

⟨R⟩emote  
for soprano saxophone

Chris Dench

# ⟨R⟩ e m o t e

(2023)

for soprano saxophone

Note that the ⟨R⟩ in ⟨R⟩ e m o t e indicates that the initial *r* should be trilled

for Thomas Giles,  
and in memory of Larry Berryman

Duration: ~10 minutes

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## Program note:

The character of this work is predicated entirely by its title, an alternation between *remote*, aloof and distant, and richly *emotive* musics. Nearly four decades ago my late friend the artist Larry Berryman asked me if I knew of any classical works besides the Nielsen Second Symphony that made use of the ancient notion of the *Four Temperaments*. I had to admit that I only knew of one (Hindemith). *Melancholic* was of course a widespread late Renaissance *affekt*, but *sanguine*, *phlegmatic*, and *choleric* are not frequently encountered in the musical domain. Or, at least, not specifically.

I realised, soon after embarking on **⟨R⟩ e m o t e**, that it was a fulfillment of that absence felt by Larry and I so long ago. The work embodies, as part of its *emotive* component, material intended to represent the *Four Temperaments*, sometimes isolated, sometimes entwined. The resulting drama, albeit abstract, propels the music, while the ‘remote’ material irregularly freezes its progress. The piece’s form is characterised by alternation between these two states of being.

**⟨R⟩ e m o t e** was written in August-September 2023 and is in memory of Larry Berryman. It was requested by Thomas Giles who gave the first performance on 5 November 2023.

## Performance notes:

- Thomas Giles has exclusivity on performances of this work for a period of **two years** from 5 November 2023, or the date of the première if different.
- Accidentals only apply to the notes they immediately precede, except in the case of rapid repeated notes where they continue until contradicted.
- This piece is notated at approximately 3 cm to 1 second.
- The tempi arise from the architecture, and are suggestions only. Interpretative rubato is desirable.
- In this score  
**Rall**(entando) means *gradually get slower*  
**Rit**(enuto) means *a sudden holding back of tempo*  
 Both only persist as long as the brace indicates.
- **Quartertunes** are notated using standard notation:  $\sharp$  and  $\flat$ . There are no  $\frac{3}{4}$ -tone accidentals in this piece. Arrows on accidentals indicate a pitch very slightly raised or lowered; these are not required to be tempered, just a microscopic nudge away from the base pitch.
- **Multiphonic** fingerings are suggestions only, and only bare hints at the sound are given. If these are not entirely successful, players are encouraged to find alternative idiomatic fingerings to suit the context.
- **Dynamics**—there are nine degrees of dynamic in this piece:

*pppp* [subtone] — *ppp* — *pp* — *p* — *mf* — *f* — *ff* — *fff* — *ffff* — *ffff*

Dynamics should be not be treated as a simple linear soft→loud: they function as variations in the *local* context. Note that there is no *mp* dynamic: *mf* is midway between *p* and *f*. The extreme dynamics are rarely used and should be considered primarily rhetorical, as ‘stage-whisper’ and ‘cry out’ respectively. *Sforzati* increase in loudness: *mfz* — *fz* — *sfz*, etc. Adjacent dynamics, whether or not separated by a slash [/], mean an abrupt change. **POCO** under a dynamic (usually *f*) means not to over-emphasise it.

A double-hairpin with no dynamic in the middle of it  $\lessgtr$  should be treated as a slight swell.





A **o** at the end of a hairpin indicates emergence from, or a fade to, silence.

- **Vibrato** is tiered in five steps, from **no vibrato**—**V0**—to ‘normal’ vibrato—**V2**—to **hypervibrato**—**V5**. **V4** is ‘molto’ vibrato, and **V5** should be melodramatically excessive. These steps can be contextually tiered; they do not need to be systematic. Where no **V** is specified adopt **V2**, ‘normal’ vibrato.
- There are two types of **fluttersong** in this piece:

The more normal type is notated with three tremolo slashes  $\equiv$  across the stem (irrespective of the note’s duration).

The other is a throat ‘growl’, **GR**, and is always loud; indicated by this symbol  $\text{≧}$  across the stem.

- Alternative fingerings are indicated by circled numbers, which from ① upwards should get progressively different to standard in pitch and timbre.
- **Bell movements**, where needed, are notated using circled letters: **Ⓢ** = bell up; **Ⓣ** = bell down (normal playing position); **Ⓡ** = bell to the right; **Ⓛ** = bell to the left (handedness is unimportant); **Ⓒ** bell back to centre. Movements are indicated by arrows.
- **Pauses**: there are four main types of pause used in this piece. Exact durations should be decided by the performer.

	indicating a very brief suspension of activity;
	a relatively short hiatus;
	pause of middling length;
	a long, more emphatic, pause.

[illegible]

Handwritten musical score, first system. The staff is in treble clef. The music is marked with various dynamics and articulations. Key features include:

- Section B (marked with a dashed line and 'B') starting with a  $9:8$  ratio.
- Section A (marked with a dashed line and 'A') featuring a  $3:2$  ratio and a  $5:4$  ratio.
- Section B (marked with a dashed line and 'B') featuring a  $3:2$  ratio and a  $5:4$  ratio.
- Section V2 (marked with a dashed line and 'V2') featuring a  $3:2$  ratio and a  $5:4$  ratio.
- Section A1.5 (marked with a dashed line and 'A1.5') featuring a  $3:2$  ratio and a  $5:4$  ratio.
- Section A1.6 (marked with a dashed line and 'A1.6') featuring a  $3:2$  ratio and a  $5:4$  ratio.
- Section B (marked with a dashed line and 'B') featuring a  $3:2$  ratio and a  $5:4$  ratio.
- Section V2 (marked with a dashed line and 'V2') featuring a  $3:2$  ratio and a  $5:4$  ratio.

Handwritten musical score, second system. The staff is in treble clef. The music is marked with various dynamics and articulations. Key features include:

- Section V2 (marked with a dashed line and 'V2') featuring a  $5:4$  ratio and a  $3:2$  ratio.
- Section A (marked with a dashed line and 'A') featuring a  $3:2$  ratio and a  $5:4$  ratio.
- Section B (marked with a dashed line and 'B') featuring a  $3:2$  ratio and a  $5:4$  ratio.
- Section V2 (marked with a dashed line and 'V2') featuring a  $3:2$  ratio and a  $5:4$  ratio.
- Section A (marked with a dashed line and 'A') featuring a  $3:2$  ratio and a  $5:4$  ratio.
- Section B (marked with a dashed line and 'B') featuring a  $3:2$  ratio and a  $5:4$  ratio.
- Section V2 (marked with a dashed line and 'V2') featuring a  $3:2$  ratio and a  $5:4$  ratio.

Handwritten musical score, third system. The staff is in treble clef. The music is marked with various dynamics and articulations. Key features include:

- Section V0 (marked with a dashed line and 'V0') featuring a  $5:4$  ratio and a  $3:2$  ratio.
- Section V2 (marked with a dashed line and 'V2') featuring a  $5:4$  ratio and a  $3:2$  ratio.
- Section V0 (marked with a dashed line and 'V0') featuring a  $5:4$  ratio and a  $3:2$  ratio.
- Section V2 (marked with a dashed line and 'V2') featuring a  $5:4$  ratio and a  $3:2$  ratio.
- Section V0 (marked with a dashed line and 'V0') featuring a  $5:4$  ratio and a  $3:2$  ratio.
- Section V2 (marked with a dashed line and 'V2') featuring a  $5:4$  ratio and a  $3:2$  ratio.
- Section V0 (marked with a dashed line and 'V0') featuring a  $5:4$  ratio and a  $3:2$  ratio.
- Section V2 (marked with a dashed line and 'V2') featuring a  $5:4$  ratio and a  $3:2$  ratio.

Handwritten musical score, fourth system. The staff is in treble clef. The music is marked with various dynamics and articulations. Key features include:

- Section V1 (marked with a dashed line and 'V1') featuring a  $9:8$  ratio and a  $5:4$  ratio.
- Section V2/V1 (marked with a dashed line and 'V2/V1') featuring a  $9:8$  ratio and a  $5:4$  ratio.
- Section V2 (marked with a dashed line and 'V2') featuring a  $9:8$  ratio and a  $5:4$  ratio.
- Section V1 (marked with a dashed line and 'V1') featuring a  $9:8$  ratio and a  $5:4$  ratio.
- Section V0 (marked with a dashed line and 'V0') featuring a  $9:8$  ratio and a  $5:4$  ratio.
- Section V4 (marked with a dashed line and 'V4') featuring a  $9:8$  ratio and a  $5:4$  ratio.
- Section V0 (marked with a dashed line and 'V0') featuring a  $9:8$  ratio and a  $5:4$  ratio.
- Section V3 (marked with a dashed line and 'V3') featuring a  $9:8$  ratio and a  $5:4$  ratio.

A TEMPO

RALL.

Handwritten musical score consisting of four systems of staves. The notation includes various musical symbols such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings. The first system begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). It features a series of notes with dynamic markings including (fff), (molto), pp, p, and f. A bracket labeled 9:8 spans a group of notes. A measure is marked with a circled 7. The system concludes with a measure marked f and a decrescendo to pp. The second system starts with a bass clef and a key signature of one flat (Bb). It includes notes with dynamic markings (pp), mf, pp, mf/fff, f, ff, p, mf, p, f, and ff. A bracket labeled 3:2 is present. A box containing 'MI\*' is located above a measure. The third system continues with a bass clef and a key signature of one flat. It features notes with dynamic markings pp, sfz, pp, p, mf, sfz, pp, pp, mf, and pp. Brackets labeled 7:6, 7:8, 5:3, 9:8, 5:6, 9:8, and 3:2 are used. The fourth system also uses a bass clef and a key signature of one flat. It includes notes with dynamic markings mf, ff, p, ff, p, f, pp, mf, pp, pp, and (pp). Brackets labeled 3, 3:2, and 5:4 are present. The score is marked with 'RALL.' and 'A TEMPO' at the top. A small diagram of a piano keyboard is visible on the right side of the second system.



A

Handwritten musical score for the first system. The staff is in treble clef. The music consists of several measures with complex rhythmic patterns and accidentals. Dynamic markings include  $pp$ ,  $mf$ ,  $f$ ,  $mf$ ,  $pp$ ,  $mf$ , and  $pp$ . There are also markings for  $3:2$ ,  $7:6$ ,  $9:8$ , and  $3:2$ . A  $poco$  marking is present at the end of the system.

ANTICIPATORILY

Handwritten musical score for the second system. The staff continues with complex rhythmic patterns and accidentals. Dynamic markings include  $pp/p$ ,  $p$ ,  $fz/p$ ,  $pp$ ,  $p$ ,  $f=8$ ,  $p$ ,  $f=8$ , and  $pp$ . There are also markings for  $3:2$ ,  $3:2$ ,  $9:8$ , and  $f=8$ . A  $poco$  marking is present at the beginning of the system.

Handwritten musical score for the third system. The staff continues with complex rhythmic patterns and accidentals. Dynamic markings include  $p$ ,  $pp$ ,  $p$ ,  $pp$ ,  $f/p$ ,  $pp$ ,  $mf$ ,  $pp$ , and  $mf$ . There are also markings for  $7:6$ ,  $5:4$ ,  $f=8$ , and  $3$ .

Handwritten musical score for the fourth system. The staff continues with complex rhythmic patterns and accidentals. Dynamic markings include  $pp$ ,  $f$ ,  $ff$ ,  $pp$ ,  $pp$ ,  $/pp$ ,  $/p$ ,  $/mf/mf$ , and  $/fz/$ . There are also markings for  $5:4$ ,  $f=8$ ,  $9:8$ , and  $9:8$ . A  $GR.$  marking is present at the beginning of the system.

(ENSURE DYNAMIC STEPS ARE AUDIBLE)



6

RALL.

9:8 7:6 3:2 3:2 9:8 5:4 3:2 5:4

*p* *mf* *ff*

A TEMPO

A6.6

*p* *f* *mf* *ff* *ppp* *f* *ppp* *f* *poco*

7:8 7:6 3:2

$\text{♩} = 10$  FLAMBOYANT BUT CHILLY

B1

*f* *mf* *ff* *mf* *mf* *mf*

3:2 3:2 7:8 7:8 5:4 5:4 3 5:4

V3 V2

$\text{♩} = 10$

B2

*pp* *mf* *f* *ff* *p* *f* *mf* *ff* *p* *ppp*

9:8 9:8 5:4 5:4 3:2 5:4

V0 V2 V4 V2

Handwritten musical score for a single melodic line, featuring various dynamics, articulations, and performance instructions.

**Section 1: DISTANTLY** (VO)  
The first system begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. It features a series of notes with a  $5:4$  interval marking. Dynamics include  $pp$  and  $sfz/mf$ . A performance instruction **WARMLY** is written above the staff.

**Section 2: COOLLY** (M)  
The second system continues the melodic line with a  $5:4$  interval marking. Dynamics include  $ff$ ,  $mf/ff$ ,  $fff$ ,  $f$ ,  $ff$ , and  $mf$ . A performance instruction **COOLLY** is written above the staff. A small diagram of a circle with dots is visible on the right.

**Section 3: SOARINGLY**  
The third system begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. It features a series of notes with a  $5:4$  interval marking. Dynamics include  $mf$ ,  $p$ ,  $f$ ,  $mfz$ ,  $p$ ,  $mfz$ ,  $mfz$ ,  $p$ ,  $pp$ , and  $ppp$ . A performance instruction **SOARINGLY** is written above the staff. A small diagram of a circle with dots is visible on the right.

**Section 4: SOARINGLY**  
The fourth system continues the melodic line with a  $5:4$  interval marking. Dynamics include  $mfz/fff$ ,  $mf$ ,  $f$ , and  $pp$ . A performance instruction **SOARINGLY** is written above the staff. A small diagram of a circle with dots is visible on the right.

**Section 5: SOARINGLY**  
The fifth system continues the melodic line with a  $5:4$  interval marking. Dynamics include  $mfz/fff$ ,  $mf$ ,  $f$ , and  $pp$ . A performance instruction **SOARINGLY** is written above the staff. A small diagram of a circle with dots is visible on the right.

8

R.T.

$\downarrow = 50$

V5 V2

V0

Smorz.

C1 2

C2

Tc

C

5:4  
ff > mf

3:2  
pp > mf

3:2  
ff > f

9:8  
ff/mf

9:8  
ff mf

3  
ppp

(ppp)

5:4  
p mf > p

3  
pp

p > pp

mf > p

V0

V2

C2

5:4

5:4

3:2

JAGGEDLY

5:4

5:4

5:6

9:8

9:8

9:8

3:2

MOLTO

Handwritten musical notation on a single staff. The notation includes various notes, rests, and dynamic markings. A bracket labeled  $7:8$  spans a group of notes. Another bracket labeled  $5:4$  spans a group of notes. A third bracket labeled  $5:4$  spans a group of notes. A fourth bracket labeled  $7:6$  spans a group of notes. Dynamic markings include  $ppp$ ,  $p$ , and  $pp$ .

Handwritten musical notation on a single staff. The notation includes various notes, rests, and dynamic markings. A bracket labeled  $7:8$  spans a group of notes. A bracket labeled  $7:8$  spans a group of notes. A bracket labeled  $3:2$  spans a group of notes. A bracket labeled  $9:8$  spans a group of notes. Dynamic markings include  $(ppp)$ ,  $pp$ ,  $mf$ , and  $pp$ . A circled  $C3$  is present.

Handwritten musical notation on a single staff. The notation includes various notes, rests, and dynamic markings. A bracket labeled  $3:2$  spans a group of notes. A bracket labeled  $3:2$  spans a group of notes. A bracket labeled  $7:8$  spans a group of notes. A bracket labeled  $5:4$  spans a group of notes. A bracket labeled  $9:8$  spans a group of notes. Dynamic markings include  $p$ ,  $pp$ ,  $pp$ , and  $ppp$ . Circled  $C4$  and  $C5$  are present.

Handwritten musical notation on a single staff. The notation includes various notes, rests, and dynamic markings. A bracket labeled  $5:4$  spans a group of notes. A bracket labeled  $5:4$  spans a group of notes. A bracket labeled  $3:4$  spans a group of notes. A bracket labeled  $3:4$  spans a group of notes. A bracket labeled  $3:4$  spans a group of notes. A bracket labeled  $3:4$  spans a group of notes. A bracket labeled  $5:4$  spans a group of notes. Dynamic markings include  $f$ ,  $fff$ ,  $mf$ ,  $molto$ ,  $mf$ , and  $f$ . A circled  $U$  is present. A circled  $D$  is present. A circled  $U$  is present. A circled  $D$  is present. The word "GENTLY" is written. The word "poco" is written. A circled  $G$  is present. A circled  $F$  is present. A circled  $E$  is present. A circled  $Bb$  is present.

(REPEAT)  $\parallel$ :  $\longrightarrow$  (L)  $\longrightarrow$  (R)  $\parallel$   $\longrightarrow$  (C)

Handwritten musical score for "The Rose Tree" on a grand staff. The treble clef part contains the melody with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature. The bass clef part contains the accompaniment, featuring a 3:2 ratio and various dynamic markings like p and f. The score is written on a single line of paper with a horizontal fold.

$$\begin{array}{r} 8 \text{ * } \\ \bullet \\ \bullet \\ \bullet \\ \hline \bullet \\ \square \\ \circ \\ \text{C} \end{array}$$

The Great Wall

Handwritten musical score for the piano part of 'The Wind' by Gustav Mahler. The score is written on a grand staff with a treble and bass clef. The tempo is marked '♩ = 60 EXPRESSIVELY'. The key signature is one flat (B-flat). The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings (pp, mf, f, ff). There are also handwritten annotations like '5:4' and '7:8' indicating time signatures or measures. The score is written in ink on a piece of paper with a horizontal fold.

Handwritten musical score for "The Rose Tree". The score is written on a single staff with a soprano clef. The key signature is one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 3/4. The score is divided into two systems by a double bar line. The first system contains the main melody, and the second system contains a continuation of the melody with a key signature change to one sharp (F#) and a 5/4 time signature. The piano accompaniment is written on a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The piano part includes a bass line and a treble line with chords and arpeggios. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings (p, mf, f). The piano part includes a bass line and a treble line with chords and arpeggios. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings (p, mf, f).

Handwritten musical score for "The Rose Tree". The score is written on a single staff with a treble clef. It includes a piano introduction, a vocal melody, and a piano accompaniment. The piano part features a repeating eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The vocal melody is a simple, melodic line. The score is marked with dynamics like p, mf, and f, and includes a key signature change to D major. The piece ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign.



SIMPLY

(mf)  $\text{fff}$   $p$   $mf$   $pp$   $p$   $pp$

7:6 7:6 3:2 5:4 7:8 5:6 3

$p$   $pp$   $p$  MOLTO  $ppp$   $pp/ppp$

3:2 3:2 7:8 3:2 5:4 5:4

$Bb$  (FLZ ONLY IF POSSIBLE)  $ppp$   $ff$   $fff$   $ff$   $mf$   $fff$   $mf$   $f$   $pp$   $p$

9:8 3:2 7:8 5:4 3

A TEMPO

SLOWER

$ppp$   $pp$   $ppp$   $p$

5:4 3:2 3:2 7:8 7:8 7:8

MESMERICALLY

$\frac{7}{8}$

$\frac{5}{2}$

Handwritten musical score for the first system, featuring a treble clef and a series of eighth notes with a 7/8 time signature. The notation includes a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a dynamic marking of *ff* (fortissimo) at the end of the system.

Handwritten musical score for the second system, featuring a treble clef and a series of eighth notes with a 7/8 time signature. The notation includes a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a dynamic marking of *mf* (mezzo-forte) at the end of the system.

Handwritten musical score for the third system, featuring a treble clef and a series of eighth notes with a 7/8 time signature. The notation includes a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a dynamic marking of *pp* (pianissimo) at the end of the system.

Handwritten musical score for the fourth system, featuring a treble clef and a series of eighth notes with a 7/8 time signature. The notation includes a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a dynamic marking of *ppp* (pianississimo) at the end of the system.

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Handwritten musical notation for the first system. It features a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notation includes a series of notes with a slur over them, a bracket labeled  $5:6$ , and a bracket labeled  $7:8$ . There are also dynamic markings like  $(p)$  and  $<p>pp$ .

Handwritten musical notation for the second system. It features a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notation includes a series of notes with a slur over them, a bracket labeled  $5:4$ , and a bracket labeled  $3:2$ . There are also dynamic markings like  $mf$  and  $ppp$ .

ANIMATEDLY.

COOLING

Handwritten musical notation for the third system. It features a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notation includes a series of notes with a slur over them, a bracket labeled  $9:8$ , and a bracket labeled  $5:4$ . There are also dynamic markings like  $mf$  and  $f$ .

Handwritten musical notation for the fourth system. It features a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notation includes a series of notes with a slur over them, a bracket labeled  $9:8$ , and a bracket labeled  $5:4$ . There are also dynamic markings like  $mf$  and  $ppp$ .

(6)

(pp)

V2

V0

5:4

3:2

mf

FA

7:8

7:8

(NO NUANCES)

(QUASI  $\downarrow = 70$ )

7:8

7:8

7:8

7:8

7:8

(pp)

V3

V0

F5

9:8

7:8

5:4

7:8

(V2)

f

p

pp

p

fz

pp

pp

V2

5:4

9:8

5:4

9:8

3:2

3:2

f

p

f

mf

pp

(p)

16

Handwritten musical notation on a single staff. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notation includes a series of notes with various accidentals (sharps, naturals, flats) and a large slur covering the first half. Below the staff, there are several bracketed intervals with labels: 9:8, 5:6, 9:8, 7:8, and 5:4. A dynamic marking 'f' is present, followed by 'poco' and a final 'ff' marking. A box labeled 'V0' is at the end of the staff.

V2 RINDLINGLY

Handwritten musical notation on a single staff. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notation includes a series of notes with various accidentals and a large slur covering the first half. Below the staff, there are several bracketed intervals with labels: 7:8, 5:6, 9:8, 3:2, 5:4, and 9:8. Dynamic markings include 'p', 'mf', 'ff', 'p', 'ff', and 'p'. A box labeled 'V0' is at the end of the staff.

Handwritten musical notation on a single staff. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notation includes a series of notes with various accidentals and a large slur covering the first half. Below the staff, there are several bracketed intervals with labels: 5:4 and 5:4. Dynamic markings include 'p' and 'mf'. A box labeled 'V0' is at the end of the staff.

Handwritten musical notation on a single staff. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notation includes a series of notes with various accidentals and a large slur covering the first half. Below the staff, there are several bracketed intervals with labels: 5:4. Dynamic markings include 'mf'.

Handwritten musical score for three staves. The top staff has a treble clef and a "2." marking. The middle and bottom staves have complex notation including notes, rests, and dynamic markings. The score includes tempo markings like "60 OR SLOWER (RUBATO)" and "RALL. MOLTO". It also features various musical notations such as "9:8", "7:8", "5:4", and "3:2" ratios, and dynamic markings like "pp", "p", "mf", "f". There are also vertical lines of dots with labels like "8", "5", "c12", "c1", "c", "Bb", "B", "C", "C#", "Db", "Cb".

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