

# Spellbound

for alto saxophone and marimba  
2010

Laura M. Kramer

ca. 7 min.

## Performance Notes

### Saxophone:

- noteheads with slashes:
  - B-flat: use the fingering for E-flat and add the “side B-flat” key. This will produce an airy and slightly flat B-flat. During the tremolo, vary lip pressure or voicing so that several overtones sound in an uncontrolled way. The effect is similar to overtones produced by playing sul ponticello on a cello.
  - B natural: use the fingering for E and add the “side C” key. This will also produce a slightly flat “B”. The effect during the tremolo is the same as above.
- harmonics: diamond notehead indicates the fingering to be used, and the above note indicates the sounding pitch.

### Marimba:

- combo mallets: Mike Balter 42R mallet placed inside of a hot rod drumstick. The band should be placed near the tip of the mallet for a dry setting.
- diamond noteheads: indicate to strike the side of the bar with the shaft of the mallet
- “+” indicates a dead stroke
- square note heads: indicate to strike the bar with hand
- “x” noteheads: indicate to mute the sound with the hand
- marimshot: strike the bar with both the head and the shaft of the mallet simultaneously.

## Program Note

*Spellbound* explores a pallet of timbral colors between the saxophone and marimba. It begins with airy, mysterious washes of sound, and then progresses to a section with trancelike marimba rhythms and a hovering saxophone melody. The form wanders to passages with jazz-like riffs and eventually propels into a rock-like groove. A few extended techniques accent the work. In the saxophone, harmonics and tremolos that produce overtones are used, and in the marimba, muting techniques as well as modified mallets are featured. Its title is reminiscent of that of a jazz-tune, and also originates from the murky quality of the extended techniques.

- Laura M. Kramer

Mallets:  
4 medium soft cord mallets  
2 Mike Balter 42R/hot rod combo mallets  
1 very soft latex mallet

# Spellbound

for alto saxophone and marimba  
(2010)

Laura M. Kramer  
(b. 1984)

**Mysterioso, Freely**  
♩ = ca. 58

Alto Saxophone

non vib. side fingering  
standard fingering  
generate overtones, uncontrolled, like sul pont. on a cello

**7 In Tempo**  
with vib.

**12 Slightly Faster**

Marimba

medium soft cord mallets  
on the beat

on sides of bars with shaft of mallet

**7 In Tempo**  
ord.

**12 Slightly Faster**

13

Alto Sax.

*p* tranquil

*mf* *ppp* *p* *mf*

**18**

**22 Dream-like**

Mar.

*p* tranquil

ripple roll

*mf* *ppp* *p* *mf*

**18**

**22 Dream-like**

23

Alto Sax.

*mp*

Mar.

*mp*

2

Alto Sax. **30** **35**

Mar. **30** **35**

*pp* *p* *ppp* *p* *p poco* *ppp*

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

*mp*

Alto Sax. **40** ♩ = ca. 60

Mar. **40** ♩ = ca. 60

*f* like a Coltrane solo *sfz* *mf* *f* *sfz*

*f* like a jazz combo rhythm section *mf* *sfz* *sfz*

Alto Sax. **48** Driving, Rock-Feel

Mar. **48** Driving, Rock-Feel

*mp* *f*

*sfz* *f*

55

Alto Sax. *p* *f* *sfz* 3

Mar. *sfz* 16 3

63

Alto Sax. 3 *ff* 3 *mf* 3

Mar. 63 switch to mike balter 42R/hot rod combo mallets 67 mike balter 42R/hot rod combo mallets 67 *ff* *mf*

69

Alto Sax. (Cb) *tr* side *pp* *mp* *mf* deliberately 73

Mar. *ff* 73