

Praescio I

for any instrument & recorded sound

(optional sound processing with /without computer control)

Bruce Pennycook
Kingston, 1987

Recording:

GEMS: Before the Freeze, McGill Records, McGill 750038-2.

Saxophone, B. Pennycook

Duration: ca. 10 minutes

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Praescio-I

soprano saxophone or any instrument,
recorded sound, optional sound processing, optional computer control

Program Notes

This work is the first in a series of compositions for one or more live performers and interactive computer systems. It was composed for the 1987 North American New Music Festival (Buffalo, N.Y.) and has been performed on many occasions by the composer and others in Canada, U.S. and Europe. The current version is for soprano saxophone, tape, and MIDI-controlled processors. The title of this series, PRAESCIO, is the Latin root of "prescience" -- to see in the future. This work appears on "GEMS: Before the Freeze", McGill Records CD. (McGill 750038-2)

Technical Notes

The CD audio is available from the composer at the address below. This work may be performed in the following ways:

- i) any instrument plus tape
- ii) any instrument with signal processing plus tape
- iii) any instrument with pitch-to-midi processing, signal processing plus tape.

Signal Processing

Several settings should be used -- chorus, doubling, P5, octave up/down, reverb, etc. These should be pre-programmed in order according to each section of the piece and advanced from a foot switch.

Pitch-to-Midi

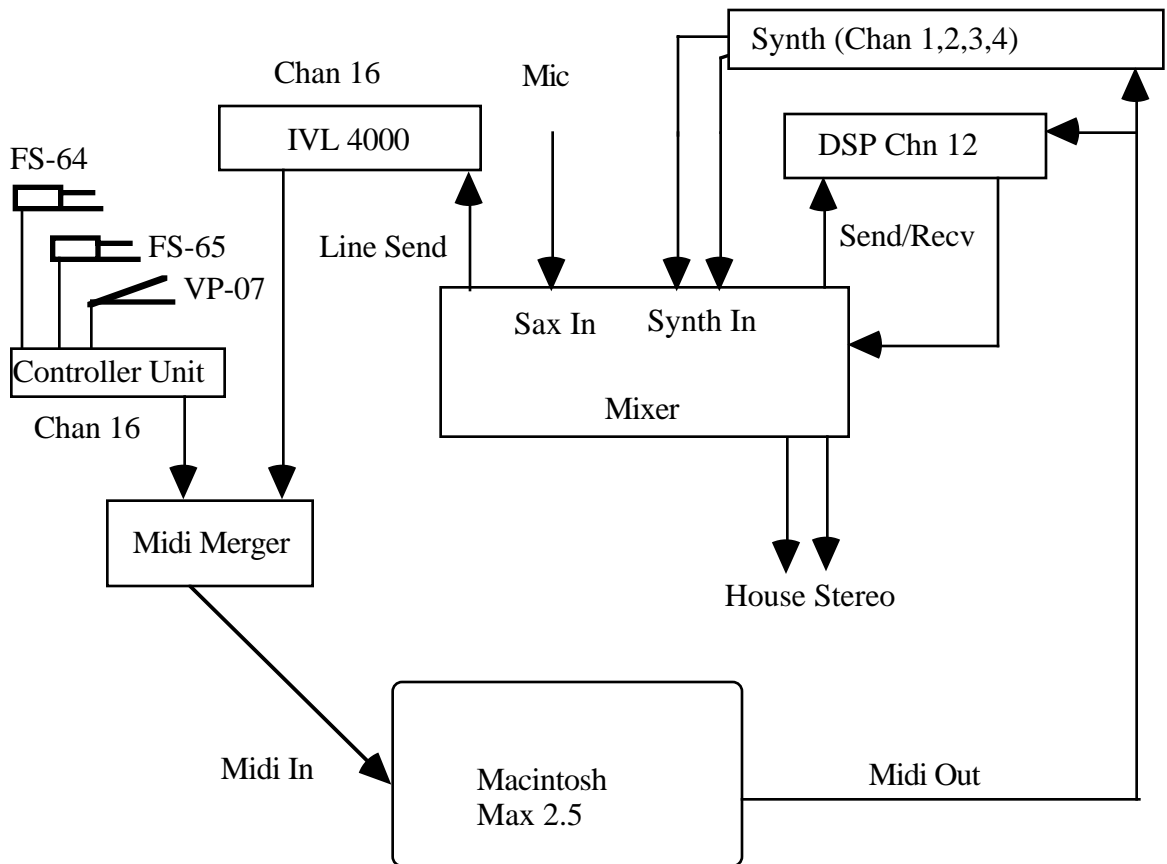
A pitch-to-midi converter such as the IVL 4000 can also be used. In this case, the pitches should be passed to a program such as MAX. A MAX patch for this piece is available from the composer. The player would need -- IVL, Macintosh computer, Proteus 1 or any other MIDI synthesizer or sample player, and a MIDI controlled signal processor. A diagram of one possible configuration follows.

The Score

The score is simply a guide for improvisation. It is notated at concert pitch. Some suggestions for signal processing and/or pitch-to-midi enhancements appear at the start of each section. The performer is free to add any other processes except in Section E where the instrument should be un-altered.

Bruce Pennycook
Montreal, Quebec

PRAESCIO-I
MIDI and AUDIO PATCH



Bruce Pennycook
Montreal, 1990

Praescio I
Instrument, Tape, Optional DSP and computer control
Bruce Pennycook
Max 3.x Software Notes

PRAESCIO-I Performer Instructions

This piece requires i) a performance tape ii) improvised saxophone iii) saxophone processing (optional).

The MAX Patch does the following:

1. receives MIDI data from the saxophone via a pitch-midi translator such as IVL 4000.
2. receives MIDI data from a sustain pedal, volume pedal and a footswitch
3. transmits MIDI data to a synthesizer such as Proteus I or Wavestation with up to four active channels and transpositions plus sustain and volume control.
4. trasmits MIDI program changes to an audio signal processor such as an SPX900 or LXP15

Operation

After setting up the piece (see SETUP patcher), the performer uses the FootSwitch (MIDI 65) to select (sequentially) the program changes and transpositions. Random selection of the data can be achieved by using a devices which sends program changes directly to the collect object. These must be numbered 1-n where n is the number of events. For example, during performance of the piece, the player punch program change 8 on the device and that would select the 8th item of the data sets. This approach provides more selection flexibility but adds an additional device to the system.

In the sample data there are 10 events. These normally occur at the following times (minutes and seconds) in the work.

Time 0. -- Item 1	Time 5.1 -- Item 6
Time 3. -- Item 2	Time 5.43 -- Item 7
Time 3.53 -- Item 3	Time 7.25 -- Item 8
Time 4.15 -- Item 4	Time 7.53 -- Item 9
Time 4.47 -- Item 5	Time 8.2 -- Item10

Montreal, 1992

Bruce Pennycook

The Canadian composer, Bruce Pennycook, holds a Doctor of Musical Arts in composition from Stanford University (Center for Computer Research in Music and Acoustics) and a M.Mus. and a B.Mus. in composition from the University of Toronto.

From 1978 to 1987 he was a professor at Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario in the Department of Music and the Department of Computing and Information Science. In 1987 he joined the Faculty of Music, McGill University where he formed graduate and undergraduate degree programs in music technology. From 1997-2000 he held the position of Vice-Principal for Information Systems and Technology at McGill University. Pennycook is currently an independent composer, author and consultant living in Montreal.

Pennycook's works for soloist or small ensemble coupled with interactive computer systems have been performed and broadcast widely in Canada, US, Europe and Japan. He has published numerous articles on music and technology and contemporary compositional methods.

For more information visit: www.pennycook.tzo.com

Montreal, 2002

Praescio I

(Improvisation Guide)

Bruce Pennycook
March 1987

A

Instrument (concert) (sec.) 5" 15" 23"

31" 40" 50" 57" 1'05" 1'26"

1'31" 1'38" 1'40" 1'43" 1'46" freely, open

1'56" 2'00" 2'12" 2'20"

