

More About SONATINA FOR ALTO SAXOPHONE AND PIANO

This was written for a climbing buddy who also happens to be a top-notch alto sax player, with a masters degree in saxophone performance from North Texas State to prove it. Here is a fairly detailed description of the piece:

As would be expected from the title, **Sonatina for Alto Saxophone and Piano** closely follows sonata form on a somewhat smaller scale. Tonality is an important part of sonata form, and in this composition the tonal relationships within and between the movements are all based on thirds.

The first movement, *Allegro*, is a straight-ahead sonata-allegro in the home key of F minor.

The *Adagio cantabile* second movement is a theme and variations in Ab, the relative major of the home key.

The finale, *Allegro con spirito*, is a home key abridged sonata-rondo.

There are a number of thematic connections between the movements: the prominent minor 6th leap in the solo voice which appears in every movement, as well as the recurring Phrygian supertonic in the piano accompaniment; the theme of the second movement is based on the inversion of the first movement's second subject, and the rondo theme is related as well. Most of these are not obvious to the casual listener, but give a degree of thematic unity to the entire composition.