Rush

David Kechley

for the
West Point Saxophone Quartet

Recorded by the West Point Saxophone Quartet on
Faultlines, a compact disc available from the
USMA Band at West Point (www.usmaband.com)

Program Notes:

Rush was inspired by a radio broadcast of the West Point Saxophone Quartet, which I happened to hear while driving in the car. I was impressed by the new virtuosity of the group and its convincing performances of a number of chromatic, rhythmic, edgy, sorts of pieces. Writing this sort of piece appealed to me as a contrast to my previous quartet, *Stepping Out*. The idea of the opening (a seamless line of 16th notes beginning softly and growing) came to me early on, but I could not act upon it. It stuck with me though and in August 2002 when I was invited to be a resident at Bellagio, a retreat in Northern Italy, I was able to begin and complete the entire piece during that month. The title *Rush* is self-explanatory. Its tempo is relentless even during the more lyrical "chorale with protesting soloist" middle section and begins and ends with the same 700 notes!

David Kechley: BIOGRAPHY

Since the 1968 premiere of *Second Composition for Large Orchestra* by the Seattle Symphony, David Kechley has produced more than 70 works. Over 1000 performances have taken place throughout North America. Europe and other parts of the world, including those by the Cleveland Orchestra, Colorado Symphony, Minnesota Orchestra, North Carolina Symphony, Louisville Orchestra, Seattle Symphony, St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, Boston Pops, Kronos Quartet, Lark Quartet, Amherst Saxophone Quartet, Vienna Saxophone Quartet, and the United States Military Academy Band. His new Concerto for Guitar, Alto Saxophone, and Orchestra and new saxophone quartet, *RUSH*, were both premiered at World Saxophone Congress XIII at the University of Minnesota in 2003.

In 1979 Kechley was awarded a Fellowship by the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation and has twice received grants from the National Endowment for the Arts (1976,1979). Other recognition includes the 1994 Lee Ettelson Composer's Award for *In the Dragon's Garden*, 1980-81 Shreveport Symphony Composers' Competition for *Five Ancient Lyrics on Poems by Sappho*, First Prize Winner of the 1979 Opus I Chamber Orchestra Contest for Ohio Composers for *Concerto for Violin and Strings*, and the Twenty Fourth Annual NBA/William D. Revelli Memorial Band Composition Contest for *Restless Birds before the Dark Moon*. Kechley has also received grants from North Carolina Arts Council, Massachusetts Cultural Council, Barlow Foundation, commissions from The American Composers Forum Commissioning Program and continuous ASCAP awards since 1979. In 2002 he was invited to be a artist resident at Bellagio, a retreat run by the Rockefeller Foundation.

His sheet music is published by Pine Valley Press and available on recording from Albany Records, Reference Recordings, and Liscio Recordings. Discs exclusively featuring Kechley's music include In the Dragon's Garden, The Skylark Sings, and Winter Branches.

David Kechley was born in Seattle, received a Bachelors Degree in 1970 and Masters in 1974 from the University of Washington and completed a DMA in Composition at the Cleveland Institute of Music in 1979.

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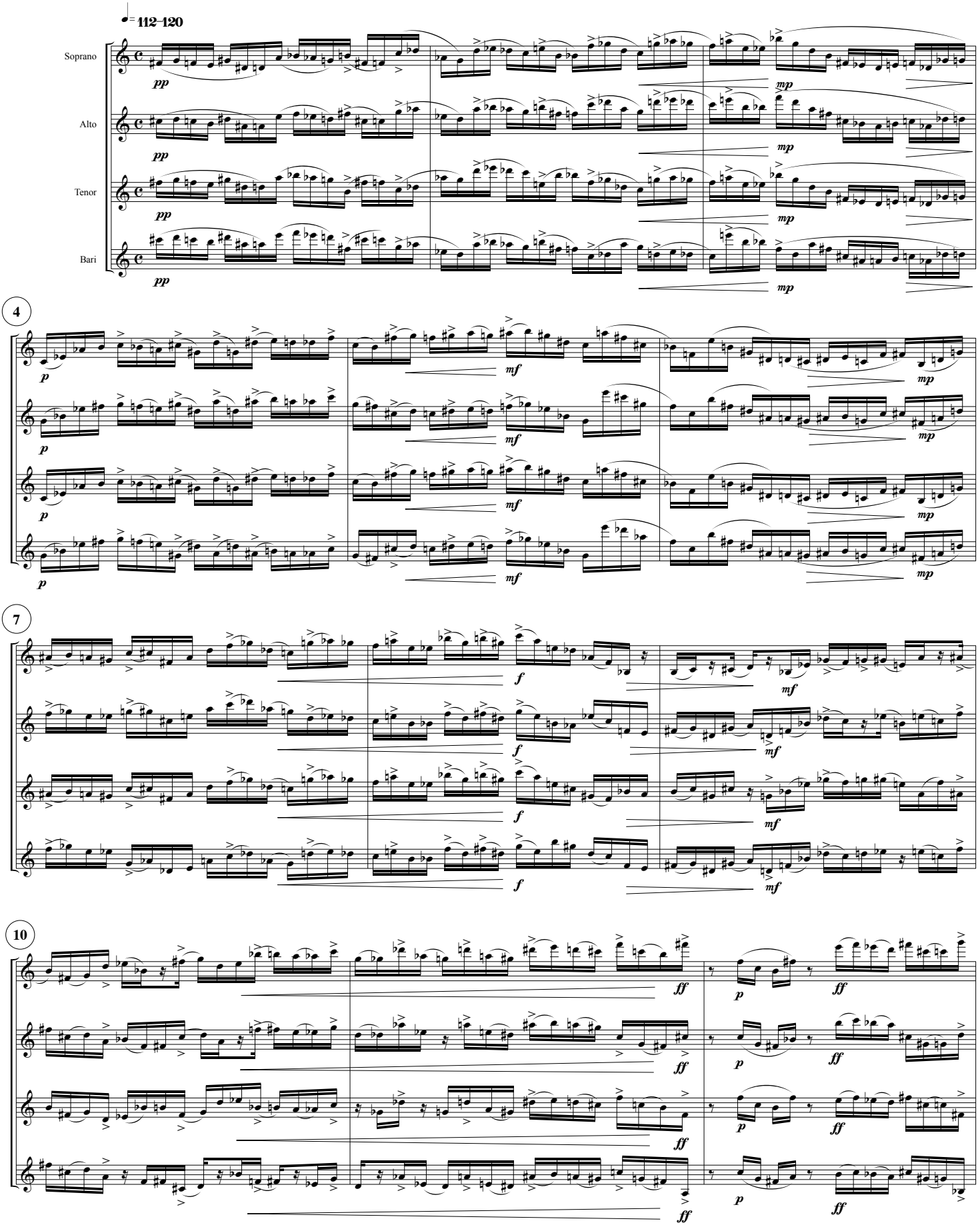

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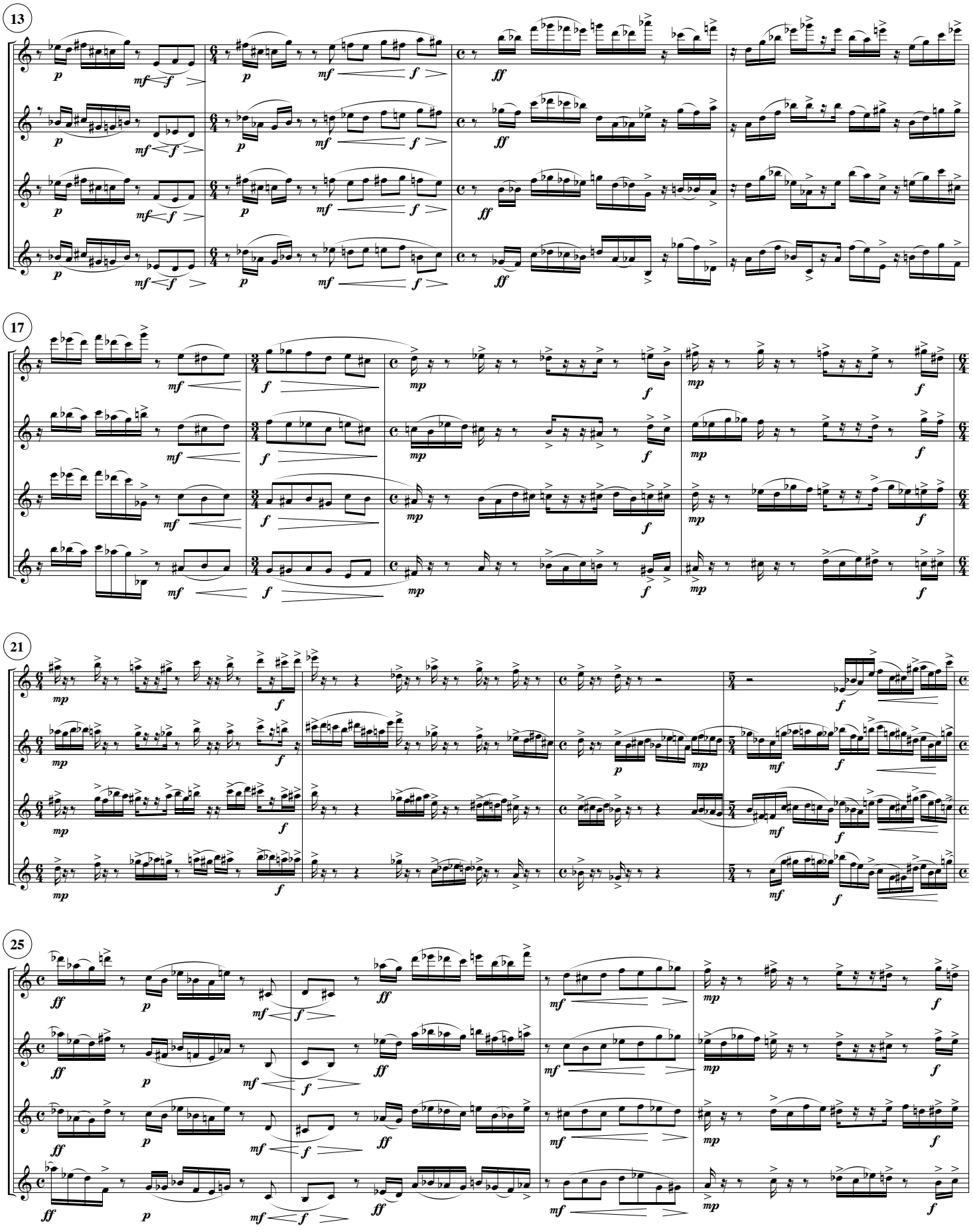

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