

ANCIA Saxophone Quartet Instrument and Style Guide

Instrumentation: The ANCIA Saxophone Quartet is made up of standard saxophone quartet instrumentation of soprano, alto, tenor, and baritone saxophones (SATB).

Range requirements: Standard range for soprano, alto, and tenor saxophone is written low Bb to F# above the staff. Standard range for baritone saxophone is written low A to F# above the staff. Altissimo above standard range is possible. Preferred altissimo range is not higher than written C, a tritone above standard range. Altissimo at very soft dynamics or at fast speeds can be difficult.

Required Notation Guidelines

- Provide electronic PDF files for scores (transposed) and all parts.
- Scores and parts should be formatted for standard 8.5" x 11" paper.
- Provide measure numbers in scores and parts.
- Always indicate whether accidentals carry through octaves.

Recommended Notation Guidelines

- Provide Finale or Sibelius files for scores and parts
- Provide rehearsal letters or boxed measure numbers
- Use ledger lines for the notes above staff (as opposed to 8va).
- Beam sixteenth notes and rests by the beat
- Short eighth notes should be written as eighth notes with staccatos, not as sixteenth notes interspersed with sixteenth rest. Consider using simple note durations and expressing note length with articulation (staccato/tenuto).

Multiphonics: For multiphonic pitches, include the suggested fingering to use (see recommended sources below) and an indication of the pitches desired. Be aware that multiphonics are difficult to control and may vary depending on the make or model of the instrument. Multiphonics can be dynamic specific. For further advice see reference materials below.

Slap Tongue: Slap tongue is most effective in the lowest register but is possible up to written C above the staff. Pitched slap tongue (closed slap) creates the same tone that is being fingered. Non-pitched slap tongue (open slap), while being primarily a percussive effect, does produce a pitch that can vary from the fingered note by up to a minor third, depending on the saxophone and the note fingered. For further advice see reference materials below.

Recommended Reference Books

- Jean-Marie Londeix. ***Paramètres du Saxophone***. Paris, Leduc.
- Marcus Weiss and Giorgio Netti. ***The Techniques of Saxophone Playing***. Kassel, Baerenreiter. Free online version can be accessed here:
https://www.baerenreiter.com/materialien/weiss_netti/saxophon/
- Daniel Kientzy. ***Les Sons Multiples Aux Saxophones***. Salabert, Paris.