



## Preface

**Panta rhei** ('Everything is in flux') is the essence of the wisdom of the Greek natural philosopher Heraclitus of Ephesus (c. 540-480 B.C.). Remembered for sayings such as 'No one can step into the same river twice' – and for seeing 'eternally changing fire' as a symbol of the life force, Heraclitus considered it a 'Logos' or law of nature that 'All things are subject to continual change'. In an ancient civilisation where people attempted to gain control over things beyond their comprehension with magic rituals, totems, taboos and dances, the early Greek natural philosophers sought to explain natural phenomena without positing a God as the director of supernatural forces – and should thus be regarded as the true fathers of modern natural sciences.

These four mantras for saxophone quartet were devised in the area where independent and overlapping cultures overlap. *Mantras* in Hindu and Buddhist tradition are holy sayings, statements of central truths, 'uttered in thought and speech'. They are addressed to divine powers in veneration, prayer and meditation. A mantra consists mainly of repetitions of syllables and words. In *Panta rhei* each mantra is characterised by a specific underlying rhythmic gesture (that recurs in varied and cyclical form) which nevertheless conveys the sense of eternal flux.

First performance: 22 June 2008 at the *Casale* centre in Munich, Germany, by the saxophone quartet: Christian Segmehl (soprano), Junko Kufimoto (alto), Udo Schmitt (tenor), and Udo Schmitt (baritone).  
Duration: 16 minutes

### 1 Prelude

The quavers flow along with a firm undercurrent. The accents should be unobtrusive, with all the accents sounding clear and not over-emphasised. The dynamics should not be too contrasted or too starkly contrasted; the melodies should flow out of the quavers. The quavers should be played with a steady pulse. Take care to balance the chords so that none of the parts dominates. Play the 'vibrato rhythm' of the first mantra as a background. The first mantra emerges in a sustained note, purely through the use of vibrato.

### 2 Liquid Crystal

'Liquid Crystal' was inspired by the work of Otto Lehmann (1855 – 1922), a natural scientist far in advance of his time. He discovered the liquid crystal phase of matter, which led to the development of modern LCD screens. The music should be played with subtle rhythms; its tempo and phrasing should flow steadily. The accents should be clear and distinct, but the contrasts should not sound too harsh and abrupt, so that fluidity and continuity are maintained. The first mantra accents clearly in the dance rhythm 3+3+3+2.

### 3 The Spiral and the Egg (after Rudolf Schaubberger (1885 – 1956))

Rudolf Schaubberger was an Austrian forester and scientist who made major scientific discoveries prompted by his observation of the spiral and the egg. He identified the spiral and the egg (which can only be mathematically defined using non-Euclidean geometry) as symbols of life; he contrasted explosion (entropy as a law of nature) with implosion and the force of gravity.

The music has a bell-like pulse that is carried through numerous variations. A simple melodic fragment hovers over the other sounds among these precisely structured sounds.

### 4 Panta rhei

This is the focal movement of this little cycle: full of vitality, power and unstoppable force. The virtuoso running quavers form a continuous wavelike motion that should always produce the same kind of sound – whichever saxophone is playing. The middle section is a groovy staccato: it should not be played with a jazzy (i. e. ternary) feeling, though, but with strictly regular archaic rhythms, always with a positive drive.

Enjott Schneider  
Translation Julia Rushworth

Thomas Tomaschek und dem Saxophonquartett „panta rhei“ herzlich gewidmet

# Panta rhei

## Mantras für Saxophonquartett

### I. Prelude

Animato (♩ = 136-148)

Wolfgang Schuler  
1999

Sopransaxophon

Altsaxophon

Tenorsaxophon

Baritonsaxophon

The first system of the musical score shows the beginning of the piece. It consists of four staves for Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Baritone saxophones. The music is in 4/4 time and begins with a dynamic marking of *mp*. The notes are primarily quarter and eighth notes, with some slurs and accents.

The second system of the musical score continues the piece. It features more complex rhythmic patterns, including sixteenth notes and eighth notes, with various dynamic markings such as *mp* and *f*. The notation includes slurs and accents, and the piece concludes with a double bar line.

The third system of the musical score shows the continuation of the piece. It features a dense texture of notes, primarily eighth and sixteenth notes, with various dynamic markings and slurs. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Musical score for a piano piece, measures 16-24. The score is in 4/4 time and consists of four staves. A large diagonal watermark "PREVIEW" and "Low Resolution" is overlaid on the page.

Measures 16-20: The first staff contains a melodic line with slurs and accents. The second staff features a dense texture of sixteenth notes with slurs and accents. The third staff continues the melodic line with slurs. The fourth staff provides a bass line with slurs and accents. Dynamics include *mf* and *mf*.

Measures 21-22: The first staff has a melodic line with slurs. The second staff has a melodic line with slurs. The third staff has a melodic line with slurs. The fourth staff has a bass line with slurs. Dynamics include *mf*.

Measures 23-24: The first staff has a melodic line with slurs. The second staff has a melodic line with slurs. The third staff has a melodic line with slurs. The fourth staff has a bass line with slurs. Dynamics include *p* and *mf*.

33

36

40

49

mp

pp

53

57

a tempo

mf

a tempo

sf

66 rit.

69 a tempo

77

81

Musical score for measures 81-83. The score is written for four staves. The top staff contains a melodic line with a triplet of eighth notes in measure 81. The second and third staves contain rhythmic accompaniment with fingerings (1-5) and slurs. The bottom staff contains a bass line with slurs. The key signature has one flat and the time signature is 3/4.

84

Musical score for measures 84-86. The score is written for four staves. The top staff contains a melodic line with slurs. The second and third staves contain rhythmic accompaniment with fingerings and slurs. The bottom staff contains a bass line with slurs. The key signature has one flat and the time signature is 3/4.

Musical score for measures 87-90. The score is written for four staves. The top staff contains a melodic line with slurs. The second and third staves contain rhythmic accompaniment with slurs. The bottom staff contains a bass line with slurs. The key signature has one flat and the time signature is 3/4.