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# Psithurism

For Solo Tenor Saxophone

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Jon Fielder

## **Program Notes**

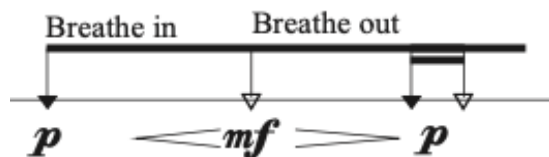
*Psithurism* refers to the sound of wind blowing through tree branches, causing rustling leaves. This can be a gentle whispering sound or in times of high wind speeds can be more tumultuous. I wrote this piece in the early spring months of 2023 when leaves were beginning to return to the trees in Minnesota. I often take daily walks, usually while listening to music or audiobooks, but during this particular spring I decided to leave my headphones at home and instead just listen to the sounds around me. I was really taken by how mesmerizing the sound of the newly budding leaves and tree limbs could be, especially during more windy days where the branches would dance and clatter more audibly. I think of this piece as a musical sonification of those walks, exploring the softest and loudest moments I experienced.

*Psithurism* was composed for, and is dedicated to, Andrew Joseph Hosler. It was premiered at MOSAICFest 2023 by Andrew.

## **Performance Notes**

The score is divided into 3 staves, all of which should be realized simultaneously by the performer

### **Staff 1 - Breathing In/Out**



Notates breathing using upside down triangle noteheads to denote breathing in and out. Filled triangle denotes inhaling through the mouthpiece, and open noteheads denote breathing out without producing pitched sound

### **Staff 2 - Keys open/depressed, clicks**



Notates keys and whether they should be open or depressed. Staff spaces represent the keys, closed circles denote depressed key, open circles denote open keys

### **Staff 3 - Standard Notation**

This staff displays standard notation; performer should play with standard playing technique

Written for and dedicated to Andrew Joseph Hc

# Psithurism

For Solo Tenor Saxophone

Jon Fielder (b. 1986)

**Ethereal rustling in the distance** (♩ = ~60)

Air

Breathe in Breathe out

*p* *mf* *p* *sfz p* *mf p* *p*

Keys

Starting key position *mp* *mf* *mp*

Pitch

(#) (no sound) *mp* *mf* lip gliss

A

*mf* *p* *mf* *pp* *mp* *pp*

K

*p* *mp* *p* *mf*

P

*mp* *mf* *p*

Psithurism

A  
8" *mp* *mf* *fp* *mf* *5* *3* *5*"

K  
*fp* *p* *mf* *7* *5*" *3* *6*

P  
*sfz* *sfz* *mp sub.* *5*

A  
*sfz* *mf* *5* *mp* *f* *10"* *mp* like steady breathing

K  
*f* *3* *6* *7* *6*

P  
*f* *5* *6* *6* *6* *sfz*

# Psithurism

*mp*

*p* *mf* *f*

*ppp* threshold of audibility  
random noise from tremolo

*p* senza cresc.

3:2  
7  
5

slow, steady breathing  
create moderately audible pitched sound when breathing out

*mf* *p*

*mp*

*ghostly*

*pp* *ppp* *ppp*

5

Slightly faster yet placidly with a soft intensity (♩ = ~68)

Transition from pitch to air seamlessly

Multiphonic #43

- C#
- Bb
- C3
- C5

Air

Keys

Pitch

The top section of the score consists of three staves. The 'Air' staff is empty. The 'Keys' staff shows a multiphonic chord with notes for C#, Bb, C3, and C5. The 'Pitch' staff contains a melodic line with various dynamics: *pp*, *mf*, *pp*, *p*, *mf*, *p*, and *mf*. It includes a 'lip gliss' marking, a 'Transition from pitch to air seamlessly' bracket, and a 'Morph in and out of multiphonic' section. Fingerings of 5 and 3 are indicated.

A

K

P

The bottom section of the score consists of three staves. The 'A' staff is empty. The 'K' staff shows a multiphonic chord with notes for C#, Bb, C3, and C5, with dynamics *p* and *f*. The 'P' staff contains a melodic line with dynamics *p*, *mf*, *f*, *p*, and *pp*. It includes a 'wide vibrato' marking, a 'Transition from pitch to air seamlessly' bracket, and a 'Morph in and out of multiphonic' section. Fingerings of 9, 5, 3:2, 6, and 3 are indicated.

Psithurism

A

K

P

Multiphonic #75

C1  
B

Gradually morph into multiphonic

*mp* *mf* *mf sub.* *pp sub.* *p*

A

K

P

lip gliss

*pp* *pp* *mp* *mp* *mf sub.* *fp*

Psithurism

A

K

P

Multiphonic #77

*pp* *mp* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf*<sub>sub.</sub> *p*

5

6  
3:2

A

K

P

Multiphonic #87

*mf* *pp* *p* *pp*

5:4

3

Sustain dynamic while morphing multiphonic



Psithurism

A

K

P

Multiphonic #71

*mp* *p* *mp* *pp* *mp* *pp*

A

K

P

Key click gestures fit between glisses

Multiphonic #117

*f* *mf* *mf* *mp* *mp* *pp* *mp* *p*

9:8 3:2 7:4

3

# Psithurism

A

K

P

*As if bursting out from the multiphonic*

*Smearing between pitches*

*mf* *pp* *mf* *pp*

A

K

P

c. 10"

*Like a soft rustling in the distance*

*mp* *mf* *pp sub.*

+ Oct. key

*p*

*pp* *mf* *p*

Rearticulate trill according to rhythm

# Psithurism

A

K

P

*pp*

11:8

5

Gradually transition to breathing out

A

K

P

*pp* *mf* *fp* *pp* *mp* *pp*

6

6

5

7:4

3

7:4

# Psithurism

A

K

P

(C#)  
*tr*

C#  
*tr*

*metered vib.*

5

*growl*

5

6

*ppp*

*mf*

*fp*

*mf*

*mf*

A

K

P

*mf*

*p sub.*

c. 10"

*mp*

*mf*

5

Gradual transition from air to pitched sound

Overblow to get octave as delicately as possible

*fp*

*pp*

*mf*

Psithurism

A

K

P

*tr* *pp* *mf* *sub.* *metered vib.* *6* *fp* *fp* *mf* *pp* *5:4* *5*

Detailed description: This system of music is written on a single treble clef staff. It begins with a trill on a G-sharp note, followed by a half note G-sharp, a quarter note A, and a half note B. The dynamics are *pp* and *mf sub.*. A slur covers the next six notes, which are a sixteenth-note trill on B, with the instruction "metered vib." above it. This is followed by a quarter rest, then a half note C-sharp, a quarter note D, and a half note E. The dynamics are *pp*. A slur covers the next five notes, which are a sixteenth-note trill on E, with the instruction "5:4" above it. This is followed by a quarter note F-sharp, a quarter note G, and a half note A. The dynamics are *fp*, *fp*, *mf*, and *pp*. There are also two "5" markings above the trill.

A

K

P

*mf* *mp* *mfp* *10"* *vary trill speed randomly* *tr* *p* *5* *fp* *mf* *6* *p*

Detailed description: This system of music is written on a single treble clef staff. It begins with a half note G-sharp, a quarter note A, a quarter note B, a quarter note C-sharp, a quarter note D, and a half note E. The dynamics are *mf*, *mp*, and *mfp*. A slur covers the next ten notes, which are a sixteenth-note trill on E, with the instruction "10" vary trill speed randomly" above it. This is followed by a quarter rest, then a half note F-sharp, a quarter note G, and a half note A. The dynamics are *p*. A slur covers the next five notes, which are a sixteenth-note trill on A, with the instruction "5" above it. This is followed by a quarter note B, a quarter note C, and a half note D. The dynamics are *fp*, *mf*, and *p*. A slur covers the next six notes, which are a sixteenth-note trill on D, with the instruction "6" above it.

# Psithurism

A

K

P

*mp* *fp* *f* *p sub.*

3 5:4 5 8 - 10"

*tr*

A

K

P

*sounding almost labored*

*gradually building intensity*

*metered vib.*

*f* *p sub.* *f* *fp* *mf* *ppp*

3 5 3 7 6 7 5

Psithurism

A

K

P

*pp* *fp* *mp* *fp* senza cresc. *mp* gradually slow temolo rate

A

K

P

*pp* *mf* *fp* *f* metered vib. 3 5 5 4:3 6 3

# Psithurism

A

K

P

*wide vib.*

5

4:3

7:6

5:4

6

*sfz*

*mp*

*mf*

*f*

*ff*

Detailed description: This musical system features a single staff in treble clef. It begins with a half note on G4, followed by a wavy line labeled 'wide vib.' over a half note on A4. This is followed by a quarter note on B4 with an accent (>), and another quarter note on B4 with an accent (>). A bracket labeled '5' spans these two notes. The next measure starts with a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note on Bb4. A bracket labeled '4:3' spans from Bb4 to D5. The following two measures contain quarter notes on D5 and Eb5, with a bracket labeled '7:6' above them. The next two measures contain quarter notes on E5 and F#5, with a bracket labeled '5:4' above them. The final measure contains a quarter note on F#5, followed by a wavy line. A bracket labeled '6' spans from the start of the final measure to the beginning of the wavy line. Dynamics are indicated by wedges: *sfz* under the first measure, *mp* under the first note of the second measure, *mf* under the first note of the third measure, *f* under the first note of the fourth measure, and *ff* under the first note of the fifth measure.

A

K

P

10"

6

6

6

8"

*mf* *improvise dynamic swells*

overblown harmonics

*mf*

*ff*

*ff*

*ad lib* articulations with dynamic swells

Detailed description: This musical system features a single staff in treble clef. It begins with a half note on G4, followed by a wavy line labeled '10"'. Below the wavy line, there are three notes: a quarter note on A4, a quarter note on B4, and a quarter note on B4, with lines pointing to them from the text 'overblown harmonics'. The next measure contains a quarter note on Bb4, followed by a quarter note on B4 with an accent (>). A bracket labeled '6' spans from Bb4 to B4. The following two measures contain quarter notes on B4 and Bb4, with a bracket labeled '6' above them. The next two measures contain quarter notes on Bb4 and B4, with a bracket labeled '6' above them. The final measure contains a quarter note on B4 with an accent (>), followed by a quarter note on B4 with an accent (>). A bracket labeled '8"' spans from the start of the final measure to the end of the second note. Dynamics are indicated by wedges: *mf* under the first note of the second measure, *ff* under the first note of the third measure, and *ff* under the first note of the fourth measure. The text '*improvise dynamic swells*' is written below the first measure, and '*ad lib* articulations with dynamic swells' is written below the final measure.





# Psithurism

The musical score consists of three staves labeled A, K, and P. Staff A is a single line with a repeat sign at the beginning and end. Staff K is a five-line staff with a repeat sign at the beginning and end. Staff P is a five-line staff with a treble clef and a repeat sign at the beginning and end. The score includes various musical notations: slurs, brackets, and dynamic markings (*mp*, *p*, *ppp*). A section of the score is marked with a bracket and the number '7', and another with '6'. A section of the score is marked with a bracket and '8"'. A section of the score is marked with a bracket and '10-12"', and another with '3x'. The score includes a treble clef and a repeat sign at the beginning and end.

microtonal smearing effect, do not emphasize rearticulations

*mp*

*p*

*ppp*

8"

10-12"

3x

Repeat section 3 times, each time getting progressively slower and quieter until almost no sound is audible by the end