

JEFFREY RYAN

BRAZEN

CONCERTO FOR ALTO SAXOPHONE,
STRINGS AND PERCUSSION

Perusal Copy

BRAZEN

Instrumentation

Eb alto saxophone solo

Percussion (1 player):

vibraphone

anvil

large cowbell

chimes

triangle

hi-hat cymbal

flexatone

large tam-tam

3 suspended cymbals (H/M/L)

Orchestral strings

Performance notes:

Total performance time ca. 18 minutes.

Score in C. All instruments sound as written, except for contrabass which sounds an octave lower.



note ends with a breath accent for saxophone; no bow change for strings

give note a slight rhythmic and dynamic stress

saxophone = $\frac{1}{4}$ tone sharp (special fingerings given in the part)

saxophone = $\frac{3}{4}$ tone sharp (special fingerings given in the part)

saxophone = bend pitch with embouchure

strings = col legno battuto

All glissandi begin immediately after the first pitch is sounded; glissandi of duration greater than a quarter note are notated with an opening eighth note along with the required duration.

In *senza misura* sections, accidentals apply only to the note immediately following and within each beamed group.

Other performance notes are given as required in the score and/or part.

Programme Note:

In my high school concert band, I played alto saxophone. In fact it was the first instrument I really learned how to play. But in spite of that history, somehow in my professional career the opportunity to write for the saxophone never came my way, aside from its inclusion in one band piece. So when saxophonist Julia Nolan approached me about writing a concerto for her, I jumped at the chance.

While thinking about the instrument and scouting around for inspiration, I came across the word “brazen” and I was attracted by its double meaning. “Made of brass” was certainly appropriate for a saxophone concerto. But its other meaning “bold and shameless” is what got me thinking musically and provided character to the soloist. It suggests brash and defiant, sexy and seductive, calculating and manipulative. I was reminded of *All About Eve*’s Eve Harrington, who, from Margo Channing’s perspective, shamelessly went after what she wanted. Yet is it truly “brazen” to have ambition and confidence, to take power, to go after what one wants? Or is it only deemed to be “brazen” by those who would lose power as a result? In *Brazen*, we see an Eve, wrapped in orchestral strings and metallic percussion, from many sides: through her own eyes, the eyes of those persuaded by her, and the eyes of those who would keep her in their idea of her appropriate place.

Brazen was commissioned by saxophonist Julia Nolan, with partial assistance from the British Columbia Arts Council.



**BRITISH COLUMBIA
ARTS COUNCIL**

An agency of the Province of British Columbia

to Julia Nolan

BRAZEN

JEFFREY RYAN

$\text{♩} = 138$ Defiant, taunting

asax
ANVIL
perc
I vn
II vn
va
vc
cb

1 2 3 4 5 6

asax
perc
I vn
II vn
va
vc
cb

7 8 9 10 11

asax

perc

I

vn

II

va

vc

cb

A

12 13 14 15 16 17 18

asax

perc

I

vn

II

va

vc

cb

3 2 3
ff

B

asax perc vn va vc cb

ANVIL

f

div.

unis.

gl.

pizz.

pizz. arco

arco

mp *mf* *mp*

25 **26** **27** **28** **29**

C

asax perc

I unis.

vn unis.

II div.

p p

va

vc

pizz. arco

cb

p

36 37 38 39 40 41

asax perc

I unis.

vn unis.

II div.

p p

va

vc

pizz. arco

cb

p

36 37 38 39 40 41

42 43 44 45 46 47

D

asax *mf*

perc

I *mf*

vn *p*

II *p*

va *pp*

vc *pp*

cb *pp*

48 49 50 51 52

asax

perc

I *p*

vn *pp*

II *pp*

va *sim. mf*

vc *sim. ha*

cb *ha*

53 54 55 56 57 58

asax

perc

I vn II va vc cb

59 60 61 62 63 64 65

asax

E

perc

I vn II va vc cb

66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73

asax

perc

I

Vn

II

Va

Vc

Cb

mf *mp*

pizz. *arco*

arco *pizz.* *arco*

pizz.

arco

pizz. *arco*

arco

pizz. *arco*

sol *mp*

p

F

ANVIL

vn I
vn II
va
vc
cb

pizz. arco pizz. *solo* III arco pizz. arco pizz.

pizz. arco pizz. arco pizz. arco pizz.

pizz. non-div. *gl.*

81 **82** **83** **84** **85** **86**

asax perc

I II va vc cb

vn II arco pizz. arco f
arco pizz. arco f sub.

va II arco pizz. arco f sub.

vc II arco pizz. arco f sub.

cb II arco pizz. arco f sub.

tutti

87 88 89 90 91 92

asax perc

I II va vc cb

ff sub. mf f ff sub.

vn II p

va II p

vc II p

cb

93 94 95 96 97 98

asax

(VIB.)

perc

I
vn

II
vn

va
vc
cb

[113] [114] [115] [116] [117] [118] [119]

asax

perc

I
vn

II
vn

va
vc
cb

[120] [121] [122] [123] [124] [125] [126]

I

asax perc vn II va vc cb

3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

f *p* *p* stagger bow changes

triangle let fade

gl.

mf

mf

127 128 129 130 131 132 133 134 135

K grungy, with a sneer

asax

perc

I vn
II vn
va
vc
cb

[147] [148] [149] [150] [151] [152]

asax

perc

I vn
II vn
va
vc
cb

[153] [154] [155] [156] [157] [158]

L

asax

perc

I
vn

II
vn

va

vc

cb

159 160 161 162 163

asax

perc

I
vn

II
vn

va

vc

cb

164 165 166 167 168 169

asax

perc

VIB. motor med. fast
med.mallets

I

vn

II

va

vc

cb

170

171

172

173

174

M

saucy

husky

asax

perc

I

vn

II

va

vc

cb

saucy *husky*

asax *mf* *p* *mp*

perc *HI-HAT*
snare sticks + → *mp*

I *p* > *p* > *p* > *p* > *p* > *p* > *sl.*
vn ha *pp* ha *pp* ha *pp* ha *pp* ha *pp* *mp* *p*
II *p* > *p* > *p* > *p* > *p* > *p* > *gl.*
va ha *pp* ha *pp* ha *pp* ha *pp* ha *pp* *mp* *p*
vc *p* > *p* > *p* > *p* > *p* > *p* > *unis.*
cb *pp* ha *pp* ha *pp* ha *pp* ha *pp* ha *p* *unis.*
va *pp* ha *pp* ha *pp* ha *pp* ha *pp* ha *p* *slap*

180 181 182 183 184 185

asax

perc

I

vn

II

va

vc

cb

mf

mf

186

187

188

189

190

N

asax perc

I vn II va vc cb

191 192 193 194 195 196

191 192 193 194 195 196

Decus

asax perc

I vn II va vc cb

197 198 199 200 201 202

Detailed description: The musical score consists of seven staves. The top two staves are for 'asax' and 'perc'. Below them are three staves for 'vn' (Violin) labeled I, II, and III. Following 'vn' are 'va' (Double Bass) and 'vc' (Cello). The bottom staff is for 'cb' (Bassoon). The score is divided into measures by vertical bar lines. Measure 197 starts with a rest for asax and perc. Measure 198 begins with a dynamic 'mf' for asax and perc. Measure 199 starts with a dynamic 'f' for vn I, followed by 'pizz. non-div.' and 'arco' markings. Measures 200 and 201 continue with similar patterns for vn I, II, and III, with 'pizz. sim.', 'div.', and 'arco' markings. Measure 202 concludes with a dynamic 'mf' for vn I, II, and III, followed by 'p' and 'gl.' markings. Measure 203 is a repeat of measure 197.

asax

perc

I vn

II

va

vc

cb

ANVIL

f

non-div. > > > >

[203] [204] [205] [206] [207] [208]

asax

perc

I vn

II

va

vc

cb

O

tr

ff

pizz. *arco*

pizz. *arco*

pizz. *arco*

pizz. *arco*

f

pizz. *arco*

f

pizz. *arco*

f

f

[209] [210] [211] [212] [213] [214]

ca. 10" —

Senza misura

slow trill to... (♩ = 60)

asax

f *sempe*

ANVIL >

perc

f

I vn

II

va

vc

cb

215 216 217 218 219 220 221

P = 60 *A tempo*

asax

LARGE COWBELL

perc

repeat pattern sim.

COWBELL

mf

222 223 224 225 226

asax
accel. to - - - (molto) $\text{b} = 84$ rit. to - - - $\text{b} = 60$
 pp 5 5 *mf* *pp* *mf* *pp sub.*
 perc
 COWBELL
 [227] [228] [229] [230] [231]

asax $\bullet = 84$
 5 5 5 2 5 3 5 5 5 2 5
pp 236 *p* *pp sub.* 238 239 240 *mf* 241
 asax $\bullet = 60 \text{ sub.}$ rit. to $\bullet = 42$ **Q** $\bullet = 60 \text{ sub.}$ rit. to $\bullet = 42$ $\bullet = 60 \text{ sub.}$ $\bullet = 42 \text{ sub.}$
 perc **CHIMES (mallets)**
 242 243 244 245 246 247 248 249
 asax *accel. to* $\bullet = 60$ *tr* *tr* *tr* non-tr.
mf pp sub. <*mf pp sub.* <*mf pp sub.* *p > pp < p > pp < p > pp < p > pp*
 perc *pp*
 250 251 252 253 254 255 256
 asax **R** *Seductively ($\bullet = 60$)*
pp *mp* *pp*
 perc *pp* *damp previous note while striking next note
let fade
 vn I 2 3 2 3 2 3
 vn II 2 3 2 3 2 3
 va 2 3 2 3 2 3
 vc 2 3 2 3 2 3
 cb 2 3 2 3 2 3
p (harmonics sound 8ve lower) *p*
 257 258 259 260 261 262

enticing

asax *pp*

perc

I

vn

II *pp*

va *pp*

vc *pp*

cb

5

mf 5 3

mf 5 3

p

asax

perc

I vn

II va

vc

cb

Perc

5

3

p > pp

mf

p > pp

3

p

p > pp

p

p

5

3

267

268

269

270

271

tr rit. to ----- ♩ = 42

S ♩ = 60 Sighing dissolve

asax

perc TRIANGLE VIB.
motor slow/soft mallets

I sul A gl.

vn sul A *mf*

II *mf* pp

va *mf* 3 pp

vc *mf* 3 pp

cb

272 273 274 275 276 277

asax

perc

I

vn

II

va

vc

cb

asax perc I vn II va vc cb

282 283 284 285

asax perc I vn II va vc cb

286 287 288

rit. to $\text{d} = 42$

enticing, but with an edge

T $\text{d} = 60$ sub.

asax mf 9 pp SUSP. CYMBS. H/M/L single swish with wire brush pp

perc p

I vn f unis. protesting at first...

II vn f unis. protesting at first...

va f protesting at first...

vc f arco protesting at first...

cb f pizz. mf sempre

289 290 291 292 293 294 295

rit. poco a poco to tr (bassoon)

asax mf pp

perc

I vn mf mp p acquiescing...

II vn mf mp p acquiescing...

va mf mp p acquiescing...

vc mf mp p

cb

296 297 298 299

U ♩ = 42 Gently slinkily (♩)

asax CHIMES (mallets) pp < p < mf mf p sub. 9 mf

perc pp → release pedal when sound has faded
a whisper change bow imperceptibly as needed

I ♩

vn pp a whisper change bow imperceptibly as needed

II pp a whisper change bow imperceptibly as needed

va pp a whisper change bow imperceptibly as needed

vc pp

cb ♩

300 301 302 303 304

asax 9 mf p sub. 5 3 pp

perc 3 2 3

I 3 2 3

vn 3 2 3

II 3 2 3

va 3 2 3

vc 3 2 3

cb 3 2 3

305 306 307 308

asax TAM-TAM *arco*

perc

I vn *mf* *pp*

II vn *mf* *pp*

va *mf* *pp*

vc *mf* *pp*

cb

309 310 311 312

V *Caressing*

asax *pp* *p*

perc

I vn *unis.* *6* *9*

II vn *unis.* *6* *9*

va *pp* *mp* *pp* *mp*

vc *pp* *6* *pp* *6*

cb *pp* *arco*

313 314 315 316

26

W

asax

perc

I vn II

vn

II

va

vc

cb

mp

TAM-TAM
single swish with wire brush

let fade

mf

pp 9 <*mp*

6 6 6 3

hushed
(seamless bowing)

pp 9 <*mp*

6 6 6

#*pp* semper
hushed
(seamless bowing)

6

pp semper
hushed
(seamless bowing)

3

#*pp* semper

317 318 319 320 321

turning confrontational

turning confrontational

asax perc vn II va vc cb

asax perc vn II va vc cb

pizz.

I
vn
II
va
vc
cb

ff *mf* *ff* *mf*

6 3 3 3

6 3 3

3

growling

asax *p < ff* *p* *< ff* *p* *ff sfmf* *pp* *mf* *p*

perc

I *arco* *f*

vn *3*

II *3*

va *3*

vc *6* *6*

cb

*hushed
(seamless bowing)*

pp sempre

transforming, putting on a mask of sweetness...

X

asax vib.
perc motor slow/soft mallets

I II vn va vc cb

333 334 335 336 337 338 339 340 341

asax perc

12

342 343 344 345 346

asax perc

Y

347 348 349

asax perc

350 351 352 353 354

Z

asax perc I II vn va vc cb

355 356 357 358 359 360 361 362

A1

asax perc I II vn va vc cb

363 364 *slap strings on fingerboard with left hand; do not release hand 365 366 367

asax

perc

I

vn

II

va

vc

cb

368

369

370

371

372

asax

perc

I

vn

II

va

vc

cb

373

374

375

376

377

378

C1 smoothly

asax *f*

perc

I *ff*

vn

II *ff*

va

vc

cb *f*

pizz. III *gl.*

p *arco*

379 380 381 382 383

asax

perc

I

vn

II

va

vc

cb

384 385 386 387 388

D1

asax

perc

I vn

II

va

vc

cb

HI-HAT brushes + →

p

(*mp*)

mp

p

pizz.

arco

pizz.

p

mf

p

mf

389 390 391 392 393

asax

perc

I vn

II

va

vc

cb

mp

mp

arco

div.

p

p

gl.

p

mf

394 395 396 397 398

E1

asax

perc

I vn

II

va

vc

cb

snare stick

mf

mp

p

pizz. secco

mf

p

arco

p

mf

[399] [400] [401] [402] [403]

asax

perc

I vn

II

va

vc

cb

mf

mp

(HI-HAT) *o* *+*

mf

div.

mf

p

mp

p

arco

p

[404] [405] [406] [407] [408]

asax *mf*

perc

I *unis.* *mf*

vn *mf*

II

va *mf*

vc

cb

409

410

411

412

F1

asax *mp sub.* *mf sub.* *mp* *mf* *mp* *mf* *p*

perc TRIANGLE *p*

I *mf*

vn *mf*

II

va *mf*

vc *mf*

cb *pizz. secco* *sim.*

413 *mf*

414

415

416

asax perc I vn II va vc cb

417 418 419 420

=

G1

asax perc I vn II va vc cb

421 422 423 424 425 426

H1

asax dolce gritty dolce b b

mp sub. *f sub.* *mp sub.*

perc

I pizz. arco

vn *mp* *p*

II pizz. arco

va *mp* *p*

vc

cb

p

=

427 428 429 430 431 432

asax gritt. dolce b

f sub. *mp sub.*

perc

I *p*

vn *p*

II pizz. *p*

va *p*

vc

cb

p

=

433 434 435 436 437 438

II

asax

perc

I vn

II

va

vc

cb

439

440

441

442

443

444

asax

perc

I vn

II

va

vc

cb

445

446

447

448

449

J1

asax

TAM-TAM *let fade*

perc

I

vn

II

div.

gl.

vn

va

vc

div.

gl.

div.

unis.

cb

arco

div.

gl.

p

450 451 452 453 454

asax

perc

I

vn

II

div.

gl.

vn

va

vc

unis.

div.

div.

unis.

div.

cb

455 456 457 458 459

K1

asax

perc

I vn

II vn

va

vc

cb

HIGH SUSP. CYMB.
snare sticks

choke

pp — *mf*

gl.

unis.

div.

gl.

gl.

mf

mf

mf

mf

mf

mf

460 461 462 463 464

asax

perc

I vn

II vn

va

vc

cb

VIB.
motor off/med.mallets

p

unis.
pizz.

p

unis.
pizz.

p

arco

p

unis.

p

465 466 467 468 469

L1

asax *mf*

perc

I *solo arco*

vn *p sempre*

II *arco*

va

vc

cb

470 471 472 473 474

asax *snarling*

perc *sim.*

I *gli altri arco div. ff*

vn *div. pizz. gl.*

II *ff div. pizz. > gl.*

va

vc

cb

475 476 477 478 479

asax perc I vn II va vc cb

480 481 482 483 484

ff

= M1

asax perc I vn II va vc cb

485 486 487 488 489

ff

slyly

asax

perc

I vn *ff*

II vn *arco* *pizz.*

va *unis.* *ff*

vc *arco* *pizz.*

cb *ff*

ff

490 491 492 493 494 495

N1 *muttering*

asax

perc

I vn *mf*

II vn *f*

va *unis.*

vc *div.* *arco*

cb

f

ff

unis.

ff

ff

p sub.

ff

p sub.

496 497 498 499 500 501

asax

perc

I

vn

II

div.

mf

va

vc

cb

502 503 504 505 506

asax

perc

I

vn

II

div.

mf

va

vc

cb

507 508 509 510 511

01

asax

perc

I

vn

II

va

vc

cb

512 513 514 515 516

P1

517

518

519

520

521

522

asax

perc

I vn
II
va
vc
cb

523 524 525 526 527

asax

perc

I vn
II
va
vc
cb

Q1

528 529 530 531 532 533

asax *b*

perc

I vn

II va

vc

cb

534 535 536 537 538

asax *b*

perc

I vn

II va

vc

cb

R1

539 540 541 542 543

asax

perc

I vn

II vn *gl.*

va

vc

cb

544 545 546 547 548

asax *b*

perc

I vn

II vn *gl.*

va

vc

cb

S1

TAM-TAM *mp*

p *tutti* (*solo ties into measure*)

p *tutti*

p *tutti* (*solo ties into measure*)

p *tutti*

p

549 550 551 552 553

asax *mf* *mp* *mp*

perc

I
vn

II
vn

va
vc

vc
cb

554 555 556 557 558

asax *mf* *mp* *mp*

perc

I
vn

II
vn

va
vc

vc
cb

T1

559 560 561 562 563 564

asax perc

I vn II vn va vc cb

565 566 567 568 569 570

asax perc

I vn II vn va vc cb

U1 $\text{d} = 126$ sub. Confrontational

FLEXATONE

571 572 573 574

asax *mp* *mf* *f* *mp* *mf*

perc

I *f* *f* *mf* *f* *mf*

vn

II *f* *mf* *f* *mf*

va

vc

cb

575 576 577

asax *mp* *mf* *mp* *f*
HI-HAT
snare sticks +

perc

I *f* *f*

vn

II *f* *mf* *f*

va

vc

cb

578 579 580

V1

asax rit. to -----

perc CHIMES
chime hammers

I *pizz.*

vn

II

va

vc

cb

ff

ff pizz.

ff pizz.

ff pizz.

ff

581 582 583 584 585

W1

= $\text{♩} = 84$ rit. to -----

asax **rit. to -----**

perc **p** let fade

I **pizz.** arco sul tasto change bow imperceptibly as needed

vn **mf** arco sul tasto change bow imperceptibly as needed

II **mf** pizz. arco sul tasto change bow imperceptibly as needed

va **mf** arco sul tasto change bow imperceptibly as needed

vc **mf** pizz. arco sul tasto change bow imperceptibly as needed

cb **mf** pizz. arco sul tasto change bow imperceptibly as needed

ppp **p**

586 587 588 589 590 591

asax *p* <*mp* *pp* (o) *mp* <*mf*

perc

I v. I. slow gl. (o.)

vn v. II. slow gl. (o.)

II v. III. slow gl. (o.)

va v. IV. slow gl. (o.)

vc v. V. slow gl. (o.)

cb v. VI.

592 593 594 595

asax *mp* < *mf* *p* < *mp* *pp* *pp* **X1**
VIB.
motor off/med.mallets

perc *pp* *pp* ped. each note

I (o.) (o.) v. II. v. III. v. IV. v. V. v. VI.

vn (o.) (o.) v. II. v. III. v. IV. v. V. v. VI.

II (o.) (o.) v. II. v. III. v. IV. v. V. v. VI.

va (o.) (o.) v. II. v. III. v. IV. v. V. v. VI.

vc (o.) (o.) v. II. v. III. v. IV. v. V. v. VI.

cb - - v. II. v. III. v. IV. v. V. v. VI.

596 597 598 599 600 601

asax

perc

I vn

II

va

vc

cb

(switch to brushes) \oplus brushes

pp

ord. \circ

ppp

ord. \circ

ppp

ord. \circ

ppp

arco \circ

change bow imperceptibly as needed

ppp

5 5 5

602 603 604 605 606

asax

perc

I vn

II

va

vc

cb

Y1 $\bullet = 150$ Quietly determined

p

607 608 609 610

Musical score for strings (vn, va, vc, cb) across five measures:

- Measure 1:** I (vn) rests.
- Measure 2:** II (vn) begins with eighth-note pairs, dynamic *p*.
- Measures 3-4:** II (vn) continues eighth-note pairs; va, vc, and cb also play eighth-note pairs.
- Measure 5:** II (vn) rests.

Z1

asax perc I II va vc cb

vn II arco mp arco mp arco mp

Perc

asax

perc

I

vn

II

va

vc

cb

ANVIL

mf

f

mp

mp

mp

mp

f

asax

perc

I
vn

II
vn

va

vc

cb

Perusal Copy

626 627 628 629

asax

perc

I
vn

II
vn

va

vc

cb

Perusal Copy

630 631 632 633

A2

asax 

perc

I 

vn

II 

va

vc

pizz. ord.

cb

p

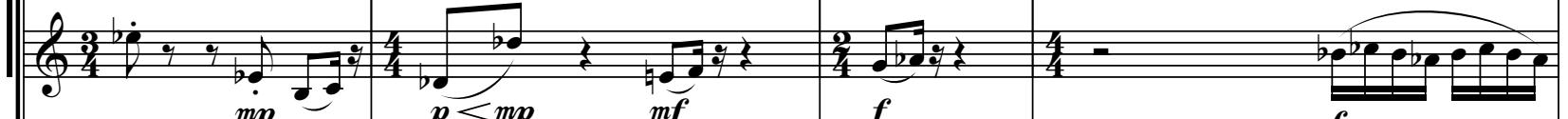
634 635 636

asax 

perc

I 

vn

II 

va

vc

cb

p

637 638 639 640

asax 

641 642 643 644

B2

asax 

645 646 647

asax

HIGH SUSP. CYMB. *choke*
snare sticks > ⊕ > ⊕ > ⊕ > ⊕ > ⊕

perc

I

vn

II

va

vc

cb

non-div.

non-div.

ff

ff

ff

ff

ff

ff

ff

arco

ff

[657] [658] [659] [660] [661]