

**Alex Danson**

# **The Quest of The Missing Sixteenths**

Full Score for Jazz Band

## PERFORMANCE NOTES

### Instrumentation

#### Jazz Big Band

- Reeds Section:
  - 1 Bb Soprano Saxophone
  - 1 Eb Alto Saxophone
  - 2 Bb Tenor Saxophones
  - 1 Eb Baritone
- Brass Section:
  - 4 Bb Trumpets
  - 4 Trombones
- Rhythm Section
  - Drum Set
  - Electric Piano
  - 5-String Electric Bass (B-E-A-D-G)

### Notes and Symbols

1. The 15/16 time signature should be always regarded (and conducted) as an irregular 4-beat pattern:  $1/4 + 1/4 + 1/4 + 3/16$ , where the last 3/16 replace the 4th beat on a normal 4/4 time signature. Notation of 15/16 is for convenience only.
2. Same considerations for the 14/16 time signature:  $1/4 + 1/4 + 1/4 + 1/8$  (on the last beat)
3. Drum Set notation

- Snare Drum, Bass Drum and Toms:



- Cymbals and Hi-Hat:



## PROGRAMME NOTES

This work explores a sort of rhythm that was called "*aksak*" (which means "limping" in Turkish), or Bulgarian rhythm. Present in some Middle Eastern and Balkan cultures, it implies beats of irregular values, where the long beat is approximately 1.5 longer than the short ones. A rhythmic pattern such as short-short-short-long can be approximated in traditional music notation as  $2 + 2 + 2 + 3$ , thus notated as 9/8 or 9/16.

This piece goes one step further, first, by inverting the normal folkloric proportions between short and long beats, second, by increasing the temporal difference between the irregular beats. The main pattern here is long-long-long-short, where the short beats vary between 0.75 and 0.5 of the duration of the long beats. In traditional notation, this results in a  $1/4 + 1/4 + 1/4 + 3/16$ , alternating with  $1/4 + 1/4 + 1/4 + 1/8$ .

Melodically, the piece adopts a mixed Aeolian/Dorian mode, wide spread in the same folkloric cultures as the *aksak* rhythm.

The piece's improvisation section is intentionally written short, so that as many soloists as desired can try their improvisatory skills on this complex compound meter.

Thus, the title of "The Quest of The Missing Sixteenths", does not refer as much to the truncation of a regular 4/4 time signature, as to, like in other great quests of our and past times, the fact that the desirable object that generates the Quest was never there in the first place.

The duration of the piece is around 6-8 minutes.

Parts available for hire.  
Please contact:

Alex Danson  
PO Box 3666  
Cathedral City, California 92235  
Voice/fax: (877) 280-7891  
Email: alex@alex-danson.com

# The Quest of The Missing Sixteenths

Alex Danson

**Fusion** ♩ = 100

(A) *simile* (B)

Soprano Sax. *f* *p* *ff* *f* *simile* *f*

Alto Sax. *f* *p* *ff* *f* *simile*

Tenor Sax. 1 *f* *p* *ff* *f* *simile*

Tenor Sax. 2 *f* *p* *ff* *f* *simile*

Baritone Sax. *f* *p* *ff* *f* *simile*

Trumpet in B♭ 1 *f* *ff* *f* *ff* *simile*

Trumpet in B♭ 2 *f* *ff* *f* *ff* *simile*

Trumpet in B♭ 3 *f* *ff* *f* *ff* *simile*

Trumpet in B♭ 4 *f* *ff* *f* *ff* *simile*

Trombone 1 *p* *ff* *simile*

Trombone 2 *p* *ff* *simile*

Trombone 3 *p* *ff* *simile*

Trombone 4 *p* *ff* *simile*

Drum Set *mf* *simile*

Piano *ff* *simile*

Bass *mp* *ff* *mf* *simile*

This musical score page, numbered 4, is titled "The Quest of The Missing Sixteenths - Score". It features a variety of instruments including Saxophones (Soprano, Alto, Tenor 1 & 2, Baritone), Trumpets (B-flat 1-4), Trombones (1-4), Drums (Drum Set), Piano, and Bass. The score is written in 16/8 time and includes dynamic markings such as *p* (piano) and *mp* (mezzo-piano). It contains rehearsal marks for measures 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54, 56, 58, 60, 62, 64, 66, 68, 70, 72, 74, 76, 78, 80, 82, 84, 86, 88, 90, 92, 94, 96, 98, and 100. The score includes a key signature change from one flat to two flats at measure 12, and a tempo change to 120 BPM at measure 22. There are also performance instructions like "p" and "mp" and a fermata over a note in the Bass line at measure 98. The score is divided into sections by rehearsal marks, with some sections marked with circled letters C and D.

This musical score page, numbered 5, is for the piece "The Quest of The Missing Sixteenths". It features a full orchestral ensemble. The score is divided into two sections, E and F, marked with circled letters. Section E begins at measure 20 and continues through measure 24. Section F begins at measure 25 and continues through measure 29. The woodwind section includes Soprano Saxophone (S. Sx.), Alto Saxophone (A. Sx.), Tenor Saxophone 1 (T. Sx. 1), Tenor Saxophone 2 (T. Sx. 2), and Baritone Saxophone (B. Sx.), all playing sixteenth-note patterns with a forte (f) dynamic. The brass section consists of four Trumpets (B♭ Tpt. 1-4) and four Trombones (Tbn. 1-4). The trumpet parts feature sixteenth-note runs in section F, while the trombone parts are mostly rests. The string section includes Double Basses (D. S.), Piano (Pno.), and Bass. The piano part provides harmonic support with chords and moving lines. The bass part features a rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes. The score is written in a key signature of two flats and a 16/8 time signature.

© H 1

29

S. Sax. *ff* *f* *f*

A. Sax. *ff* *f* *f*

T. Sax. 1 *ff* *f*

T. Sax. 2 *ff* *f*

B. Sax. *ff* *f*

B♭ Tpt. 1 *ff* *f*

B♭ Tpt. 2 *ff* *f*

B♭ Tpt. 3 *ff* *f*

B♭ Tpt. 4 *ff* *f*

Tbn. 1 *mf* *ff* *f*

Tbn. 2 *mf* *ff* *f*

Tbn. 3 *mf* *ff* *f*

Tbn. 4 *mf* *ff* *f*

D. S. *ff* *f* FILL

Pno. *ff* *f* G 9

Bass *ff* *f*



This musical score page, numbered 8, is for the piece "The Quest of The Missing Sixteenths". It features a variety of instruments and includes a solo section for the Saxophone.

**Instrumentation:** S. Sax., A. Sax., T. Sax. 1, T. Sax. 2, B. Sax., B♭ Tpt. 1, B♭ Tpt. 2, B♭ Tpt. 3, B♭ Tpt. 4, Tbn. 1, Tbn. 2, Tbn. 3, Tbn. 4, D. S., Pno., and Bass.

**Key and Tempo:** The score is in E minor (indicated by E<sub>m</sub>11) and 14/16 time. A circled 'L' indicates a *Lento* tempo.

**Structure:** The score is divided into two main sections by a double bar line. The first section (measures 52-14) features a dynamic range from *p* to *ff*. The second section (measures 14-22) is marked "1st time SOLO, then Backgrounds" and features a *mf* dynamic. The key signature changes to D minor (D<sub>m</sub>11) for the solo section.

**Performance Details:** The score includes various performance markings such as accents (>), slurs, and dynamic hairpins. The drum set (D. S.) part includes a "FILL" instruction. The piano (Pno.) part features complex chordal textures and arpeggiated figures.



61 <sup>(M)</sup> <sup>(N)</sup>

S. Sax. *f* *p* *ff* 1,2,3. **D<sup>♭</sup>m11**

A. Sax. *f* *p* *ff* 1,2,3.

T. Sax. 1 *f* *p* *ff* 1,2,3. **D<sup>♭</sup>m11**

T. Sax. 2 *f* *p* *ff* 1,2,3.

B. Sax. *f* *p* *ff* 1,2,3.

B<sup>♭</sup> Tpt. 1 *f* *p* *ff* 1,2,3.

B<sup>♭</sup> Tpt. 2 *f* *p* *ff* 1,2,3. **D<sup>♭</sup>m11**

B<sup>♭</sup> Tpt. 3 *f* *p* *ff* 1,2,3.

B<sup>♭</sup> Tpt. 4 *f* *p* *ff* 1,2,3.

Tbn. 1 *f* *p* *ff* 1,2,3. **C<sup>♭</sup>m11**

Tbn. 2 *p* *ff* 1,2,3.

Tbn. 3 *p* *ff* 1,2,3. **pp**

Tbn. 4 *p* *ff* 1,2,3.

D. S. *p* *ff* **FILL** *pp* *sparsely, on HiHat, Snare and Ride/Ride Cup*

Pno. *ff* **C<sup>♭</sup>m11**

Bass *ff* 1,2,3.

**Chords:** G<sup>9</sup>, E<sup>♭</sup>m11, A<sup>9</sup>, G<sup>9</sup>, E<sup>♭</sup>m11, A<sup>9</sup>, G<sup>9</sup>, E<sup>♭</sup>m11, A<sup>9</sup>, G<sup>9</sup>, E<sup>♭</sup>m11, A<sup>9</sup>, G<sup>9</sup>, E<sup>♭</sup>m11, A<sup>9</sup>, A<sup>9</sup>, F<sup>9</sup>, D<sup>♭</sup>m11, G<sup>9</sup>, F<sup>9</sup>, D<sup>♭</sup>m11, G<sup>9</sup>, F<sup>9</sup>, D<sup>♭</sup>m11, G<sup>9</sup>, G<sup>9</sup>, G<sup>9</sup>.

This musical score page, numbered 10, is for the piece "The Quest of The Missing Sixteenths". It features a variety of instruments and includes several performance instructions and dynamic markings.

**Instrumentation and Parts:**

- Saxophones:** S. Sax., A. Sax., T. Sax. 1, T. Sax. 2, B. Sax.
- Trumpets:** B<sup>b</sup> Tpt. 1, B<sup>b</sup> Tpt. 2, B<sup>b</sup> Tpt. 3, B<sup>b</sup> Tpt. 4
- Trombones:** Tbn. 1, Tbn. 2, Tbn. 3, Tbn. 4
- Drums:** D. S.
- Piano:** Pno.
- Bass:** Bass

**Performance Instructions:**

- SOLO:** "END or START your SOLO around here" is written in the saxophone and trombone parts.
- Chordal Markings:** "E<sub>m11</sub>" and "D<sub>m11</sub>" are placed above the piano and bass staves.
- Fill:** A "FILL" instruction is present above the drum staff.

**Dynamic Markings:**

- pp** (pianissimo)
- p** (piano)
- mf** (mezzo-forte)
- f** (forte)
- ff** (fortissimo)
- mp** (mezzo-piano)

**Other Notations:**

- Rehearsal marks **⓪** and **Ⓟ** are located at the beginning of the second and fifth systems, respectively.
- Accents (**>**) are used on various notes throughout the score.
- Slurs and ties are used to connect notes across measures.

This musical score page, numbered 11, is for the piece "The Quest of The Missing Sixteenths". It features a variety of instruments and includes several performance markings and structural indicators.

**Instrumentation:** The score includes parts for Soprano Saxophone (S. Sx.), Alto Saxophone (A. Sx.), Tenor Saxophone 1 (T. Sx. 1), Tenor Saxophone 2 (T. Sx. 2), Bass Saxophone (B. Sx.), four Trumpets (B<sup>b</sup> Tpt. 1-4), four Trombones (Tbn. 1-4), Drums (D. S.), Piano (Pno.), and Bass.

**Performance Markings:** Dynamic markings such as *ff* (fortissimo) and *mf* (mezzo-forte) are used throughout. The piano part includes a *G<sup>9</sup>* marking. The bass part is marked *ff*. The drum part includes a "FILL" marking.

**Structural Markings:** Section markers Q, R, and S are placed above the woodwind staves. Measure numbers 89 and 90 are indicated at the beginning of the first and second systems, respectively.

**Complexity:** The score is highly complex, featuring intricate rhythmic patterns, particularly in the woodwinds and bass, and a dense brass section. The piano part provides harmonic support with chords and textures.

This page of the musical score, numbered 12, is titled "The Quest of The Missing Sixteenths - Score". It features a full orchestral arrangement with the following parts: Soprano Saxophone (S. Sax.), Alto Saxophone (A. Sax.), Tenor Saxophone 1 (T. Sax. 1), Tenor Saxophone 2 (T. Sax. 2), Baritone Saxophone (B. Sax.), B♭ Trumpet 1 (B♭ Tpt. 1), B♭ Trumpet 2 (B♭ Tpt. 2), B♭ Trumpet 3 (B♭ Tpt. 3), B♭ Trumpet 4 (B♭ Tpt. 4), Trombone 1 (Tbn. 1), Trombone 2 (Tbn. 2), Trombone 3 (Tbn. 3), Trombone 4 (Tbn. 4), Double Bass (D. S.), Piano (Pno.), and Bass. The score is written in 4/4 time and includes various dynamics such as *f* (forte), *p* (piano), and *ff* (fortissimo). A circled "T" is placed above the first staff at the beginning of the second system. The piano part includes a *G*<sup>9</sup> chord marking. The bass part features a consistent rhythmic pattern of eighth notes.