

Breaking Point by David Schumacher

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Reed 1: Alto/Soprano
Reed 2: Alto
Reed 3: Tenor (solo)
Reed 4: Tenor
Reed 5: Baritone

Trumpet 1 (harmon mute)
Trumpet 2 (cup mute)
Trumpet 3
Trumpet 4 (flügel)

Trombone 1 (cup mute)
Trombone 2
Trombone 3
Trombone 4

Guitar (solo)
Piano
Bass
Drums (solo)

Breaking Point was inspired by my work with Bob Brookmeyer. It was one of the first pieces I wrote wherein both the melodic and harmonic language was derived from the intervallic structure of a single three-note motif. The result was angular, raw, and surprisingly unpredictable. Following the heavily contrapuntal melody, the open concept tenor solo floats over the rhythm section's 9-bar hemiolic phrasing. The drums carry that tension to its pinnacle through a series of chaotic hits and figures before releasing to a driving swing feel for the guitar solo. The continued odd phrasing prevents things from settling in too far. The remaining energy is dissipated in the final section where the intervallic melody is superimposed with the hemiolic groove. This piece should feel like it has taken the listener to the breaking point and back.

Many other works of various style, instrumentation, and level of difficulty are available from this composer. Commissions for new works, orders for existing works, and information about guest artist residencies should be directed to David Schumacher at www.davidschumacher.com

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