

A d a m S o v k o p l a s

Saxophone Quartet No. 1:
A Slice of Silverstein

- I. The Yipiyuk
- II. The Worst
- III. Dancing Pants

Based on the poems and drawings of Shel Silverstein

For SATB Saxophone Quartet

Program Notes:

I have been a great admirer of Shel Silverstein's work ever since I was given one of his books of poems and drawings for Christmas or my birthday (they're less than a month apart, so it's hard to remember which) as a child. Recently, my interest in writing programmatic compositions has led me to the use of a variety of literary sources as my muse. This is the first of several pieces I intend to write based on Silverstein's poetry, which I have found to be very inspirational. The three poems for which the movements of this work are titled are taken from *Where the Sidewalk Ends*. While I do not pretend that the following summaries could ever do Silverstein's poetry justice, they may help the listener to better understand the programmatic nature of the movements.

The Yipiyuk is a small, slimy swamp creature that has latched onto the toe of a poor, unsuspecting man. No matter how hard he tries, he cannot get it to let go. For sixteen years he's been dragging the Yipiyuk around with him everywhere he goes.

The Worst is a poem describing a giant, ferocious monster. It ends by informing the reader that the beast is standing right behind them. In my musical interpretation, I imagine the reader taking flight and the lumbering creature in pursuit.

Dancing Pants is written in an introductory format like an MC introducing the next act of a show. In this case, it is a "Super sensational, utterly fabulous" pair of pants that seems to have come to life and dances all on its own.

Performance Notes:

I highly recommend that a narrator give a reading of (or summarize) the three Shel Silverstein poems (*The Yipiyuk*, *The Worst*, and *Dancing Pants*) prior to the appropriate movement so that the audience will have a better grasp of the programmatic nature of the work.

Instrumentation:

Soprano Saxophone
Alto Saxophone
Tenor Saxophone
Baritone Saxophone

Duration:

Mvt. I:	2:30
Mvt. II:	4:30
Mvt. III:	2:00
Total:	9 minutes

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Adam Sovkoplas

I. The Yipiyuk

Playful (♩ = c. 96)

Musical score for the first system of 'The Yipiyuk'. It features four staves: Soprano Sax., Alto Sax., Tenor Sax., and Baritone Sax. The key signature is one flat (B-flat major/D minor) and the time signature is 4/4. The tempo is marked 'Playful' with a quarter note equal to approximately 96 beats per minute. The Soprano Sax. part begins with a 'flutter tongue' effect, marked with a dashed line and 'flutter tongue'. Dynamics range from *mp* to *mf*. The Alto Sax. part is marked *mp*. The Tenor Sax. part is marked *mp* and includes a 'slap tongue' effect. The Baritone Sax. part is marked *mf* and includes 'slap tongue' effects.

Musical score for the second system of 'The Yipiyuk', starting at measure 12. It features four staves: Soprano Sax. (S. Sx.), Alto Sax. (A. Sx.), Tenor Sax. (T. Sx.), and Baritone Sax. (B. Sx.). The Soprano Sax. part continues with 'flutter tongue' and dynamics from *mp* to *f*. The Alto Sax. part has dynamics from *f* to *mf*. The Tenor Sax. part has dynamics from *f* to *mf*. The Baritone Sax. part includes a 'slap tongue' effect and dynamics from *mf* to *f*.

Saxophone Quartet No. 1: A Slice of Silverstein

22

S. Sax. *p* *mf* *f* *mp* *mp*

A. Sax. *mp* *mf* *f* *mp* *mp*

T. Sax. *mp* *mf* *f* *mp* *mf*

B. Sax. *mf* *f* *mf* *p*

flutter tongue

slap tongue

31

S. Sax. *mf* *f*

A. Sax. *mf* *f*

T. Sax. *mf* *f*

B. Sax. *mf* *f* *mp* *mf* *f* *mp*

flutter tongue

Saxophone Quartet No. 1: A Slice of Silverstein

40

S. Sx. *mp* *f* *p*

A. Sx. *mp* *f* *p*

T. Sx. *mp* *f* *p*

B. Sx. *f* *p*

slap tongue

49

S. Sx. *mf* *f* *mp* *mf* *f* *mp* *f*

A. Sx. *mf* *f* *mp* *mf* *f* *mp* *f*

T. Sx. *mf* *f* *mp* *mf* *f* *mp* *f*

B. Sx. *mf* *f* *mp* *mf* *f* *mp* *f*

flutter tongue

vigorous key clicks *slap tongue*

II. The Worst

Spooky (♩ = c. 60)

First system of the musical score for Saxophone Quartet No. 1: A Slice of Silverstein, II. The Worst. The system consists of four staves: S. Sax., A. Sax., T. Sax., and B. Sax. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). The tempo is marked 'Spooky' with a quarter note equal to approximately 60 beats per minute. The first staff (S. Sax.) begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic and features a melodic line with triplet markings. The second staff (A. Sax.) is mostly silent, with a few notes appearing in the final measure. The third staff (T. Sax.) mirrors the first staff's melodic line. The fourth staff (B. Sax.) is mostly silent, with a few notes appearing in the final measure. Dynamics range from *p* to *mf*.

Second system of the musical score, starting at measure 7. The dynamics are more varied, including *mf*, *p*, and *ff*. The first staff (S. Sax.) has a melodic line with a *ff* dynamic in the final measure. The second staff (A. Sax.) features a complex rhythmic pattern with triplets and a *ff* dynamic in the final measure. The third staff (T. Sax.) has a melodic line with a *ff* dynamic in the final measure. The fourth staff (B. Sax.) has a melodic line with a *ff* dynamic in the final measure. The system concludes with a time signature change to 5/4.

Saxophone Quartet No. 1: A Slice of Silverstein

12

S. Sax.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

mp *mf* *mp* *mf* *mp* *mf* *mp* *mf*

23

S. Sax.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

> p *p* *mf* *p*

Saxophone Quartet No. 1: A Slice of Silverstein

Musical score for measures 30-35 of Saxophone Quartet No. 1. The score is written for four saxophones: Soprano (S. Sx.), Alto (A. Sx.), Tenor (T. Sx.), and Baritone (B. Sx.). The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). The time signature is 4/4. The score includes dynamic markings (*f*, *mf*, *p*, *mp*) and performance instructions such as "flutter tongue" and "legato". The music features complex rhythmic patterns, including triplets and sixteenth-note runs, with some passages marked with a wavy line indicating a tremolo or flutter effect. The dynamics range from fortissimo (*f*) to mezzo-piano (*mp*).

Musical score for measures 36-41 of Saxophone Quartet No. 1. The score continues for the four saxophones: Soprano (S. Sx.), Alto (A. Sx.), Tenor (T. Sx.), and Baritone (B. Sx.). The key signature remains B-flat major. The time signature changes to 3/4 for measures 36-37 and then to 4/4 for measures 38-41. The score includes dynamic markings (*f*, *mf*, *mp*) and performance instructions such as "flutter tongue" and "legato". The music continues with complex rhythmic patterns and dynamic contrasts, including a section marked "legato" in the final measures.

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41

S. Sax. *mf* *mp* *mf* *mp*

A. Sax. *mf* *mp* *mf* *mp*

T. Sax. *mf* *f* *mf* *f* *mp* *f* *mp* *flutter tongue*

B. Sax. *f* *ff* *f* *ff* *mf* *ff* *mp* *f*

49

S. Sax. *mf* *f* *mf* *f*

A. Sax. *mf* *f* *mf* *f*

T. Sax. *mf* *f*

B. Sax. *f* *ff* *f* *ff* *mf* *ff* *mp* *f* *flutter tongue*

56

S. Sx. *ff*

A. Sx. *ff*

T. Sx. *ff*

B. Sx. *ff*

III. Dancing Pants

With Energy (♩ = c. 96)

S. Sx. *mp* *f* *mp* *f* *mp* *f* *mf*

A. Sx. *mf*

T. Sx. *mp* *mf*

B. Sx. *mp* *mf*

13

S. Sax. *f* *mp* *mf*

A. Sax. *f* *f* *mp* *mp* *mf*

T. Sax. *f* *f* *mp* *mf*

B. Sax. *f* *f* *mp* *mf*

26

S. Sax. *f* *fp* *f* *mp*

A. Sax. *f* *fp* *f* *mp*

T. Sax. *f* *fp* *f* *mp* *mf* *mp*

B. Sax. *f* *fp* *f* *mp*

39

S. Sax. *mp* *mf* *mp* *f*

A. Sax.

T. Sax. *f* *mp* *mf* *mp* *mf*

B. Sax. *mf*

51

S. Sax. *mp* *f*

A. Sax. *mp* *f*

T. Sax. *f*

B. Sax. *f*

63

S. Sx. *mp* *f* 3

A. Sx. *mp* *f* 3

T. Sx. *mf* *f* 3

B. Sx. *mf* *f* 3

72

S. Sx. *mf* *fp* *sfz*

A. Sx. *mp* *mf* *fp* *sfz*

T. Sx. *mp* *mf* *fp* *sfz*

B. Sx. *mp* *mf* *f* *sfz* 3