

PluralSax presents

# Premier Quatour, Opus 53

**pour saxophone soprano, alto, tenor, basse**

by  
J.B. Singelée - 1857

for saxophone quartet



## Full Score

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Original 1857 Cover

Although he wrote ballets, string works, and more, Jean-Baptiste Singelée is remembered in the saxophone world as the composer that wrote many of the first pieces composed specifically for saxophone. Many of these, including the first ever saxophone concerto, were for saxophone solo. Amongst the earliest works, composed just 11 years after the saxophone's formal introduction was his saxophone quartet, appropriately named 'Premier Quatour'. This was the first ever saxophone quartet but used the now familiar setup of soprano, alto, tenor, and baritone saxophones.

Singelée wrote in a very traditional style, already considered somewhat old fashioned even in the 1850's. He set out this quartet in four movements matching the established form of the string quartet. Each movement has a distinct character, using varying combinations, dynamics and articulations to achieve variety with four same-sounding instruments. Whilst there is little that is especially memorable or remarkable about the piece outside of its historical significance, it has some lovely moments and makes for a nice easy-going concert piece.

Here we present a new type-setting of this work based on scans of the original 1857 parts provided by the archive of the Bibliothèque Nationale de France. A number of errors and inconsistencies between the parts have been fixed. If you want to try the original, contact Bibliothèque Nationale de France for a copy.

Approximate running time: 20'00"

# Premier Quatour, Opus 53

Ire Partie: Andante-Allegro

J.B. Singelée - 1857

Andante

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Baritone

9

S

A

T

B

17

S

A

T

B

*dolce*

24

S

A

T

B

33

Soprano: *p*, *p*, *pp*, *rall*  
Alto: *p*, *pp*, *rall*  
Tenor: *p*, *p*, *p*, *pp*, *rall*  
Bass: *p*, *pp*, *rall*

40

**Allegro**

Soprano: *pp*, *ff*, *p*, *ff*, *p*, *ff*, *p*, *ff*, *dolce*, *p*  
Alto: *pp*, *ff*, *p*, *ff*, *p*, *ff*, *pp*  
Tenor: *ppp*, *ff*, *p*, *ff*, *p*, *ff*, *pp*  
Bass: *pp*, *ff*, *p*, *ff*, *p*, *ff*, *pp*, *legato*, *p*

49

Soprano: *f*, *p*  
Alto: *f*, *p*  
Tenor: *f*, *p*  
Bass: *f*, *p*

57

Soprano: *f*, *p*, *p*, *pp*  
Alto: *f*, *p*, *p*, *pp*  
Tenor: *f*, *p*, *p*, *pp*  
Bass: *f*, *p*, *p*, *pp*

64

S: *cresc.* - - - - - *p*

A: *cresc.* - - - - - *p*

T: *cresc.* - - - - - *p*

B: *cresc.* - - - - - *p*

71

S: *cresc.* - - - - - *f*

A: *cresc.* - - - - - *f*

T: *cresc.* - - - - - *f*

B: *cresc.* - - - - - *f*

79

S: *pp* *pp*

A: *pp*

T: *pp*

B: *legato* *p* *p* *p*

87

S: *p* *f* *f* *p* *pp*

A: *p* *f* *f* *pp*

T: *p* *f* *f* *pp*

B: *p* *f* *f* *pp*

97 S *fff* *dim.* *p*

A *fff* *dim.* *p*

T *fff* *dim.* *p*

B *fff* *dim.* *p*

108 S *dolce* *mf*

A *mf*

T *mf*

B *mf*

117 S

A

T

B

124 S *f*

A *f* 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6

T *f* 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6

B *f*

130

S

A

T

B

136

S

A

T

B

143

S

A

T

B

150

S

A

T

B

# Premier Quatuor, Opus 53

## 2e Partie: Adagio

J.B. Singelée - 1857

**Adagio sostenuto** *dolce*

Soprano *p*

Alto *p*

Tenor *p*

Baritone *p*

9

S *p*

A *p*

T *p*

B *p*

16

S *cresc.* - - - - - *ff* *p*

A *cresc.* - - - - - *ff* *p*

T *cresc.* - - - - - *ff* *p*

B *cresc.* - - - - - *ff* *p*

25

S *ff* *p*

A *ff* *p*

T *ff* *p*

B *ff* *p*

35

S *p* *p*

A *p* *p*

T *p* *dolce* *p*

B *p* *p*

44

S *p*

A *p*

T *p* *p*

B *p*

52

S *p* *p*

A *p* *p*

T *p* *p*

B *p* *p*

63

S *cresc.* - - - - - *f* *p*

A *cresc.* - - - - - *f* *dolce* *p*

T *cresc.* - - - - - *f* *p*

B *cresc.* - - - - - *f* *p*

74

S

A

T

B

*p*

82

S

A

T

B

*p* *cresc.* *ff* *f* *divisi*

93

S

A

T

B

*dolce* *p* *dim.* *pp* *dim.* *p* *pp* *dim.* *p* *pp* *dim.* *p* *pp*

## Premier Quatour, Opus 53

## 3e Partie: Scherzo

J.B. Singelée - 1857

Allegro vivace

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Baritone

S

A

T

B

27

S

A

T

B

TRIO

Meno mosso

dolce

40

S

A

T

B

54

S

A

T

B

68

S

A

T

B

82

S

A

T

B

97

Tempo primo

S

A

T

B

110

S

A

T

B

*p* *p* *p*

124

S

A

T

B

*p* *p* *p*

138

S

A

T

B

*p* *cresc.* *f* *ff*

# Premier Quatuor, Opus 53

## 4e Partie: Final

J.B. Singlée - 1857

**Allegretto**

Soprano  
Alto  
Tenor  
Baritone

*mf* *mf* *mf* *mf*

12 *f* *f* *f* *f*

24 *dolce* *p* *dolce* *p* *cresc.* *cresc.* *cresc.*

34 *p* *p* *p* *p*

44

44

Soprano (S): *p*

Alto (A): *p*

Tenor (T): *p*

Bass (B): *p*

Measures 44-55. This system contains four staves. The Soprano staff has a melodic line with a *p* dynamic. The Alto staff features a complex rhythmic pattern with triplets and a *p* dynamic. The Tenor staff has a melodic line with a *p* dynamic. The Bass staff has a melodic line with a *p* dynamic. A double bar line is at the end of measure 55.

56

56

Soprano (S): *p*

Alto (A): *p*

Tenor (T): *p*

Bass (B): *p*

Measures 56-68. This system contains four staves. The Soprano staff has a melodic line with a *p* dynamic. The Alto staff has a melodic line with a *p* dynamic. The Tenor staff has a melodic line with a *p* dynamic. The Bass staff has a melodic line with a *p* dynamic. A double bar line is at the end of measure 68.

69

69

Soprano (S): *p*

Alto (A): *p*

Tenor (T): *p*

Bass (B): *p*

Measures 69-79. This system contains four staves. The Soprano staff has a melodic line with a *p* dynamic. The Alto staff has a complex rhythmic pattern with triplets and a *p* dynamic. The Tenor staff has a melodic line with a *p* dynamic. The Bass staff has a melodic line with a *p* dynamic. A double bar line is at the end of measure 79.

80

80

Soprano (S): *cresc.*

Alto (A): *cresc.*

Tenor (T): *cresc.*

Bass (B): *cresc.*

Measures 80-84. This system contains four staves. The Soprano staff has a melodic line with a *cresc.* dynamic. The Alto staff has a complex rhythmic pattern with triplets and a *cresc.* dynamic. The Tenor staff has a melodic line with a *cresc.* dynamic. The Bass staff has a melodic line with a *cresc.* dynamic.

90

S *f*

A *f*

T *f*

B *f*

99

S *p* *cresc.* *p* *dolce*

A *p* *cresc.* *p*

T *p* *cresc.* *p*

B *p* *cresc.* *p*

111

S *f* *p* *cresc.*

A *f* *p* *cresc.*

T *f* *p* *cresc.*

B *f* *p* *cresc.*

123

S *p* *dolce*

A *p*

T *p*

B *p*

136

Soprano (S): *p*

Alto (A): *dolce*, *p*

Tenor (T): *p*

Bass (B): *p*

148

Soprano (S): *cresc.*, *p*

Alto (A): *cresc.*, *p*

Tenor (T): *cresc.*, *p*

Bass (B): *cresc.*, *p*

158

Soprano (S): *p*

Alto (A): *p*

Tenor (T): *p*

Bass (B): *p*

171

Soprano (S): *p*

Alto (A): *p*

Tenor (T): *p*

Bass (B): *p*

185

Soprano (S): *p*

Alto (A): *p*

Tenor (T): *p*

Bass (B): *p*

196

Soprano (S): *p*

Alto (A): *p*

Tenor (T): *p*

Bass (B): *p*

205

Soprano (S): *f*, *ff*

Alto (A): *f*, *ff*

Tenor (T): *f*, *ff*

Bass (B): *f*, *ff*