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DIVISIONS (2010)

**Program notes:**

*Divisions* was composed in the fall of 2010 for Angela Space and Jane Chapman. The title is a play on words, referencing the piece's emphasis on rhythmic subdivisions, as well as the old English variation form known as "divisions on a ground". The ground bass in this case is a repeated C-sharp which is traded back and forth from the saxophone to the harpsichord, and is made up of a repeated "limping", or uneven, rhythmic unit. The incessant repetition of this phrase is the foundation of this work, upon which the instruments explore a modal shift from a modified C-sharp phrygian scale to a modified lydian scale (i.e., minor to major, more or less). *Divisions* is a playful *scherzando* duet for this unusual instrumental combination, and explores the contrast between the two dominant textures: the ringing secco of the harpsichord and the rich reediness of the tenor sax. The world premiere was in December 2010 at the John Hansard Gallery of the University of Southampton in Southampton, England.

**Instrumentation:** Tenor Saxophone and Harpsichord

**Duration:** 3 minutes

**Premiere:** December 2010, Angela Space, Saxophone, with Jane Chapman, Harpsichord, at the University of Southampton, Southampton, UK