

Program Notes

The reproductive process called meiosis is conceptually divided into Meiosis I and Meiosis II. During these, a cell with duplicated (but recombined chromosomes) divides (I) and divides again (II), leaving four “daughter cells” ready to match with other chromosomes from an outside source. In addition to resulting in four daughter cells, the process of the second meiosis is further divided into four distinct phases: prophase II, metaphase II, anaphase II, and telophase II.

SECOND MEIOSIS is an exploration of genetic permutation and transference. The piece is comprised of four sections, each named in reference to a phase of Meiosis II. Prophase is the first and longest phase of meiosis, and is the first and longest section in Second Meiosis. Though the phases of meiosis always occur in exact order, the performer has free reign to choose the order of the remaining sections.

The content of the sections is also permuted. The individual musical parameters within each section follow a statistical increase or decrease from the beginning to the end, often without regard to the fluctuations of the other parameters. “Versions” of each section were created so that all possible permutations of the change in parameters existed. The performer has control over which version to perform of each section. In the cases where all permutations are performed, the performer decides the order.

Though initially conceived for the soprano sax, Second Meiosis can be performed on any saxophone.

Performance Notes

Form

- Start with Prophase, choosing any of the permutations.
- Follow with either Telophase or Metaphase.
- The last section should be either Anaphase or Metaphase (C or D).
- End the performance with the long multiphonic.

Fingerings

All fingerings come from *The Techniques of Saxophone Playing* by Marcus Weiss (2010).

The multiphonic is notated with pitches produced by the soprano sax. The alto and tenor will have slight variations of up to a half step from written pitch. All three sizes finger the multiphonic:



Baritone will finger:

Second Meiosis

"Prophase" SECTION 1- ca. 4'20"

Range: High to Low
Rate: Fast to Slow
Volume: Loud to Soft
Multiphonics: Many to Few

Brian Penkrot

♩ ≈ 60, Aperiodic but almost evenly

Breathe as needed
Circular as possible

(Note range for sub sections)
(If improvising, stay within range)

The musical score consists of eight staves of music, each with a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The notation includes various rhythmic patterns, including triplets and quintuplets, and dynamic markings such as *ff*, *mf*, *f*, *p*, *mp*, and *ppp*. Performance instructions include "Breathe as needed" and "Circular as possible". The score is divided into sections with time markers: 32,5", 1'05", 2'10", 1'37,5", 2'42,5", 3'15", 3'40,5", and 4'20". The final section ends with the instruction "attacca→".