

Zhou Tian

## CONCERTO

for alto saxophone and wind ensemble

(2026)

I. Concrete Love

II. Courtyard

III. Arcade

Duration: ca. 22 minutes

### Instrumentation\*

Piccolo

2 Flutes

2 Oboes

Clarinet in E-flat

3 Clarinets in B-flat

Bass Clarinet

2 Bassoons

Contrabassoon

2 Alto Saxophones in E-flat

Tenor Saxophone in B-flat

Baritone Saxophone in E-flat

Solo Alto Saxophone in E-flat

3 Trumpets in B-flat

4 French Horns in F

2 Trombones

Bass Trombone

Euphonium

Tuba

Contrabass

Timpani

Percussion (four players)

1. Xylophone, Vibraphone

2. Marimba (5-octave preferred), Snare Drum, Mark Tree, Bell Tree, Rainstick

3. Cymbals (suspended, crash), Woodblocks, Triangle

4. Bass Drum

\*The above represents the minimum instrumentation. Additional players for woodwinds (e.g. flutes and B-flat clarinets) and brass (euphonium and tuba) are recommended.

*Performance Materials & Licensing* **FirstEdition.us**

*Media Samples & Complete List of Works* **ZhouTianMusic.com**

Note: The composer's family name is Zhou and his given name is Tian. When only the composer's last name is listed, it should be listed as "Zhou." The full name should be listed as "Zhou Tian."

My saxophone concerto draws inspiration from architecture—not only from the designs of different cultures, but from the creative process itself. From the bold to the lyrical and the playful, the piece unfolds in three architecturally inspired movements:

I. *Concrete Love*

This is my love letter to the saxophone. Its large-scale form gives the feeling of standing before a soaring monument—bold and emotional, yet intimate at times. Two contrasting themes, one slow and one fast, are developed through variations across the movement. Though it reveals many personalities, it is constructed with a singular vision.

II. *Courtyard*

Slow with a gentle pulse, this music reminds me of sitting on an old bench in a lush courtyard—an oasis of green in the heart of a bustling metropolis.

III. *Arcade*

*Arcade* plays with its dual meanings here: strolling through a series of arches and columns—a Roman arcade—in a spirited chase; and, like an arcade game, the soloist and the ensemble engage in an energetic dialogue, shifting between cooperation and playful rivalry. Time to level up!

*Concerto for Alto Saxophone* was jointly commissioned by the universities of Michigan State (Kevin Sedatole), Arkansas (Chris Knighten), Arizona State (Jason Caslor), Baylor (Eric Wilson), Florida State (Patrick Dunnigan), Georgia (Nicholas Enrico Williams), Illinois (Kevin Gerald), Indiana (Donald J. McKinney), Louisiana State (Damon Talley), Michigan (Jason Fettig), Missouri–Kansas City (Steven D. Davis), Oklahoma (Caroline Hand), Texas (Jerry Junkin), Texas State (Caroline Beatty), and Wisconsin (Scott Teeple). I am especially grateful to Kevin Sedatole for leading this project, and to the outstanding saxophonists and band directors for their artistry and commitment.

— Zhou Tian

First performed on 9 April 2026, at Hill Auditorium in Ann Arbor, Michigan, (CBDNA North Central Division Conference), by Joe Lulloff, solo saxophone, with the Michigan State University Wind Symphony, conducted by Kevin Sedatole.

Transposed Score

Commissioned by the universities of Michigan State, Arkansas, Arizona State, Baylor, Florida State, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana State, Michigan, Missouri, Kansas City, Oklahoma, Texas, Texas State, and Wisconsin

# CONCERTO

for alto saxophone and wind ensemble

Zhou Tian

## I. Concrete Love

**3/4** **Maestoso** ♩ = 60 **2/4**

Piccolo

Flute 1 2

Oboe 1 2

Clarinet (Eb) 1

Clarinet (Bb) 1 2 3

Bass Clarinet (Bb)

Bassoon 1 2

Contrabassoon

Alto Sax (Eb) 1 2

Tenor Sax (Bb)

Baritone Sax (Eb)

SOLO ALTO SAXOPHONE

Trumpet (Bb) 1 2 3  
(2 players per part)

Horn (F) 1 2

Trombone 1 2

Bass Trombone

Euphonium

Tuba

Contrabass

**3/4** **Maestoso** ♩ = 60 **2/4**

Timpani

Percussion 1  
Xyl. Vib.

Percussion 2  
S.D. Mar. M.T.  
B.T. Rainstick

Percussion 3-4  
Cymb. W.B. Trgl. B.D.

*mf*

*f*

*pizz.*





## II. Courtyard

Tempo: *Slowly, with pulse* ♩ = 48

Time signatures: 3/4, 4/4, 3/4, 4/4, 3/4

**Flute** 1 2 *mp*

**Oboe** 1 2

**Clarinet (Bb)** 1 *p*  
2. *p*  
3

**Bass Clarinet (Bb)** 1 (Solo) *mf*  
2 *p*

**Bassoon** 1 *mf*  
2 *p*

**Contrabassoon**

**Alto Sax (Eb)** 1 2

**Tenor Sax (Bb)**

**Baritone Sax (Eb)**

**SOLO ALTO SAXOPHONE** *pp*

**Trumpet (Bb)** 1 2

**Horn (F)** 1 2

**Trombone** 1 2

**Bass Trombone**

**Tuba**

**Contrabass**

Tempo: *Slowly, with pulse* ♩ = 48

Time signatures: 3/4, 4/4, 3/4, 4/4, 3/4

**Timpani**

**Percussion 1** Xyl. Vib. *motor on*

**Percussion 2** S.D. Mar. M.T. B.T. Rainstick *p (blend in)* Rainstick

*pp ad lib. slow & soft*

Fl. 1 2

Ob. 1 2

Cl. 1 2 3

B. Cl.

Bsn. 1 2

SOLO A. SX. *mp espress.*

Hn. 1 2

Tbn. 1 2

B. Tbn.

Tuba

Cb.

Timp. 5

Vib. *pp*

Perc. 2

3/4 4/4 3/4 4/4 3/4 4/4

3/4 4/4 3/4 4/4 3/4 4/4

10 **4/4** **3/4** **4/4** **3/4** **4/4** **3/4** **A**

Fl. 1 2

Ob. 1 2

Cl. 1 *p*

2 3 *p*

B. Cl.

Bsn. 1 *mf*

2 *p*

A. Sx. 1 2

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

SOLO A. SX.

Hn. 1 2

Tbn. 1 2

B. Tbn.

Tuba

Cb.

10 **4/4** **3/4** **4/4** **3/4** **4/4** **3/4** **A**

Timp.

Vib.

Perc. 2 *pp*

### III. Arcade

**2/4** Allegro ♩ = 148

Piccolo

Flute 1 2

Oboe 1 2

Clarinet (Eb)

Clarinet (Bb) 1 2 3

Bass Clarinet (Bb)

Bassoon 1 2

Contrabassoon

Alto Sax (Eb) 1 2

Tenor Sax (Bb)

Baritone Sax (Eb)

SOLO ALTO SAXOPHONE

Trumpet (Bb) 1 2 3

Horn (F) 1 2

Trombone 1 2

Bass Trombone

Euphonium

Tuba

Contrabass

**2/4** Allegro ♩ = 148

Timpani

Percussion 1

Percussion 2  
S.D. Mar. M.T.  
B.T. Rainstick

Percussion 3-4  
Cymb. W.B. Trgl. B.D.

Bell Tree  
fast downward gliss

W.B. (med & high)  
Solo  
*f* *appassionato*

B.D. *f* dry & clear

A

Picc.

Fl. 1 2

Ob. 1 2

Cl. 1 2 3

Bsn. 1 2

Cbsn.

A. Sx. 1 2

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

SOLO A. SX.

Tpt. 1 2 3

Hn. 1 2

Tbn. 1 2

B. Tbn.

Euph.

Tuba

Cb.

A

Timp.

Xyl.

Perc. 2

Perc. 3-4

S.D. Solo  
*f*risoluto

3/4

15

Picc.

Fl. 1 2

Ob. 1 2

Cl. 1 2 3

Bsn. 1 2

Cbsn.

A. Sx. 1 2

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

SOLO A. SX. *ff*

Tpt. 1 2 3

Hn. 1 2 *f* *fp*

Tbn. 1 2 *f* *fp*

B. Tbn. *f* *fp*

Euph. *f* *fp*

Tuba *f* *fp*

Cb.

3/4

15

Timp.

Xyl.

Perc. 2 *p* *p*

Perc. 3-4 *p*

**B**

21

Picc. *ff* *energico*

Fl. 1 2 *ff* *energico*

Ob. 1 2 *ff* *energico*

E♭ Cl. *ff* *energico*

Cl. 1 *ff* *energico*

2 3 *ff* *energico*

B. Cl. *ff* *energico*

Bsn. 1 2 *ff* *energico*

Cbsn. *ff* *energico*

A. Sx. 1 2 *f* *energico*

T. Sx. *f* *energico*

B. Sx. *f* *energico*

SOLO A. SX.

Tpt. 1 2 *f* *energico*

3 *f* *energico*

Hn. 1 2 *f* *energico*

Tbn. 1 2 *f* *energico*

B. Tbn. *f* *energico*

Euph. *f* *energico*

Tuba *f* *energico*

Cb. *f* *energico*

**B**

21

Timp. *f* *secco*

Xyl. *f* *energico*

Perc. 2 *f*

Perc. 3-4 *f*