

Crucible

by Coleman Rowlett (2014)



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Commissioned by Joshua Heaney, Saxophonist and Music Educator

About the work:

The piece was written for my dear friend Joshua Heaney. Josh and I studied saxophone at Susquehanna university together and grew close as friends and muscians. A year before his senior recital, Josh asked me to write him a piece for tenor saxophone and piano. I happily agreed and began working on the piece over the summer of 2014. I drew a lot of inspiration from David Maslanka's *Concerto* for Alto Saxophone. I was particularly intrigued by Maslanka's song-like themes and phrases in the first movement and I incorporated that as a main concept of *Crucible*. Joshua Heaney premeired the work on April 19th, 2015 on his senior recital at Susquehanna University.

Note to the Performers:

The pianist sets the atmosphere throughout the different sections of the piece, while the saxophonist plays the role of someone struggling with their thoughts. In the opening section, the saxophonist anxiously reveals the thoughts running through his head, while the pianist subtley paints the image of pacing back and forth. In the middle section, the saxophonist calms down to think rationally about his situation, and the shift in the piano emulates stability of thought acheived by the saxophonist. The thoughts begin to race again until towards the end the saxophonist breaks through the barrier of his thoughts and at last sees the truth. A lot of the expresiveness and phrasing is left up to the performer's interpretation.

duration ca 7'30"-8'

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Score in C

Crucible

For B^b Tenor Saxophone and Piano

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