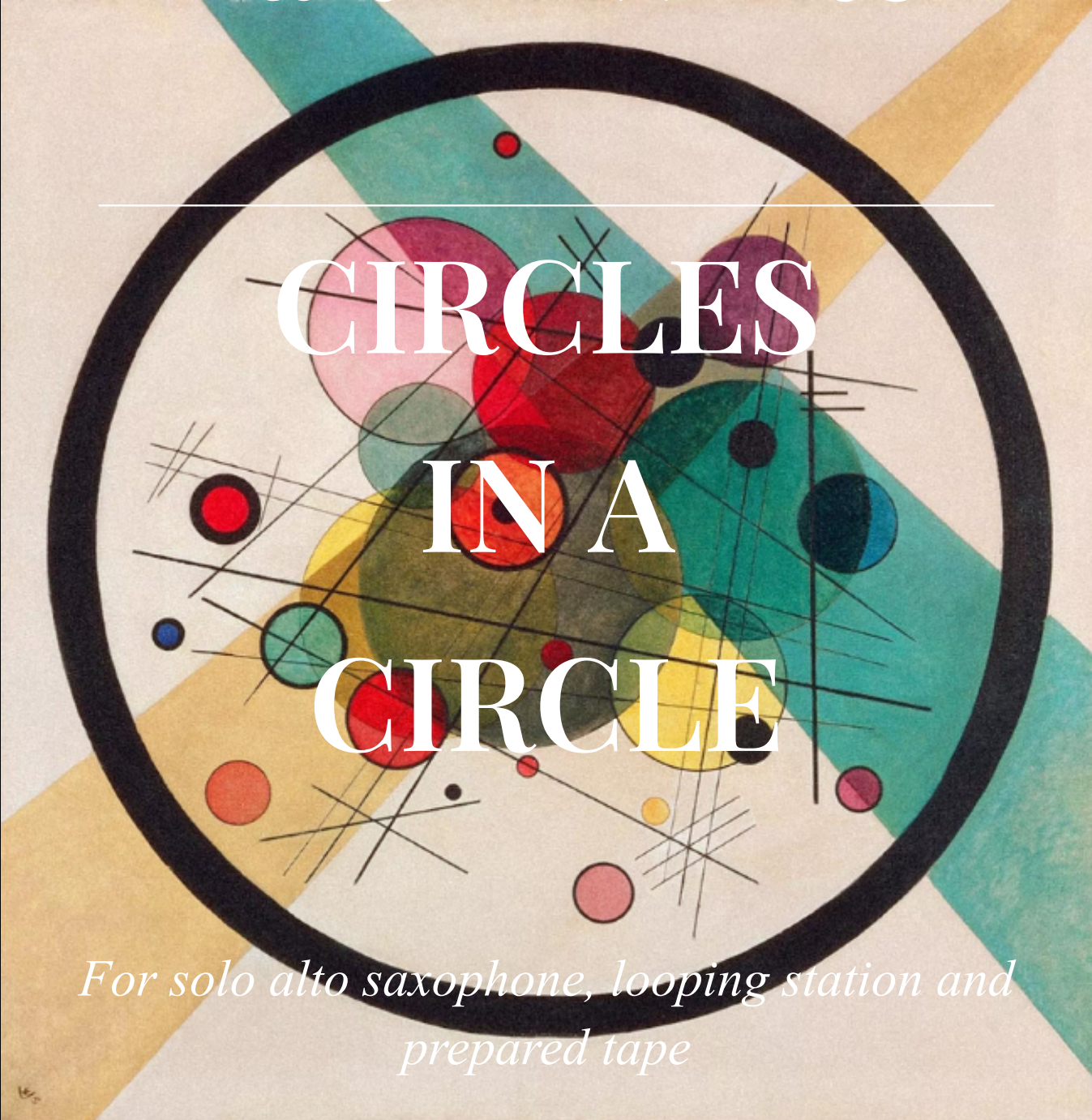


Kaitlin White



CIRCLES IN A CIRCLE

*For solo alto saxophone, looping station and
prepared tape*

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Circles in a Circle is based on Wassily Kandinsky's 1923 painting of the same name. With this piece, I wanted to entertain the idea that going around the Circle of Fifths is similar, if not the same, as going around the colour wheel. According to Kandinsky, the creation of every piece of art starts with a line that is born as a mere dot, which he saw as a circle, therefore, circles are the most basic shape (Lesso, 2022). **Circles in a Circle** was an experiment where I sought to create and blend as many sonic colours between the acoustic instruments and prepared tape that cause the harmonies to constantly evolve.

When hearing **Circles in a Circle**, it is meant to make listeners feel similar to when viewers see the inspirational source by Kandinsky and adopt many of the painting's characteristics, including the bold black ring around all the others, the smaller circles, the myriad of bold colours that mix when overlapped with each other and straight lines.

Throughout the piece, a continuous loop plays all 12 pitch classes consecutively in fifths as if going around the Circle of Fifths, signifying the black ring. The melody is composed of several arpeggios that are meant to depict the smaller circles and the colours within them, sometimes overlapping with each other, enhancing the harmonic texture, while the straight lines are depicted as the searing bell chime that pierces through the dense atmosphere.

Eventually, the fabric of harmony begins to thin, as if the circles and their vibrant colours are fading to nothing one by one until all that is left is the black ring which dies shortly after when there are no more colourful circles left to confine.

Transposed

Circles in a Circle

Inspired by on Kandinsky's painting

Kaitlin White

misterioso ♩ = 102

start backing
track
begins on
beat 1

start recording for
loop 1 on pedal 1
senza
vibrato

start recording
for loop 2 on
pedal 2 (m14)

Live Alto Sax

Pedal 1

Pedal 2

Pedal 3

Pedal 4

Tape

~ 0:38

start recording
for loop 2 on
pedal 2 (m14)

start recording
for loop 3 on
pedal 3 (m25)

Live A. Sx.

Ped. 1

Ped. 2

Ped. 3

Ped. 4

T.

2

Circles in a Circle

~ 1:13

stop recording
for loop 2 (m26)stop recording
for loop 3 (m37)

Live A. Sx.

Ped. 1

Ped. 2

Ped. 3

Ped. 4

T.

Live A. Sx.

Ped. 1

Ped. 2

Ped. 3

Ped. 4

T.

~ 1:49

start recording
for loop 4 on
pedal 4 (m38)

38

38

~ 2:24

stop recording for
loop 4 (m50)
NO MORE LOOPING!

Live A. Sx.

Ped. 1

Ped. 2

Ped. 3

Ped. 4

T.

50

50

pp *mp* *pp* *mp* *p* *mp* *pp* *mp* *p*

p *mp* *p* *mp* *pp* *mp* *p* *pp* *p*

mp *pp* *mp* *p* *pp* *mp* *p* *pp* *p*

p *mp* *p* *mp* *p* *pp* *p* *pp*

Timing is loose from now until the end of the piece

~ 3:02

Live A. Sx.

T.

62

62

p *mp* *p* *mf* *p*

Live A. Sx.

T.

71

71

mp *f* *p*

~ 3:49

Live A. Sx.

T.

78

78

mp *p* *mf* *p* *pp* *mf* *p*

4

~ 4:24

Circles in a Circle

Live A. Sx.

88

88

f *p*

Live A. Sx.

94

94

f *pp*

Live A. Sx.

100

~ 4:54

100

p *f* *pp*

Live A. Sx.

107

~ 5:14

107

mp *p* *mf* *mp*

Live A. Sx.

114

~ 5:35

114

f *mp*