.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> Barbara Korn personal interview, 15 March 2005.

in counterpoint with the oboe, then continues its solo line, diminishing to silence. The last phrase in the *Concerto* has the bouncy theme once again, but without the saxophone.

Considering Korn's aesthetic, allowing for emotional reactions to daily events in his life as inspiration, it is possible to conclude that the ending to the *Saxophone Concerto* likely represents his farewell to America. However, while it is easy to draw parallels between these passages and the possible existence of extra-musical content, it was his traditional approach to the work that Korn emphasized in the following years.

## CHAPTER IV

## FORMAL ANALYSIS OF THE 1956 CONCERTO

In the composition of the *Saxophone Concerto* Korn used recognizable forms based in tonality, while drawing on numerous sources for thematic material. He suggested that Movement I, *Allegro con spirito*, could be performed as a separate piece, or *Konzertstück*, and divided the work into two main parts labeled I and II. The second part is comprised of the *Andante sostenuto-Cadenza*, and *Allegretto*, which Korn described as two uninterrupted movements,<sup>1</sup> but for the purpose of this paper will be called Movements II and III. Despite this delineation, the *Concerto* is unified by the use of motivic and thematic material common to Movements I and III.

### **Movement I**

Movement I is basically in sonata form modified to feature the soloist. It has a traditional exposition, development, and recapitulation, as well as transitions, a retransition, and a coda. Key relationships follow the classic pattern of establishment, departure, and return, and the recapitulation contains a restatement of thematic material in the tonic, C. Although the musical language is highly chromatic, the use of C as the tonal center is made clear in pivotal locations throughout the movement: the cadence after the introductory eight measures, at the beginning of theme 1, both solo and ripieno statements, at the climax just prior to the coda, the final high note of the solo, and the very last note of the movement. A traditional formal analysis of Movement I is shown in Example 12.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Korn letter to Rascher, 6 May 1956.

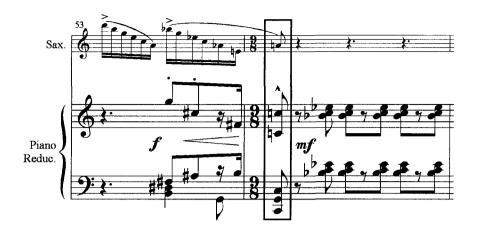
Section:	EXPOSITION			Trans.						DEV.	Retrans.	Fugato	
Theme:	1	1	2		3	3	K	3	K	(2)			
Measure:	12	55	68	84	117	159	167	175	183	214	317	345	
Key:	С	С	Abm		C#m	F#m	Е	Bbm	С	Db	Eb	Abm	
Comment:	Solo	Ripieno			Solo	Rip.	pedal	Rip.	pedal	l	pedal		
	voice	;			voice	-	-	-			-		
Section:	REC	AP.		Trans.						Coda			
Theme:	1		2		3		K	3	K	(3)			
Measure:	381		401	409	442		450	458	466	498			
Key:	С		Ab		C#m		В	Fm	G	С			
Comment:	Solo		Majo	r	Rip.		pedal	Rip.	pedal				
			•				-	-					
Example	12. N	/vt. I. fo	ormal	analv	sis.								
Example 12. Mvt. I, formal analysis.													

Each time C is defined as the tonal center in Movement I, the third of the chord is omitted; this results in modally ambiguous cadences. After a short introduction, the contrapuntal melody and bass lines converge in a cadence in measure 10 that resolves on C (Example 13).



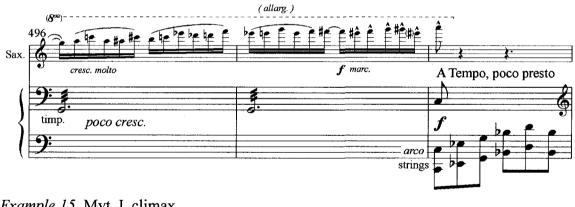
A similar convergence on C occurs at the end of the solo statement of theme 1.

Example 14 illustrates the sonority that includes the root, C, and the fifth, G, but no third.



Example 14. Mvt. I, mm. 53-54.

The climax in the first movement occurs at the end of a cadenza-like figure, at which point the solo line ascends to a concert C, shown in Example 15. Together with the pedal-point timpani roll on G, this creates an authentic cadence on C.



Example 15. Mvt. I, climax.

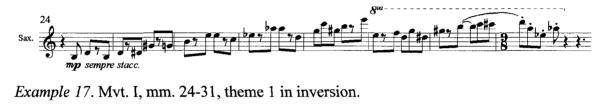
The final chord of Movement I in the orchestra is also a tutti C. Although Korn did not use traditional cadences, it is clear that C is the tonal center of Movement I.

Theme 1, shown in Example 16, first appears in measure 12. It may be described as staccato and triadic, with a "bouncy" rhythm, the eighth-notes separated by eighthrests.



Example 16. Mvt. I, mm. 12-22, theme 1.

In measure 24 theme 1 appears in inversion, as shown in Example 17. This is an early indication of variation technique with which Korn permeated the *Concerto*.



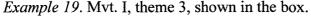
Theme 2 first appears in measure 68. In traditional contrast to the bouncy, disjunct framework of theme 1, theme 2 is lyrical and conjunct. Rather than modulating to the dominant key, Korn used the flatted submediant, A-flat minor, to increase tension. Theme 2, shown in Example 18, is coupled with a modulatory sequence.



Example 18. Mvt. I, theme 2, shown in rectangles.

A third theme appears in the solo line in measure 117. Theme 3, beginning in Dflat minor, the minor Neapolitan key, is similar to theme 1 in that it is disjunct and rhythmic. However, while theme 1 may be described as bouncy, theme 3 has a driving rhythm in perpetual motion. Theme 3 is shown in Example 19 in the solo in counterpoint to theme 1 in the bassoon.





Like much of Korn's music, Movement I contains an abundance of contrapuntal writing. For example, the development, mm. 214-332 contains a juxtaposition of theme 1 (bottom staff) and fragments of theme 2 (top staff) in stretto in measures 226-233, shown in Example 20.



*Example 20.* Mvt. I, mm. 226-233. Theme 1 is shown in the lower staff, while fragments of theme 2 appear in stretto in the upper staff.

Another example of contrapuntal writing is a passage beginning in measure 317 containing a pedal E-flat and marking the final measures of the development section. Here a variation of theme 3 enters in the accompaniment, while theme 2 is found in the solo voice. An augmented form of theme 1 is also present in violins 1 and 2 in octaves.



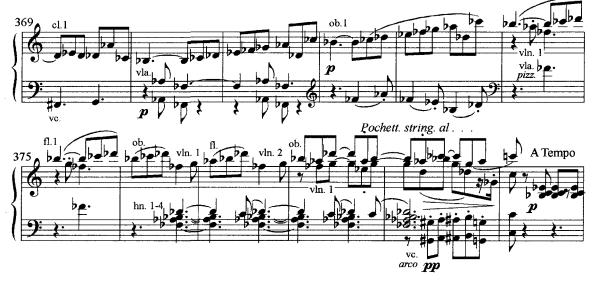
The passage in Example 21 is so thickly scored that some parts are necessarily omitted from the example: in the orchestra score, theme 2 in the solo is doubled by flute 2 and oboe 1 and also an octave below in the viola, while theme 3 in the cello is doubled an octave higher by clarinet 1 and two octaves higher by flute 1. There is also a timpani roll on E-flat beginning in the second measure of the excerpt.

In measures 345-379 Korn composed a simple 2-voice fugato that serves as a retransition leading into the recapitulation.



Only 34 measures in length, the variation on theme 1 passes through several instruments, each carrying a bit of the solo line. The first 14 measures, 345-356, features a duet involving solo bassoon and cellos, shown in Example 22. The cello line begins with an augmentation of theme 1 and continues through measure 370, where it shifts to the violas and then the violins.

In measure 358 the bassoon solo continues in horn 3. Then in measures 369-381, Example 23, the melody is carried in turn by oboe 1, clarinet 1, and flute 1.



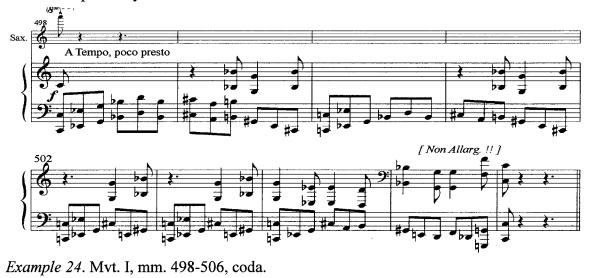
Example 23. Mvt. I, mm. 369-381, end of the fugato and retransition.

Altogether, this section, measures 345-379, gives the impression of a little fugue, although it actually consists of no more than two voices until the final four measures before the recapitulation begins.

The recapitulation, measures 381-497, is traditional in many ways. The exposition is restated, almost in its entirety, but contains subtle alterations so that the key returns to the tonic by way of the subdominant, F, then the dominant, G. In measure 381, theme 1 returns in the tonic, but is played only by the saxophone without the ripieno response.

Traditionally, the recapitulation reiterates the second thematic area in the tonic key. This one takes a different route, with theme 2 beginning in A-flat major (A-flat minor in the exposition). When theme 3 returns in measure 442, it is in D-flat (C-sharp) minor, the same as in the exposition, but another statement of theme 3, measure 458, brings the key to the subdominant, F minor. While the pedal point at the end of the exposition is C, here the pedal point is the dominant, G, which resolves to the final C going into the coda.

Measures 498 through the end of Movement I, shown in Example 24, is a short coda based primarily on theme3 and 1.



## **Harmonic and Thematic Processes**

Korn left the question as to whether Movement 1 is in C Major or C minor open. Traditional major/minor tonality is never established because the third is not heard at cadence points, only open fifths or octaves. Korn also used other means to avoid modal clarification, such as bitonal sonorities and alternating major and minor modes.

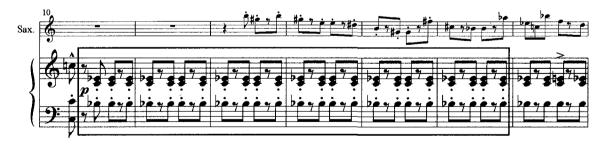
Chords with ambiguous function are used instead of traditional harmonic progressions. The opening measures (Example 25) contain the tones E and G in the



melody, and F-flat, A-flat, B-flat, D-flat, G-flat, and E-flat in the accompaniment.

The melodic tones, E and G, fit nicely into the tonal center, C. The other tones, all flatted, are related to each other, but not to the tonal center. The tremolo figure in the first full measure is comprised of two chords: a first inversion D-flat minor chord and an E-flat minor chord with A-flat in the bass. Comparing the melodic tones to the harmonic tones, the opening seems to be bitonal. It appears that Korn's intention was to create a conflict between the melodic tones and the harmonic tones that would require resolution through the course of the work.

In another instance of ambiguous functionality, Example 26 shows the repeating C minor seventh chord in measures 10-16 (incomplete: B-flat, C, E-flat). This phrase does not contain a chord sequence or a traditional resolution.



Example 26. Mvt. I, mm. 10-16, repeating Cm7 sonority in box.

Beginning in measure 16, the uppermost orchestra voice, violin 1, moves in counterpoint to the saxophone with a motive from theme 1 while the other voices, violin

Example 25. Mvt. I, opening measures.

2 and viola, remain virtually static. Any chords that occur in this passage are produced by the horizontal motion (Example 27).



Perhaps the most significant melodic and harmonic device in Movement I is the abundant use of alternating major and minor thirds. In his chapter "The Symphony in America" Korn complimented American symphonist Roy Harris on his *Third Symphony*, premiered in 1940 by the Boston Symphony. Korn described Harris's style as containing "thematic statements that are precise and therefore easily retained." He then described "one of Harris's favorite devices, a technique of alternating major and minor thirds."<sup>2</sup> Although it is not known whether Korn was directly influenced by Harris during the formative stages of the *Concerto*, he did use alternating major and minor thirds abundantly.<sup>3</sup>

Using alternating major and minor thirds, Korn constructed the first and third themes of Movement 1 and most of the arpeggios. The very first melodic interval in the *Concerto* is a minor third, descending G–E, and –discounting the woodwind tremolos –

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> "The Symphony in America," 250.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Curiously, in the *Saxophone Concerto*, the minor third almost always precedes the major third. It is not clear whether there is any significance to this pattern.

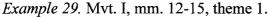


the second interval is a major third (Example 28).<sup>4</sup>

Example 28. Mvt. I, opening melody.

Beginning in measure 12 with the entrance of the solo voice, theme 1 also starts with a minor third followed by a major third (Example 29).





Theme 3, measure 117, begins with alternating minor and major thirds and most of the subsequent intervals are also minor or major thirds (Example 30). Chord analysis reveals a concert D-flat (or C-sharp) minor ninth chord (Dbm9) in measures 117-118. A pitch inventory of measures 119 and 120 also indicates extended chords (concert Dmaj7-9 and BbMaj7-9) built of alternating major and minor thirds.



Example 30. Mvt. I, theme 3, beginning in mm. 117.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Actually a diminished fourth, but enharmonically equivalent to a major third. Korn was inconsistent in his choice of enharmonic spellings. For example, in the piano reduction for the 1982 revision, Korn changed the spelling of the first interval, a minor third (G–E), to an augmented second (G–F-flat).

Measures 117-158, the first section dedicated to theme 3, contains three areas based on arpeggiated extended chords (of at least four members) consisting of alternating major and minor thirds: measures 117-120 (Example 30), 133-135 (Example 31), and 148-158 (see solo part in Example 11, page 34).



Example 31. Mvt. I, mm. 133-135.

Beginning in measure 50 this minor, major third pattern forms the basis of a short cadenza (Example 32).



Example 32. Mvt. I, mm. 50-54.

Example 32 shows how, beginning with the high F in measure 50, each group of sixteenth-notes consists entirely of alternating minor and major thirds. A pitch inventory of each arpeggiated chord structure enclosed by rectangles in Example 32 (discounting the final two cadential tones) shows extended chords built entirely of alternating major and minor thirds, as illustrated in Example 33.



Example 33. Mvt. I, pitch inventory of mm. 50-54.

While the chords in Example 33 could be analyzed as (concert) CbM7-13, Gm13, Gbm11, Cm11, and CbM7-9, they are simply a series of alternating major and minor

thirds that produce harmonic sonorities as a byproduct. Perhaps both explanations are valid considering Korn's affinity for combining traditional and original ideas.

The minor, major third pattern does not appear in Movement II, but returns later in the third movement, connecting it to Movement I. Measures 66-70 of Movement III contain arpeggiated chords of this type in several voices including oboe 1, the clarinets, bassoons, and the solo saxophone, shown in Example 34.



Example 34. Mvt. III, mm. 66-70.

# **Movement II**

Movement II, marked *Andante sostenuto*, does not seem to fit into any classical formal mold. It begins with a twelve-measure introduction, followed by the main theme in the solo, a development of the introduction, and finally the cadenza. The formal structure is shown in Example 35.

Section:	Introduction	Main Theme	Development	Cadenza
Measure:	1	11	44	65
Key:	Cb			
Comment:			uses intro.	uses intro. and main theme

Example 35. Mvt. II, formal analysis.

The main theme, measures 11-43, is played alone, in duet, in diminution, and also appears in the cadenza. The saxophone enters in measure 11 with the main theme, shown in Example 36.



Example 36. Mvt. II, mm. 11-18, main theme in saxophone.

The main theme is essentially a descending A-flat (concert C-flat) major scale with decorative tones interjected. A straight line can be drawn through the descending Aflat major scale, as shown in Example 37.



Example 37. Mvt. II, analysis of main theme.

Example 38 shows the same descending scale, although somewhat altered, as it appears in the cadenza.



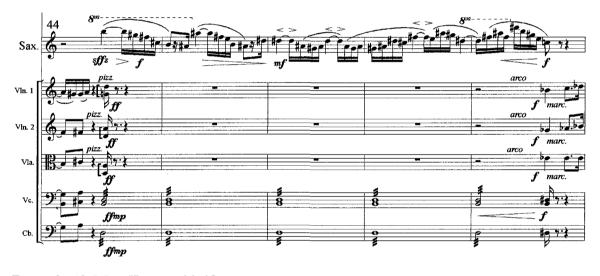
Example 38. Mvt. II, cadenza.

The main theme permeates Movement II; it is used in a duet, measures 22-37, involving the solo saxophone and violin 1, then in measure 38 in the solo voice in diminution, followed by entrances in oboe 1, horn 1, and violin 1 in diminution through measure 42.

The development, measures 44-63, contains rhythmic and melodic material drawn from the introduction to Movement II. The introductory melodic line in measures 1-10 is shown in Example 39.



In developing the motivic material from the introduction, rhythmic motives appear first in diminution, while the intervalic content is altered. A variation on measures 5-8 of the introduction appears in measures 44-48, as shown in Example 40.



*Example 40*. Mvt. II, mm. 44-48.

The solo passage in measures 44-48, shown in Example 40, and a similar passage that follows in measures 49-55 have a quasi improvisatory quality; the orchestral accompaniment in these measures consists of unmeasured string tremolos providing the soloist with the freedom to perform more expressively.

Measures 58-62 contain strettos using fragments of the introduction, shown in Example 41 in piano reduction.



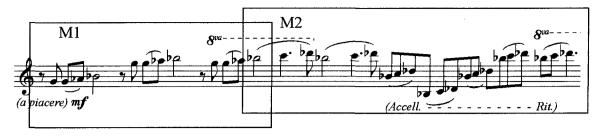
## The Saxophone Cadenza

The saxophone cadenza, serving as a bridge to Movement III, makes use of Movement II's introduction and main theme. The first part of the cadenza is drawn from two motives in the introduction, labeled in Example 42 as M1 and M2.



Example 42. Mvt. II, motivic material in introduction.

Motives M1 and M2, shown in Example 42, can be described as short ascending scale fragments each encompassing a minor third, M1 a minor second followed by a major second and M2 a major second followed by a minor second. In the first part of the cadenza, M1 is repeated three times followed by seven iterations of M2, as shown in Example 43.



Example 43. Mvt. II, saxophone cadenza, first section.

In terms of melodic contour, Movement II is very different from Movement I. While Movement I makes extensive use of triadic motion in the melody, Movement II is comprised mostly of a combination of stepwise motion and perfect fourths and fifths. While this pattern can be seen throughout the movement (see Examples 36-43), the most pronounced example occurs in the concluding section of the saxophone cadenza, shown in Example 44. Here the line becomes almost exclusively a series of alternating perfect fourths and half steps.



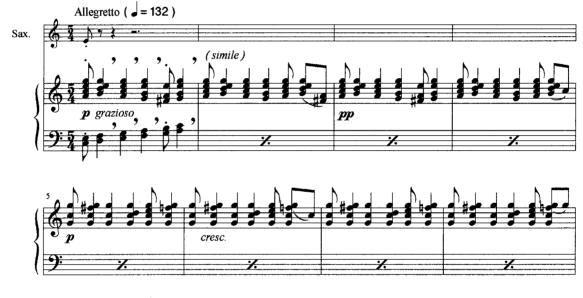
## **Movement III**

Movement III is a rondo with development, in the pattern introduction-ABACABA-coda. The three themes, A, B, and C, all apparent variations of one another, are interspersed with fugal passages in addition to material from Movement I used in transitions and in the coda. A more detailed formal analysis is shown in Example 45.

Section:	Intro	A	В	A	С	С	A	A	A	B	B	B	A	Coda
Measure:	1	9	18	25	35	45	59	62	72	77	98	116	126	138
Key:	С	-	Db	Ab	<u></u>		F		G				С	С
Voice:	Rip.	Rip.	Solo	Solo	Rip.	Solo	Rip.	Rip.	Rip.	Rip.	Solo	o Solo	Rip.	
Comment:			Modulatory			Transition			Fugato/Dev.					

Example 45. Mvt. III, formal analysis.

The introduction, consisting of a syncopated rhythm set in 5/4, reappears in themes A and B with variations in melody and rhythm, and again in the coda. Example 46 shows the first eight measures of the introduction in piano reduction:



Example 46. Mvt. III, mm. 1-8.

Theme A is only two measures in length and, like the introduction, is set in 5/4.

Example 47 shows theme A in the saxophone entrance at measure 25.



Example 47. Mvt. III, mm. 25-26, theme A.

Fragments of theme A are used several times in Movement III, employing metric values 3/4, 4/4, and 5/4, often with rhythmic variations. Theme A never experiences any real continuity, but either dwindles away (as in statements in mm. 9, 25, and 126) or serves as a ritornello in transitional sections (as in mm. 59 and 62).

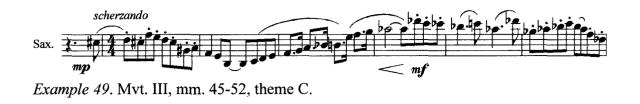
The two-measure cell of theme B is shown in the saxophone solo in Example 48. The first entrance of theme B in measure 18 is followed by a series of two-measure variations on the introduction and theme A. Like theme A, theme B does not ever develop into a true melody, although it does serve as the basis for a fugato, or development section, in measures 77-125.



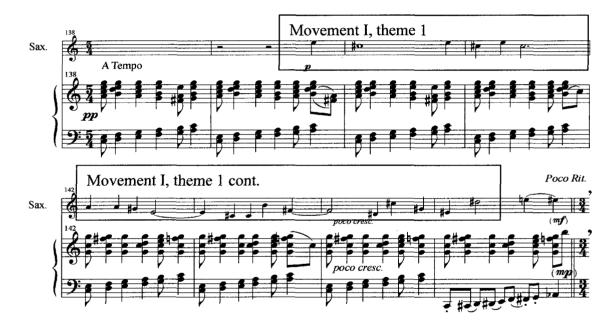
Example 48. Mvt. III, mm. 18-19, theme B.

Themes A and B contain basically the same intervals and may be viewed as variations of one another. However, their rhythmic structures are very different and therefore create the contrast necessary for the impression of two separate themes. As in the second movement, Korn used variation technique to create a sense of continuity using contrasting elements in a traditional formal setting.

Unlike themes A and B, which appear repeatedly, theme C only appears in measures 35-52. Theme C is the only theme in Movement III of substantial length. While the introduction and themes A and B are only two measures in length, followed by variations, theme C is ten measures long in the ripieno statement (mm. 35-44) followed by eight measures in the solo statement (mm. 45-52). Example 49 shows the solo statement of theme C.



The coda is divided into three sections, the first a juxtaposition of the main themes from Movements III and I. The coda begins in measure 138 with a repeat of the introduction to Movement III. In the next measure, 139, the solo voice enters with theme 1 of Movement I in augmentation (Example 50).



Example 50. Mvt. III, mm. 138-145, coda.

The second part of the coda contains another variation on the main theme of Movement I. In measure 146 theme 1 of the first movement is seen in the oboe 1 part while the solo saxophone harmonizes in a loose inversion. Then in measure 150 the solo saxophone has another slightly varied statement of theme 1 of Movement I, this time ornamented with appoggiaturas. These two variations are in a waltz-like triple meter with dotted rhythms and the tempo is much slower than the majority of the third movement. This section of the coda is shown in Example 51:



The third part of the coda is a restatement of theme 1 of the first movement. This eleven-measure final statement is almost identical to the first statement of the solo in the first movement, measures 12-22. This time the violins have the theme, which begins a full step lower than the first solo statement in Movement I, yet manages to end on C. The final part of the coda is shown in Example 52.



Example 52. Mvt. III, mm. 154-end, coda.

### CHAPTER V

# A COMPARISON OF THE 1982 REVISION TO THE ORIGINAL 1956 CONCERTO: THREE SIGNIFICANT ASPECTS

By the mid-1980s Korn had revised many of his own works, including his *First Symphony*, Op. 3 (1941 – 1946, rev. 1977), *Second Symphony*, Op. 13 (1950, rev. 1983), *Third Symphony*, Op. 30 (1956, rev. 1969), *I Love You Truly*, Op. 5 (1947, rev. 1976), *Romantic Overture*, Op. 1 (1943, rev. 1983) and *Tom Paine Overture*, Op. 9 (1949-50, rev. 1985), among others. The CD liner notes for Korn's *Third Symphony* shed light on his attitude toward one of his compositions from that time:

The *Third Symphony* Opus 30 was written in 1956 in only ten weeks, during a stay at the Huntington Hartford Foundation, an artists' colony near Los Angeles. The 1957 premiere by the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra under Eduard van Beinum left Korn as unsatisfied as did the 1965 Berlin production under Korn's own direction. A fundamental revision was completed in 1969.<sup>1</sup>

The *Third Symphony* was originally completed just weeks before Korn began work on the *Saxophone Concerto*,<sup>2</sup> a work that also required only about thirteen weeks to complete. His reasons for dissatisfaction with his *Third Symphony* could apply to some extent to the *Concerto*. A closer look at the results of the revision process may explain his decision.

Christian Heindl wrote that the 1982 revision of the *Saxophone Concerto* basically represented a shortening of the work,<sup>3</sup> but Korn's revisions were more extensive, as three major kinds of changes can be heard. First, Korn made sweeping

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Christian Heindl, Program Notes, *Peter Jona Korn*. Thüringen Philharmonie Suhl dir. Olaf Koch. Thorofon CTH 2153, 1992.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Korn letter to Rascher, 15 April 1956.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Christian Heindl, Komponisten in Bayern, 86.

changes to the solo part, and in the process made it considerably less difficult to learn and perform. Second, he shortened the work by eliminating a recapitulation, resulting in a one-movement work in three sections. Third, he changed the orchestral accompaniment, adding instruments and rearranging their lines.

Perhaps the most obvious change that Korn made to the *Saxophone Concerto* concerned the solo part, which was extremely demanding in the original because of the abundance of altissimo tones. Korn had made it clear as early as July 1956 that he would create another version of the solo part that would be less difficult to master. Even then he had doubts about the work's potential acceptance among saxophonists in part due to comments made by Rascher in his letters. In the years following its premiere he may have become disheartened by the lack of performances that the concerto was receiving and decided that making the solo easier might lead to greater distribution.

Composers had written demanding works for Raschèr throughout his professional career, most requiring agility in fast passages, and many making use of effects such as slap tongueing and flutter tongueing. One of Raschèr's most outstanding abilities was his range, four octaves from B-flat3 to B-flat7, a feature that he widely promoted. In Raschèr's text, *Top-Tones for the Saxophone*, he wrote of Jacques Ibert's *Concertino da Camera* (1935), "It was only because of the composer's friendship with me and the resulting special knowledge of the saxophone that he dared ask for a range of almost four octaves."<sup>4</sup> When Raschèr began to practice the Korn *Concerto* he must have been concerned with the altissimo requirements, far greater than he had ever faced. Indeed, Korn's *Concerto* contains more tones in the altissimo register than any other work

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Top-Tones for Saxophone, Third Edition, New York: Carl Fischer (1977) 19.

composed for Rascher, including concerti composed by Jacques Ibert (1935), Ingolf Dahl (1949, rev. 1953), Henry Brant (1941), and John David Lamb (1970). These works are all considered difficult partly because of their high-range demands. Of the approximately 2609 total number of tones in Korn's *Saxophone Concerto*, 316 are above F6, compared with the Ibert with 36, Dahl with 62,<sup>5</sup> Brant with 74, and Lamb<sup>6</sup> with 83. Of course the sheer number of high tones is not the only challenge in these works, but it is a concern for any saxophonist who considers learning them. Furthermore, it was a reduction in the use of the altissimo range that constituted the most important and fundamental change Korn made to his *Concerto*.

Korn's first attempt to simplify the solo was just a matter of lowering tones and passages by one or two octaves so that the notes would not go above F6. This "Special Edition (Normal Range)," created shortly after the original composition, contained all the tones of the original, except in places where passages that remained unchanged were connected to passages that had been lowered, in which cases Korn used different tones as needed. The orchestra parts were unaffected by the changes to the solo; it was only a "simplified version" for the soloist.<sup>7</sup>

The 1982 revision contains more extensive changes to the solo. Most of the changes did not greatly affect rhythmic content, but melodies were altered so that it was no longer necessary to play above F6. The title page of the revision contains the

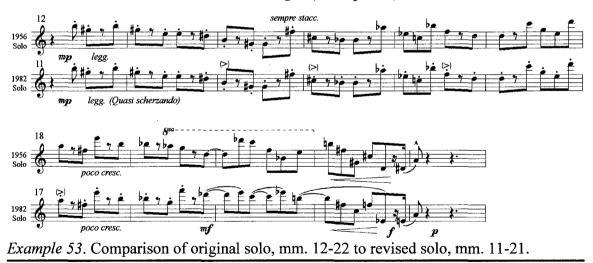
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> This count was made from the published version, 1969, using all the ossias with the higher tessitura options. Although Dahl removed several minutes of music, the actual number of altissimo tones was not considerably diminished from the original 1949 version to the most recent revision.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> The Lamb concerto bears the title *Cloud Cuckoo Land*.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> According to an announcement in *Stretto* magazine, there was also a version for clarinet, although that has not been confirmed. Anthony Wright, ed., *Stretto*, Journal of Mills Music Ltd., June 1958.

statement "*Die Alternative Version des Soloparts ("Saxofon Ossia") ist auf den Klassischen Tonumfang des Altsaxofons Beschränkt.*"<sup>8</sup> Some passages remain equal in length to the original ones, while others are shortened or lengthened. Movement I contains the most sweeping modifications, including rewritten passages and some ossias provided to give the soloist a lower tessitura option. Movements II and III remain almost unchanged except for many ossias. Some sections marked "8va" in the original were changed to read "optional 8va" in the revision.

Measures 11-53 of the revision contain the greatest number of alterations to the solo. The first passage in the original 1956 solo begins on measure 12 and is 11 measures in length; the 1982 revised solo begins a measure earlier, in measure 11, and is also 11 measures in length.<sup>9</sup> The first seven measures of the revised solo is identical to the original, but in the eighth measure, where the original solo enters the altissimo register, the revised solo remains in the "normal range" (Example 53).



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Translated: The alternative solo version ("saxophone ossia") is within the classic limits of alto saxophone range.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> The difference in measure numbers is structurally insignificant, the result of one less measure of repetition in the introductory section. The measure that is omitted is shown in Examples 65a and 65b, page 71 of this paper.

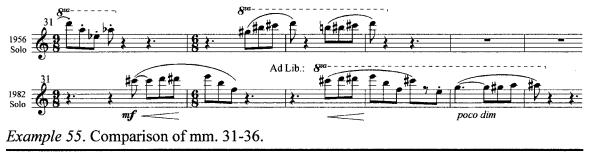
Other changes shown in Example 54 include different tones, articulations, dynamic markings, and the cadential interval, D-sharp–A in the original (a diminished fifth), E–A in the revision (a perfect fourth), as well as the direction *Quasi scherzando*, not indicated in the original but likely added as a clarification of style.

The second entrance of the solo voice, shown in Example 54, contains a greater degree of alteration. While the rhythm is almost identical, all the tones after the initial six were changed, again avoiding the ascent into the altissimo register.<sup>10</sup>



*Example 54.* Comparison of second entrance of original solo, mm. 24-31 to the revised solo, mm. 22-30.

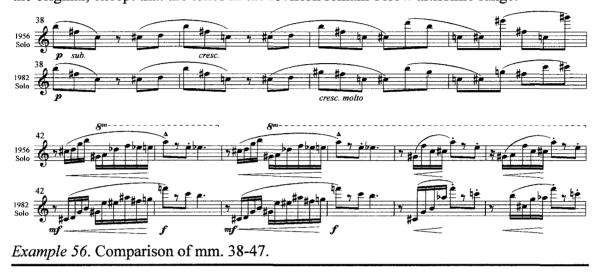
Measures 31 through 36 (Example 55) are entirely different; while the original solo contains mostly rests, the revised solo is more involved in counterpoint to the orchestra. Marked "Ad Lib.: 8va," this is the first instance in the revision in which the performer is given an opportunity to play tones above high F, although it is "optional."



Beginning in measure 38, a measure-by-measure comparison applies to equivalent measure numbers in both versions. This is due to slight changes in meter and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> The revised phrase contains one extra measure.

rhythm in the intervening measures. However, while the material from measure 38 forward is rhythmically and structurally parallel, changes in pitch continue. For example, measures 38-47 (Example 56) contain practically the same material in the revision as in the original, except that the tones in the revision remain below altissimo range.



The mini-cadenza beginning in measure 48 in both versions ends on the downbeat of measure 54, shown in Example 57. In the original, measure 53 has a time signature of 6/8, while in the revised solo, it is 9/8. Notice that the intervallic construction of measures 50-53, entirely minor and major thirds in the original, is less structured in the revision.



Most of the remainder of Movement I contains the same kinds of changes to the solo: the lowering of octaves and some altered intervals. Many ossias are provided so that the range remains below altissimo, while giving the soloist the option to play the original high tones. However, the closing section between measures 183 and 214 in the original underwent major alteration, becoming shortened by sixteen measures. Examples 58a and 58b show a comparison of measures 183-214 of the original solo to its counterpart in the revision, measures 183-198. The revised section omits the entire virtuosic passage from measure 195 through 214 of the original, one of the most challenging sections of the *Concerto*.



Example 58a. Original solo, closing section mm. 183-214.



*Example 58b.* Revised solo, closing section mm. 183-198. The top line is a transcription of the revised solo, while the bottom line shows the ossia option.

It is not clear why Korn made this section so much shorter in the revision, but the result is certainly a less challenging passage, whether the ossia is taken or not. In the original *Concerto* this closing section returns in the recapitulation (see Examples 1 and 2 on page 12), but since the revision contains no recapitulation, the section does not reappear.

The original *Concerto*, conceived in three movements with the second and third connected by a cadenza, was transformed into a one-movement work in three sections. Due to the absence of the entire recapitulation of Movement I, including part of the retransition, the revision is somewhat shorter than the original, some 160 measures (mm. 345-506) of Movement I. This shortening, approximately seven minutes of performance time, represents another decrease in difficulty for the soloist. The formal structure of Movement I of the original *Concerto* is shown in Example 59 with a marker indicating

									1982	cut
Section: Theme:	EXPO. 1 1	Tra 2	ans. 3	3	K	3	K	DEV. (2)	Retrans.	Fugato
Measure: Key:	12 55 C C	68 84 Abm	117 C#m	159 F#m	167 E	175 Bbm	183 C	214 Db	317 Eb	345 Abm
Comment:	Solo Ripie		Solo	Rip.	_	Rip.	-	20	pedal	
Section:	RECAP.	Tra	ans.					Coda		
Theme:	1	2	3		<u>K</u>	3	K	(3)	_	
Measure:	381	401 409	9 442		450	458	466	498		
Key:	С	Ab	C#m		В	Fm	G	С		
Comment:	Solo	Major	Rip.		pedal	Rip.	pedal			

the point at which Korn removed the retransition (fugato) and recapitulation.

*Example 59.* Formal structure of the original *Concerto*, Mvt. I, indicating the point at which the remainder is cut from the 1982 revision.

Besides the omission of the recapitulation, other sections of Movement I were affected by less significant changes involving rhythmic and melodic content. The most noticeable of these are theme 1, measures 12-55, which became measures 11-55 in the revision, and the second closing section (K), measures 183-214, which became measures 183-198 in the revision. The final structure of Movement I of the revision is shown in Example 60:

Section:	EXPO	D.		Tran	s.					DEV.	Retrans.	Segue
Theme:	1	1	2		3	3	K	3	K	(2)		
Measure:	11	55	68	84	117	159	167	175	183	198	301	328
Key:	С	C	Cb		C#m	F#m	E	Bbm	С	Db	Eb	
Comment:	Solo	Rip.			Solo	Rip.	pedal	Rip.	pedal		pedal	
		-						-	_			

*Example 60*: 1982 revision, Mvt. I, formal structure. The rectangles indicate areas within the remaining structure that contain the most sweeping changes.

A comparison of Examples 59 and 60 shows that the measure numbers in measures 55 through 183 line up exactly. That is because the music in measures 55-183 is virtually identical, measure-by-measure, except for melodic changes to the solo and minor details concerning orchestration. Measures 11 through 55 contain many changes in melody, meter, and rhythm that do not affect the formal structure. The second closing section, K beginning in measure 183 in both versions, is shortened by 16 measures in the revision because of the measures omitted from the solo (see Examples 58a and 58b).

At the point where the retransition in the 1956 *Concerto* is cut, Korn wrote the direction "*Segue*" on the score, to create a seamless flow into what had been Movement II. From this point through the end of the work the structure is identical until the final section of the coda. While the original final coda contains a restatement of theme 1 of Movement I, the revision was completely rewritten and uses material drawn from the introduction to Movement III. The revised coda is shown in Example 61 in reduction.



Example 61. 1982 revision, Mvt. III, coda.

Besides the changes that Korn made to the solo and the form, he also made several types of changes in orchestration, including a larger orchestra and the rearrangement of many parts. The fundamental content was not radically altered.

As with many composers, it took years for Korn to improve his orchestration technique. Between 1976 and 1983 Korn reworked the instrumentation and arrangement of several of his own works, including symphonies, overtures, and the *Saxophone Concerto*, among others. In the original score of the *Saxophone Concerto*, the orchestra was small, while the orchestra required for the 1982 revision more closely matched his other orchestral works from that period. Example 62 shows a comparison of instrumentation in the original *Concerto* and the 1982 revision.

1956 Saxophone	Concerto	1982 Revision				
flutes 1,2	timpani	flutes 1,2	timpani			
oboes 1,2	violin 1,2	oboes (eng. hn.) 1,2	percussion			
Bb clarinets 1,2	viola	Bb clarinets 1,2	violin 1,2			
bassoons 1,2	'cello	bassoons 1,2	viola			
horns in F 1,2,3,4	bass	horns in F 1,2,3,4	'cello			
		trumpets in C 1,2	bass			
		trombones 1,2,3				

Example 62. Comparison of instrumentation in 1956 and 1982 versions of the Concerto.

As Korn gained experience, his works generally utilized larger ensembles. One reason for this probably lies in the fact that as a young composer, Korn was limited by the instrumentation that was available, and in the 1940s and '50s he had minimal access to large groups. In an early letter to Rascher he had mentioned that he tried to write for "as little as possible, for artistic as well as economical reasons."<sup>11</sup> In later years his position at the Richard Strauss Conservatory and his membership on the GEMA<sup>12</sup> supervisory board gave him access to larger groups as well as greater prestige within the musical community. Indeed, his fourth and final symphony, *Ahasver* (1989-90), was scored for the largest orchestra of any of his works, and includes, along with the normal complement, a saxophone section, six horns, two harps, and a celesta.

Korn's concerti also experienced general growth in instrumentation as compared to earlier works. However, the only concerto he revised was the *Saxophone Concerto*.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Korn letter to Raschèr, 6 May 1956.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Germany's musical performance rights agency, *Gesellschaft für musikalische Aufführungs- und mechanische Vervielfältigungsrechte*, http://www.fundinguniverse.com/company-histories/GEMA-Gesellschaft-fuuml;r-musikalische-Auffuuml;hrungs-und-mechanische-Vervielfauml;ltigungsrechte-Company-History.html, accessed 2 June 2009.





### 1982 revision, mm.1-3

be

50.

//

11.

Example 63. Comparison of voicing in the opening measures of the original Concerto and the 1982 revision. Staff names in this example are displayed using Korn's original abbreviations.

<u>.</u>

Korn changed the arrangement of many parts within the *Concerto* to include additional instruments, to alter doublings and tessituras, and to change tonal implications, timbral effects, etc. The differences in orchestration are too numerous to detail here completely, but consist mainly of altered chord voicings and timbres. While almost every measure contains some change, a few examples will serve to represent the types of changes made.

Example 63 shows a side-by-side comparison of the opening measures of the two versions, containing many rearranged parts. In the example, all the woodwind instruments (with the exception of flute 1) were moved to a higher tessitura, and the bassoon was raised by more than an octave. First and second parts in the woodwinds were also separated by fifths and fourths, instead of octaves, sixths, and thirds.

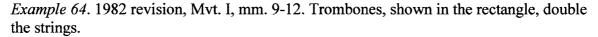
Example 63 also shows that violin 1 and the viola were lowered an octave and the bass was omitted entirely. Like the woodwinds, the cellos were pitched higher and divided, while the harmony became thirds and sixths. The F horns, sounding a single eighth-note chord in the original, became part of the tremolo figure, and were also given higher pitches. The addition of the cymbal (*Becken*) was an audible departure from the original, as were the trumpets and trombones, although they do not appear in the first few measures.

The restructuring of the opening chord also has harmonic implications; the revision contains basically the same tones as the original, but uses a different inversion. In the original, the lowest tones in the first full measure are F-flat and A-flat, with the tones B-flat and D-flat in the upper voices and E and G in the melody line. This seemingly arbitrary group of tones can be analyzed as a B-flat half-diminished seventh

chord in second inversion. In the revision, Korn uses the same tones, but re-stacks them so that the lowest tone is B-flat, placing the chord in root position.

The revision also contains passages in which only the timbre is changed, resulting from added instrumental parts duplicating tones already present. Beginning in measure 10 of the revision, trombones are added to a passage originally given to only the upper strings (Example 64).





The tones given to the trombones in Example 64 duplicate those already played by the strings, simply adding thickness and volume to the texture. In measure 21, the beginning of the second phrase, the trombones are replaced by horns, again sounding the same tones as the strings, and again subtly altering the timbre.

Some of Korn's alterations are even subtler. In the fifth measure of theme 1 (measure 16 in the original, 15 in the revision) the harmony changes on beat two; the harmonic movement is slight, involving only one tone of the chord. In the original the E-flat leads to E, so that the chord becomes C7 (spelled B-flat, C, E) momentarily. In the revision the E-flat leads to D, leaving the chord ambiguous (B-flat, C, D). This comparison is illustrated in Examples 65a and 65b.



*Example 65a*: 1956 *Concerto*, Mvt. I, mm. 10-16. In the fifth measure of theme 1, the E-flat leads to E-natural (circled).



*Example 65b*: 1982 revision, Mvt. I, mm. 10-15, In the fifth measure of theme 1, the E-flat leads to D-natural (circled).

The reason for the change of this single tone is not clear, but it does precede a reduction in chromatic complexity in the following measures. Examples 66a and 66b show a comparison of passages in measures 16-22 of the original work and 15-21 of the

revision. The accompanimental voices in the original passage move in a highly chromatic manner, while the harmonic motion in the revised passage is more stable.



Example 66a. 1956 Concerto, Mvt. I, mm. 16-22.



Example 66b. 1982 revision, Mvt. I, mm. 15-21.

The first main section of the revision (corresponding to Movement I of the original) contains numerous other changes to the orchestration, similar in nature and scope to the changes thus far described. Korn's revisions are more sweeping in the beginning, gradually decreasing throughout the work. By the midpoint of the concerto the extent of reorchestration is diminished, the 1982 version remaining very similar to the original. Still, almost every measure contains some minor change in voicing, rhythm, or tessitura. For example, in the opening measures of the revised *Andante sostenuto*, Korn gave the melody, originally in the violas, to the violins.

Measures 23-26 of the Andante sostenuto section contain several examples of

changes to minor details: 1) Korn added a whole-note B-flat (concert A-flat) tied across four measures to clarinet 2, doubling the horns already sustaining that same tone as well as a C-flat. 2) He indicated the last tone in measure 23, clarinet 1 as F-flat, instead of E-natural. 3) A single tone, pizzicato B-flat in violin 2, was added in measure 26. 4) A *crescendo* was added in the viola part. Such subtle changes permeate the revision, and show a high degree of attention to detail by the composer.

Another noticeable change involves the tempo of Movement I: both the original and the revised scores are marked dotted quarter-note equals 112, but the piano reduction of the revision shows a tempo of dotted quarter-note equals 100. This indicates that, sometime between August, 1956 and May, 1983, Korn changed his mind about the tempo and then changed it back again. The tempo of 100 also appears in a photocopy of the original score that Korn used to make the first revision of the solo, the "simplified version," which he completed around 1957; the "112" in "( $\downarrow =112$ )" is crossed out and replaced with "100." Clearly a tempo of 112 in 6/8 time is quite fast, especially in passages containing many eighth-notes, and even more difficult in altissimo passages. Once the altissimo was omitted, a quicker pace could be more easily justified.

#### CHAPTER VI

#### SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

While the original 1956 *Saxophone Concerto* is separated into two main sections, a ten-minute long first movement and a ten-minute long second movement, which is in itself two movements, the work is unified by the return of themes and motives. Embedded in traditional forms and harmonies, the melodies and countermelodies are drawn from an eclectic mix of sources connected to the composer's own life and experiences. While it is possible to analyze the *Concerto* from a purely theoretical perspective, Korn's aesthetics must be taken into consideration. It is conceivable that, while Korn composed methodically, the *Concerto* was also influenced by powerful emotions he expressed at that particular time in his life, frustrated with life in America, yet apprehensive about returning to Europe.

Movement I, *Allegro con spirito*, is exciting and focused, formally balanced, brilliant, and challenging – all that a concerto first movement should be. The introspective and somber *Andante sostenuto* of Movement II is the perfect second movement for a concerto. The third movement, or *Allegretto*, however, with its odd themes that lead nowhere and the melancholy ending of the solo, raises questions about extramusical content that Korn may not have willingly acknowledged.

It is credible to deduce from the evidence gathered here that daily occurrences in Korn's life affected more than just surface thematic content, and that extra-musical influences reached further into the realm of meaningful and personal storytelling. For example, Korn's *Toccata for Orchestra*, Op. 42a, 1966, contains quotations of the famous Civil War tune "Dixie," which he used "consciously or unconsciously [in] a

further acknowledgment of his ties to a land that gave him shelter in exile, and to which ... he felt deep emotional ties."<sup>1</sup> Korn's self-admitted autobiographical eclecticism feeds directly into his method of composing, a formula that combines skill and craftsmanship with elements that were meaningful to him.

It would not be realistic to claim that every element in the *Concerto* had some extra-musical association, nor to look for hidden meanings in themes, key centers, harmonies, tempos, or time signatures; an overtly programmatic approach was not part of Korn's aesthetic. It is curious however, to find oddities in an otherwise perfectly serious work of music, such as the phrase that obviously resembles "Three Blind Mice," and the rhythmic profile that evokes contemporary jazz.

Perhaps the oddest thing about the *Concerto* is found in the final measures of the solo; traditionally solo concerti dedicated to Raschèr end with excitement. A comparison of the ending of Korn's *Saxophone Concerto* with others composed for Raschèr reveals this pattern. Barbara Korn fittingly commented that the worst thing a composer can do to a performer is to give a concerto a quiet ending.<sup>2</sup> Only Korn, or perhaps Raschèr, could give a definitive answer as to the reason for this melancholy and anticlimactic ending to an otherwise lively and energetic work.

It is the opinion of this author that the primary reason Korn revised the *Concerto* was his belief that the solo was too difficult for anyone other than Sigurd Rascher to perform. However, it has recently been shown that, after many months of intense study and practice, it is feasible to perform the original solo including every tone in its original

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Christian Heindl, Program Notes, *Peter Jona Korn*, Thüringen Philharmonie Suhl dir. Olaf Koch, Thorofon CTH 2153, 1992.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Barbara Korn personal interview, 15 March 2005.

tessitura.<sup>3</sup> Furthermore, the work in its original form is not only programmable under certain circumstances, but also pleasing to modern audiences. The required saxophone techniques are not beyond those being taught in universities today, although the ability to execute fast-paced arpeggios and chromatic runs in the upper altissimo remains rare. Korn's original *Saxophone Concerto* can be played once the skills are acquired.

Therefore this historically unique work, among the most challenging ever composed for Sigurd Rascher, a leading figure in saxophone history, should be studied and performed in schools of music that honestly seek knowledge of the saxophone and its influence. Hence the original solo with full score, parts, and a piano reduction will soon be available to the saxophone community for study and performance.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> The only technique that has proven to be truly insurmountable has been slap-tonguing in the altissimo register, measures 397-398 of Movement I.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Barbara Korn has promised to publish the score, parts, and reduction made by this author using the Finale music transcription program.

#### APPENDIX A

## CONCERT PROGRAMS, NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS,

# AND ILLUSTRATIVE PHOTOGRAPHS

#### Illus. 1. The Program of January 6, 1957

# THE

ELKHART SYMPHONY

# ORCHESTRA

## ZIGMONT GASKA CONDUCTOR

#### presents

# SIGURD RASCHER

SAXOPHONIST

#### ASSISTING SAXOPHONE ARTISTS

Doris Anderson, Soprano Marilynn Edmonds, Alto Gloria Samuelson, Alto Janet Wirth, Tenor Donald Wilcox, Tenor Robert Detwiler, Baritone Robert Brown, Baritone John Davies, Bass

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SECOND CONCERT OF THE NINTH SEASON

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Sunday, January 6th, 1957

Young People's — 3:00 P.M. Marian Johnson, Program Hostess

General - 7:30 P.M.

ELKHART HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM ELKHART, INDIANA

#### The Program of January 6, 1957, cont.

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"The Gypsy Baron" is a comic opera in three acts. The story concerns a boy, Sandov, who is taken from his ancestral home. When he returns in later years, he finds the castle is run down and that it has been taken over by Gypsies. The music is rich in Gypsy melodies, songs, waltzes, and other dance music.

Johann Strauss was forbidden by his father to study music, so he took his first violin lessons secretly. When the father abandoned the family, the son could study music freely. In 1844 he made his debut as a composer and a cafe-house Kapellmeister. His career was one of endless successes, and he became the idol of Vienna.

#### COPPELIA, Ballet Music ..... Delibes

#### Prelude-Mazurka

Scene—Waltz of the Doll and Czardas

The story of this ballet is based on Hoffmann's tale, "The Sandman." It is one of the first ballets in which a doll comes to life.

Briefly the story is this: Franz, the hero, falls in love with a beautiful girl seated n the window of Coppelius's house. He thinks she is the daughter of Coppelius, when actually she is a mechanical doll. Franz tells Coppelius of his love for the beautiful girl, and Coppelius, by using magic, brings the doll to life.

However, after becoming human, the doll gets out of control. When Franz realizes that Coppelia is only a doll, he returns to his earlier sweetheart, Swanilda. They are reconciled and married.

#### CONCERTO FOR ALTO SAXOPHONE and ORCHESTRA, Op. 31 ..... Peter Jong Karn

Allegro con spirito Andante sostenuto

Allegretto

#### SIGURD RASCHER, Sexophonist

Meeting in a concert of the Pasadena Symphony Orchestra last March, where Sigurd Rascher was the soloist, Peter Jona Korn, the American composer, was approached by Mr. Rascher with the idea of writing a Concerto for Saxophone and Orchestra. The composer wrote the first movement while completing his fellowship at the Huntington Hartford Foundation and completed it during the summer.

In the words of the composer, "I have endeavored to treat the solo instrument with the same respect and consideration I would treat any of the established 'solo instruments,'—violin, piano, cello or others, —and renounced any temptation to supply it with funny effects, jazzy passages and the like. My intention has been to write a serious symphonic concerto in the best tradition for an instrument whose capabilities and possbilities are as yet unknown to the greater part of the music public."

#### The Program of January 6, 1957, cont.

It was at the suggestion of Sigurd Rascher, the world famous saxophone virtuoso, who had previously worked with Mr. Gaska, that Peter Korn accorded the Elkhart Symphony Orchestra the honor and distinction of performing the world premiere of his Concerto today.

#### - INTERMISSION -

#### Remarks by AR. RASCHER

#### IV. Allegro spiritoso

a. As the symphony was composed

#### b. Inclusion of saxophones in string sections

The last of Haydn's symphonies introduces in its fourth movement a spirited and jolly tune called "Red Hot Buns" which was popular in London in the 1790's. Haydn works it around in a very delightful manner.

This was the vehicle chosen by Zigmont Gaska, Conductor of the Elkhart Symphony Orchestra, with which to experiment with his idea of using saxophones in a symphony orchestra to help articulate each of the string sections; an experiment in which Sigurd Rascher enthusiastically joined.

The first experimental performance of this was given before the delegates of the American Symphony Orchestra League Convention in Elkhart in June, 1953 and was described, in part, in the September issue of "MUSIC JOURNAL" of that year. Today, the Elkhart Symphony Orchestra under Mr. Gaska, presents the completed performance with the full family of saxophones in the five string sections.

As Mr. Gaska has said, "Admittedly, Haydn's music is of the classical school and serious musicians may raise an eyebrow at the thought of saxophone participation, but this is used as an illustration of the saxophone's flexibility and to suggest one of the ways it may be used by future composers in creating new compositions with this potential in mind."

PRELUDE and FUGUE in G Minor ..... Bach - Loboda

#### Saxophone Octet

Doris Anderson Gloria Samuelson Donald Wilcox Robert Brown Marilynn Edmonds Janet Wirth Robert Detwiler John Davis

The well-known "Prelude and Fugue in G Minor" by Bach, originally for organ, was transcribed for Saxophone Octet by Captain Samuel R. Laboda, Assistant Leader of the United States Army Band, Fort Myer, Virgina.

#### The Program of January 6, 1957, cont.

In 1927, Ravel was commissioned by Ida Rubenstein, the noted dancer, to write for a dance pantomime with a Spanish setting. This work was produced at the Paris Opera on November 22, 1928, with Mme. Rubenstein as the dancer, performing the bolero on a table top in a Spanish inn.

The action of the dance is a relentlessly worked up crescendo with spectators watching the dancer steadily and beating out the rhythm by clapping heir hands and pounding their heels. Toward the end as the key changes suddenly from C major to E major, their tension breaks, knives are drawn and a tavern brawl follows.

The music was first performed as a concert number in November the following year when the New York Philharmonic Orchestra played it at Carnegie Hall with Toscanini as conductor.

The music is a long and gradual crescendo built on a single theme and counter theme repeated from the beginning to the end without variation except in the instrumentation and in the mounting volume.

#### SIGURD RASCHER

World's leading exponent of the saxophone, Sigurd Rascher has been soloist with the major symphony orchestras of the United States, Canada, Europe and Australia.

Youngsters and adults alike are fascinated by his amazing display of technique, but he is above all an artist, aiming at carrying out the composer's wish. He is so highly esteemed that 24 composers have each written a work for him. In his hands the saxophone becomes a thing of beauty, as agile as a coloratura soprano, as powerful as a bass horn.

Almost single-handed he has succeeded in moving his instrument from the night clubs to the symphony halls of the world.

Mr. Rascher joins in the performance of the "Bolero" today, using his own Eb Sopranino Saxophone; a rare instrument and one of the very few in existence today.

#### PETER JONA KORN

Now 34 years old, Mr. Korn founded the New Orchestra of Los Angeles which has built an enviable reputation for its presentation of seldom-heard works and new manuscripts.

He came to the United States in 1941 and became a U.S. citizen in 1944 making his residence in Los Angeles. Mr. Korn's orchestral works and chamber music are being performed with increasing frequency throughout the United States.

He is the recipient of Louisville Orchestra Commission (1955), Huntington Hartford Foundation (1956), and Frank Huntington Beebe Fund Award (1956).

#### \* World Premiere

\*\*First performance in United States, according to record, with instrumentation as composed by Ravel.





#### PETER KORN

symphonic compositions, Peter Jona Korn has written a "Conand certo for Saxophone and Orchestra." The world premiere of this composition will be featured by the Elkhart Symphony orchestra Sunday during its concert beginning at 7:30 p. m. in the Elkhart High school auditorium.

Korn is one of the nation's most promising young composers. After serving as assistant conductor of the University of Southern California Symphony orchestra and the Los Angeles Grand Opera Co., he organized the New Orchestra of Los Angeles in 1948. The New orchestra has built an enviable reputation for its preof little known sentations works.

Believing that the saxo-phone has a place in modern Y., will be guest soloist for the tra's conductor, agrees with Sigurd Rascher, Shushan, N. premiere. As saxophone vir-tuoso, he has been soloist with many of the major symphony orchestras of the United States, Canada, Europe and Australia. His range on the instrument covers four octaves instead of the usual  $2\frac{1}{2}$ .

> Rascher will also be soloist when the orchestra performs Ravel's "Bolero." He will play a rare Eb Sopranino saxophone, one of the few still in existence. Ravel originally wrote his composition for this instrument, and as far as it is known, it will be the first time the "Bolero" has been played. in the United States as first composed.

ZIGMONT GASKA

Zigmont Gaska, the orches-Korn and Rascher that the saxophone, with its unique tone, can add body and strength to symphonies. Other conductors, college and university professors, and music editors and critics from throughout the Midwest will attend the premiere Sunday.

The concert, most unusual in the orchestra's history, will feature the inclusion of saxophones in string sections in Haydn's "Symphony No. 2." This addition was worked out by Gaska and Rascher in June, 1953, before several hundred delegates at the American Symphony Orchestra League convention.

A saxophone octet will be featured in Bach - Loboda's "Prelude and Fugue in G Minor.'

Saxophone Work's Premiere Highlight Of Symphony Year

Symphony orchestra's concert the ballet music by Delibes. Sunday night one of the mu- Under Gaska's direction, both sical highlights of the season. numbers were played with fine About 700 persons were present precision. at the concert in the Elkhart High school auditorium.

"Concerto Korn's Saxophone and Orchestra, Op. 31." Sigurd Rascher, famed had his musicians play briefly saxophone virtuoso, was soloist. Preceding the presentation, Zigmont Gaska, conductor, to illustrate how saxophones the string pointed out that only time can determine the value of a work and many of the great classics in music were ill received by critics when first played.

nlimented for its excellent per- and Fugue in G Minor," a comformance of a difficult com-position of unusual beauty as position. Rascher demonstrat- arranged by Capt. S. R. Laboda ed why he deserved his title of the U.S. Army band. This "Paganini of the Saxoas phone," and he was recalled to the stage three times for enthusiastic ovations. He played one encore.

Modern In Form

The "Concerto," with its complex tonal structures, was definitely a modern and original composition. In general, like many works in modern art, it had the passionless beauty of a great machine. However, there were passages, especially in the second movement, that were thought-provoking, even plaintive.

Preceding the premiere, the orchestra played the gay

A world premiere and un- "Gypsy Baron" everture by usual arrangements featuring Strauss, and the prelude and saxophones made the Elkhart one scene from "Coppelia,"

Following the intermission, igh school auditorium. Haydn's "Symphony No. 2 The premiere was Peter J. (London)" was performed for Alto with eight saxophones added hestra On to the string sections. Gaska without the saxophones, then with the additional instruments sections."

#### Conducts Number

With Rascher conducting, a saxophone octet led the orches-The orchestra is to be com- tra in playing Bach's "Prelude was followed by Mendelssohn's "War March of the Priests."

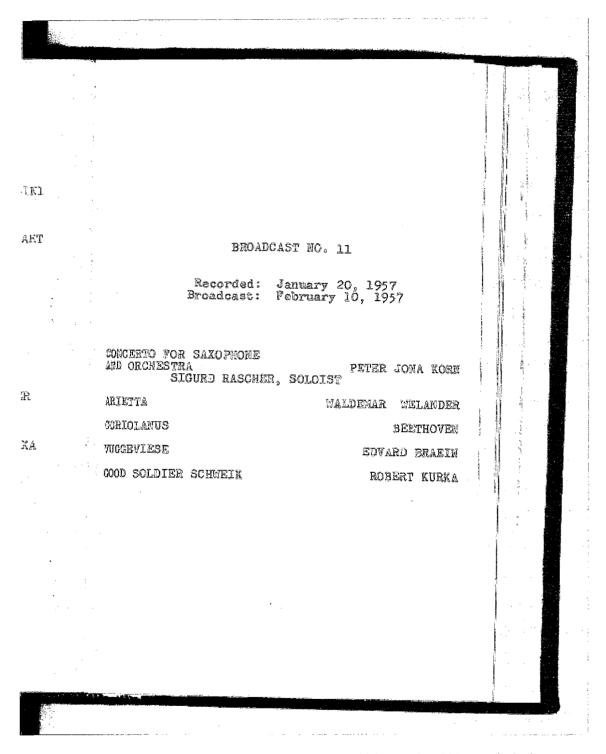
> The concert was concluded by Ravel's stimulating "Bolero," using the instrumentation as originally composed. Rascher joined the other musicians and played his own Eb sopranino saxophone, one of the few still in existence.

> The "Bolero" brought an evening of unusually fine music making to a stirring climax.

> Marian Johnson, principal cellist with the orchestra, was hostess during the afternoon young peoples concert. Several hundred students were present.

> The orchestra's next concert will be on March 3, with Kathryn Blum, lyric soprano, as guest soloist.

V.G.



Illus. 5. Photograph of a Page from the Oklahoma City Symphony Records.

From internet email, Michelle Winters, Director of Marketing, Oklahoma City Philharmonic Orchestra, March 8, 2005.



The Scandinavian club is rallying around a visiting Swede this week, and will be present to give him a hand when he solos for the Oklahoma City Symphony in its Mutual broadcast concert Sunday at 7:30 p.m. This will take place in Oklahoma City University aucitorium under the balon of Guy Fraser Harrison, and the public is invited.

The out-of-town notable is Sigord Rascher, saxophonist per excellence, who is in the city to help in making an educational film for OCU music school, in co-operation with OCU band director James Nellson.

Rascher will be playing a concerto for sax and orchestra, dedicated to him by Peter Joan Kora. and an Artetta by Swedish composer Welander.

Visiting Senndinaviene will also hear a Norwegian work, called "Vuggeviese," by Edvard Fillet Brnein, and a piece of 1920 jazz, "The Good Soldier Schweik," by Robert Kurka.



Illus. 7. Article in The Oklahoman Newspaper, January 19, 1957.

A flag waving and a get-together are hatching hare. Danish E. G. Ty Dahlgron, contor, talls visiting Swadish saxophonist Sigurd Rascher, and daughter Karon Rascher, II, that the Scandinavian club will be at OCU Auditorium Sunday at 7:30 p.m. to hear the Mutual broadcast concert of the Oklahoma City Symphony under Guy Fraser Harrison. Rescher will be soloist in two numbers. A free concert, the public is invited.

# **City Symphony Stages Third** World Premiere on Sunday

third this year. is the featured discernible. work conductor Guy Fraser Har-1 Last week's Concerto for Claririson has scheduled for Sunday's net by Elie Siegmeister with Earl Mutual broadcast concert of the Thomas as soloist and Oklahoma City Symphony Orches. month's Concerto for saxophone tra.

It is the third symphony of An- also world premieres. dre Singer, since 1946 a professor ; of music at Sarah Lawrence col- wegian Fartien Valen's "Sonetto lege. New York.

Born in Yugoslavia, Singer First Symphony. studied in Vienna and was graduptod from the Academy of Music there.

His third Symphony was writ- 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. ten in the summer of 1954 and revised in 1955. It is to one moverepeat, though the traditional struc-

Another world premiere, the ture of fast-slow-fast is clearly

Tast and orchestra by Peter Jon Korn a splayed by Sigurd Rascher were

Also on the program are Nordi Michelangelo" and Beethoven's

The concert will be played in Oklaheman City University audi-torium open to the public, from

Illus. 9. Article in the Los Angeles Sunday Examiner, March 24, 1957.



HELPING to restore the dignity saxophone's lost during present century are Sigurd Rascher, left, and Peter Jona Korn of Los Angeles, who has just composed a new concerto for the saxophone which Rascher will record in the east in the near future.

# Patterson Greene

Saxophone's a Lad

The band leader said, "You're fired." This was not what play reviewers call fresh and novel dialogue, as any experienced bandman will cheerfully tell you. But it rankled deep in the soul of Sigurd Rascher:

Rascher was not an experienced bandman. He had never played in a dance band before (and he has never played in one since).

He was, however, a graduate in clarinet of the Stuttgart Conservatory. He had taken up the saxophone condescendingly, to earn a few extra marks and pfennigs. "In a way it was fired because, forsoth, the band leader said he "couldn't read." "In a way it was true," Rascher told me. "Working on sonatas and chamber music, I had always had plenty of time. There had been no occasion for rapid

sight reading.

He settled down, therefore, to amend

the fault-and as an eventual result, he became the world's greatest concert saxophonist.

He played everything on the saxophone, from Bach to Bartok. He made the discovery that the saxophone is not, as is commonly supposed, an instrument with a two and a half octave range. The alto saxophone compasses four and a half octaves, from the D Flat in the middle of the bass clef to the third A Flat above

the treble. "No instrument," declared Rascher, "can produce a more delicate pianissimo, yet it can compete in volume with the trumpets.

He was astonished to find what was written about the saxophone when Adolph Sachs invented it back in the 1850's. There was reference to "the pontifical dignity" inently suited to sacred music." Bizet of its lower tones. Berlioz found it

Turn to Page 13, Cols. 1-3

# 'Sax' on Good Behavior

#### From Page 11

wrote a part for it in his incidental music to Daudet's "L'Arlesienne."

Then, early in the presont century, the dance bands discovered the saxophone, and abruptly it became a raucous, bawdy, maudlin lady of the night. Its respectability was firmly lost.

"I have played as soloist with the major orchestras of Europe, with the Boston Symphony, with the New York Philharmonic. But everywhere I go, I have to start from the beginning to persuade people that the saxophone is not a night club instrument."

In Paris, Jacques Ibert and Glazounoff wrote concertos for Rascher. Another has been written by Los Angeles composer Peter Jona Korn, and Rascher is here now to confer with Korn about the recording of the work for Zephyr.

The late Serge Koussevitzky invited Rascher to play the Debussy Rhapsody for saxophone with the Boston Symphony. The work was written in 1907 or 1908 on commission from a Mrs. Hall of Boston, who had been advised to play the saxophone as a means of counteracting asthma.

Being a woman of wealth and culture, she wanted good music for the instrument, and got it from Debussy. But she played it only in private. The Boston public heard it for the first time from Rascher.

Many other distinguished composers have written saxophone works for Rascher, but publishers brush them aside. There are millions of saxophonists, but few of them are interested in concert literature.

A native of Sweden and a musical product of Germany, Rascher has long made his home in America. He lives on a 250 acre farm in upstate New York.

He regrets that concert tours keep him away for so much of the time from his wife, his son and his three daughters. He has taught music in two of the district schools near his farm, and his up-country pupils have gone to New York City and won top ratings in competitions.

Rascher gave up a summer position at the University of Michigan because it kept him away from home too much.

"The schools," he declares, "teach too many facts about music, and not enough music. I asked a group of college graduate students—all music teachers—to hum some tunes from Bach and Mozart and Handel. Forty students couldn't remember a dozen tunes."

Rascher has no concert engagements here. He doesn't regret the fact, but I do. I'd like to hear the saxophone on its good behavior. Illus. 10. Tentative itinerary for Rascher's 1959 Australia tour.

J. U. .. :-Included in Letter to New York dated 30 /6 / £ IN LETTER TO NEW YORK REPRESENTATIVE NCLUSTON Hak you for the latest advice from Sigurd Rascher in your latter No. 61 of Ash June. We have noted his suggestions regarding the orchestral concerts. more already acceptable to Mr. Rascher. In order to be sure of this, the concerto attuation nov stands: ROCH SYDNEY - Suburban Orchestral September 10 IBERT ADELAIDE ~ Youth September 16 HOBART - Subscription ROCH September 23 LAUNCESTON - Subscription KOCE September 24 GLAZOUNON & WELANDER HOBART - Youth (This pair is a little short. September 28 Could we have, perhaps, the MARTIE BALLADE (11 mins.) or JEPHTHAH instead of WELANDER, thus making 17 or 22 mins.) MELBOURNE - Free Orchestral MARTIN BALLADE & IBERT October 11 BRISBANE - Youth RORN (This may be a trifle on the short side, Could Welander be added to make 21 mins. Ocrober 26 of playing?) BRISBANE - Subscriptions -BRANT & JEPTHAH October 30, 31 DEBUSSY & LARSSON PERTH - Subscriptions November 13, 14 KOCH & JEPTHAH PERTH ~ Youth November 17 LARSSON & WELANDER FREMANTLE - Free Orchestral November 22 SYDNEY -Free Orchestral IBERT Ndvomber 29 DEBUSSY & LARSSON SYDNEY - Youth December 1, 2, 3 Bacitala We would be glad to have Mr. Bascher's agreement to Margaret Schofield as his Also, will be please indicate in the attached copies of his accompanist. programmes: (a) If the groupings of the solos are to his liking

(b) The place in the first half where plane soles will be interpolated to lengthen the programme for country recitals. (Nou have no doubt explained to Mr. Rascher that our provincial recitals start at 8  $p_{\circ m_{\circ}}$  and therefore necessitate a longer programme than that used in the cities - and that this lengthening is taken care of by a group of soles from the accompanist).

÷	By Dr. W. Loveloch
	THE chief attraction
	at last night's
	A.B.C. Youth Concert.
	was the appearance of
	the saxophonist Sigurd
	Rascher.
3	Unfortunately, it looks as if school examinations are
:- T	looming all too close, since the attendance was poor.
t f	
i	There is no doubt of Mr. Rascher's mastery of his
	instrument, and his control of an almost inaudible
ą	pianissimo is phenomenal. His cantabile has real
È	beauty and his dexterity
Ł	must be almost unequalled. Whether his much-adver-
L	tised four-octave range is
Į.,	heard rather more than 31
1 •	tised four-octaver range—is really worth the effort—we heard rather more than 3 octaves if my ear served me right—is a matter of opinion.
3	It is undoubtedly tech- nically satisfying to be able
<u>u</u>	to soar into the strato-
b	sphere, but this can be done only at the cost of produc-
÷	ear and which can be justi- fied only in rare and excep-
_	tional_cases.
	Easy listening
	The best that can be said
	that it is designed to exploit
	that it is designed to exploit the possibilities of the saxo- phone to the limit since it contains the barest mini-
n	contains the barest mini- mum of music.
-	The orchestre under the
0 1.	coped with an overloaded and offen ungrateful score
3, D	and often ungrateful score
	to the best of their ability.
.5	Mr. Rascher's second item, an Arietta by Welander, was easy listening, but quite un- distinguished as music. It
 0	distinguished as music. It
	distinguished as music. It pleased the audience who rewarded, very speedily, with
a	two encores.
	Insensitive
	Marcel Poot's "Joyous
	in a cheerful style, though
_	its purely_musical content is practically nil. It was fol-
	lowed by a perfunctory per-
	formance of Debussy's "Petite Suite."
	TChalkovsky's routin Sym-
	phony, which formed the second half of the pro-
1	gramme, received a render- ing which was often insensi-
	tive ragged in places, and
	which but rarely came to life.
	Balance was none too good, crescendos were often
1	too steeply graded, and one
	noticed that the horns were back again at their old habit
1	of trying to shout down everybody else in anything
Ī	EVELYDOUY CISE III arry units
1	below a forte.



Illus. 12. The Cover of Korn's Book, Musical Environmental Pollution.



Illus. 13. Photographs From the Korn Family Collection.

Korn and wife Barbara, 1956

Korn and Bertold Hummel, 1976

Illus. 14. Internet Article: Recollections of Stefan Wolpe by former students and friends http://grace.evergreen.edu/~arunc/texts/music/wolpe/Wolpe/Peter\_Jona\_Korn.html

# Peter Jona Korn

I came to Palestine in September of 1936. There were altogether twenty young German-Jewish music students who where given certificates. I was the youngest one. They wanted to start at sixteen, but I was fourteen at the time, and I got one of them. The jury consisted mostly of William Steinberg as the main juror who more or less decided which of the many applying young musicians would be given a certificate to the new Conservatory in Jerusalem. Which was a terribly difficult thing to get, because you couldn't emigrate unless you were in one of the trades needed in kibbutz, or unless you went on a capitalist certificate, which required  $\pounds 1,000$ , an unheard-of sum, and nobody could afford it. So these student certificates were prized possessions. Herbert Brün was among the first group that went a few weeks before. I was in the second group together with Yohanaan Boehm and Haim Alexander. I was there for five days, long enough to see Stefan and show him what I had composed, which he thought was pretty awful, but he still thought I was very talented, both of which was true. And then a few days later I wanted to visit with relatives in Tel Aviv, drove down with Emil Hauser, and he drove us into a ditch, having been sideswiped by an Arab car. My right arm was smashed. Wolpe went in another car a few weeks later and also was driven into the ditch. And the scar on his nose happened then. When I came back from the hospital from Tel Aviv, it was just about that time Wolpe had the accident. So we probably did not start to work until early in '37. [...]

I went through harmony with him quite thoroughly, very unacademically. He went step by step by first doing things quickly. Triads, then seventh chords, then adding diatonic modulation, then adding chromatic modulation. Somewhere in between adding suspensions and so forth. He sort of didn't mix things, and for everything sooner or later I would do a little mini-composition, where I would say use modulation. This included no counterpoint at all, because I said, "Now I want to do counterpoint. How does one do it?" And he said, "Well, I'll show you what counterpoint is like." And then he sat down and played the following, because I will never forget that that was the first example. He said, "Counterpoint is something like this. You have [*plays a line*], now comes the counterpoint [*plays a second line with the first*]. He simply sat down and gave me that specific example. There was really no strict counterpoint, it was really just *zweistimmiger Satz* and *dreistimmiger Satz*, as a result of which I wrote a *Duo for Violin and Cello*, which Parnas and Hofnäckler played on the radio, and on this final concert. [...]

He did not say terribly much in the beginning about Schoenberg, because we did not know any Schoenberg. After I studied with Schoenberg, I probably wrote him some letters tearing Schoenberg apart. His admiration for Schoenberg and Webern and other twelve-tone composers was quite obvious, but I don't remember that he said too much about actual works of Schoenberg. He talked very little about twelve-tone technique. Nobody studied twelve-tone technique with him, which of course Schoenberg didn't teach either. Much more Bartók was played. Bartók was a *live* concept to us, of all the modern composers the one we had most actual contact with. Even Hauser and his quartet played the first Bartók, which I found terribly exciting, even though they didn't play it quite for what it was worth. So of contemporary music composers the ones that were most alive in our contact, I would say, were Bartók and Stravinsky. He spoke about Stravinsky and Bartók as if they were close to him personally. He didn't speak that way about Schoenberg, strangely enough. But it may just not have come up that much. One didn't get to hear [the music]. There were no records. At least in the case of Stravinsky and Bartók there were already some records about.

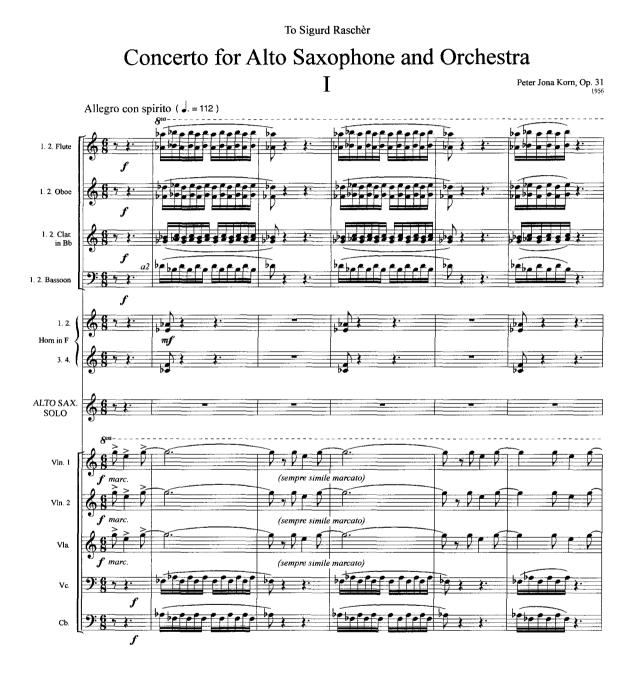
The composer that I feel he spoke most about was Mahler. Once he said that he had gone to bed reading the Seventh of Mahler and was all excited. Mahler we did get a chance to hear. Every year the Philharmonic would play another Mahler symphony. The first one that we got to know was the First under Steinberg. They didn't do the Second for obvious reasons. Then they did either the Third or the Fourth, and I'm not sure who conducted it. Then they played the Fifth under Michael Tauber creditably enough. And of course *Das Lied von der Erde* and the Second Symphony we knew from recordings. They were among the first records to come out. So we had more of a contact with Mahler, we were very much programmed towards Mahler, he initiated a great curiosity as far as Mahler was concerned. Irma played a lot of Debussy. I had the feeling that Debussy more than Ravel was terribly important to him. My spontaneous reaction is that Debussy is among those he admired particularly. [...]

The name Hauer came up once. I said, "*Wer ist Hauer*?" [Who is Hauer?] and he said, "*Hauer ist ein Meister den ich sehr verehre*" [Hauer is a master who I revere very much]. No other composer. He probably explained to me about twelve-tone rows and that Hauer found that at the same time, and this is when the remark came. He did not speak about Webern. I have a feeling that this study with Webern was very casual, maybe one of those things where he met a couple or three times.

Peter Jona Korn (1922-1998), composer and conductor, was born in Berlin and attended the Berlin Hochschule für Musik (1932-33). He studied with Wolpe in Jerusalem and moved to the U.S.A. in 1941. He was active as a teacher in both the US and Germany, and was director of the Munich Hochschule für Musik. Interview: AC, Munich, 7 May 1985.

### APPENDIX B

# TRANSCRIPTION OF THE 1956 ORCHESTRA SCORE







poco cresc.

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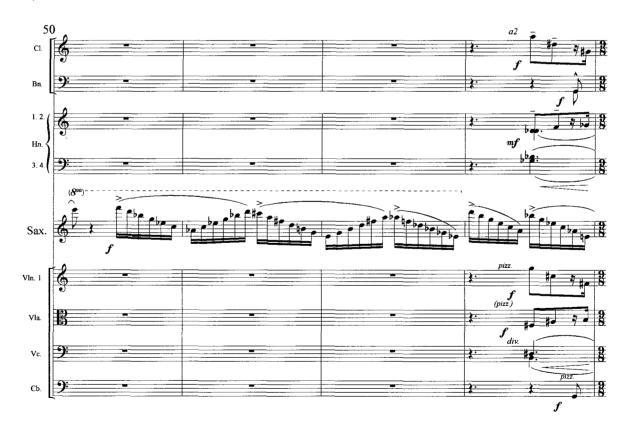






















































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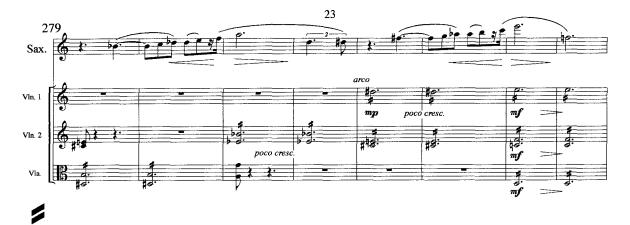


















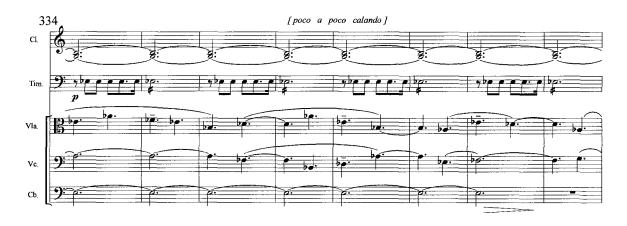






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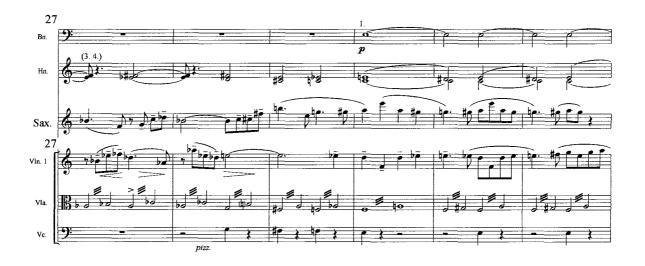






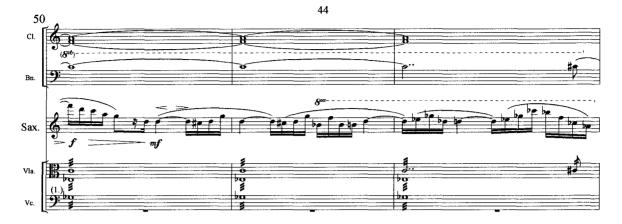


















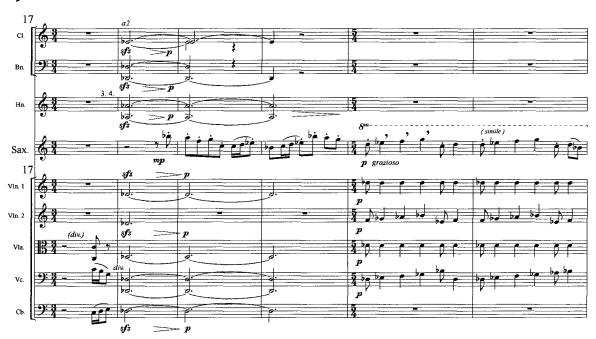




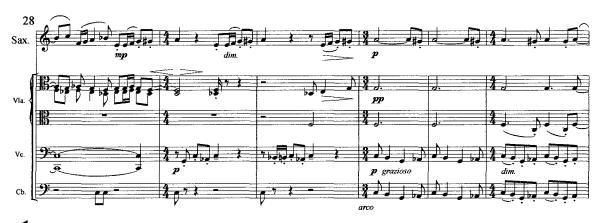




























































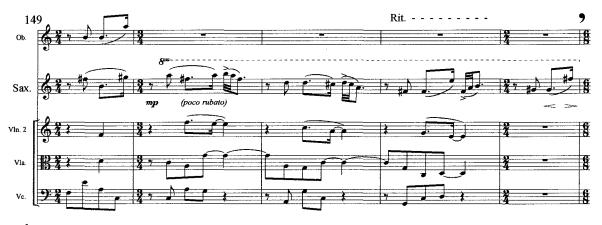




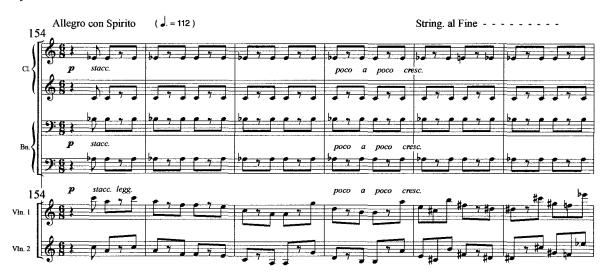














## APPENDIX C

## PIANO REDUCTION OF THE 1956 CONCERTO

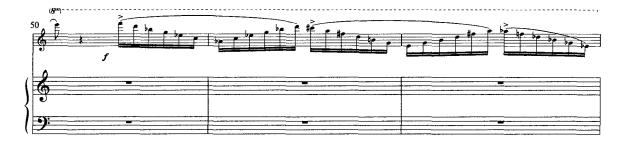








































































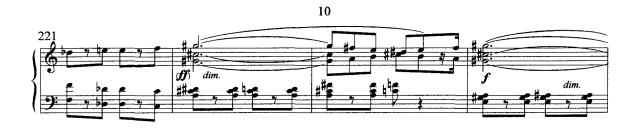










































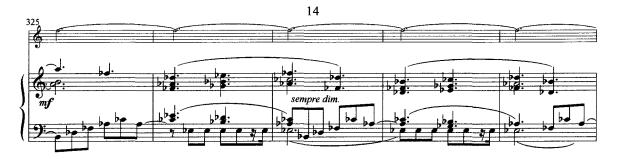




































































































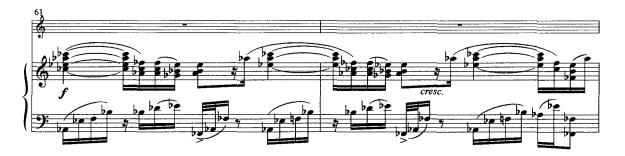


























































































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