

*Hymn* for saxophone quartet was written by Kati Agócs for the PRISM Saxophone Quartet in 2005, and is five minutes in duration. The arrangement for Saxophone Orchestra was made by Brandon Quarles in 2019. The piece works with the overtones of the saxophones, relying on the indeterminacy of the overtones' tunings, the volatility of the way that they speak in performance, and the complexity of timbre when they are multiplied by four and blended, creating a shifting pitch field that is both extremely fragile and rich with pungent microtonal gradations. The overtones are juxtaposed with "pure" lines (not expressed in harmonics) that sing lyrically, creating an analogy between the saxophones and human voices and presenting an opportunity for solos in the Saxophone Orchestra version. Every performance is different depending on the acoustics of the room, the instruments, and the players. The *Hymn* is infused with a sense of yearning for something that is just out of reach. In performance of the Saxophone Orchestra version, doublings are permissible and encouraged; an ensemble with half the numbers (8 saxophones plus optional contrabass) may also be used. When performing the arrangement, consider positioning Soprano I, Alto I, Tenor I, Contrabass and Baritone I together on one side of the stage with Soprano II, Alto II, Tenor II, and Baritone II on the opposite side of the stage. This arrangement was created with this "stereophonic" positioning in mind. If the contrabass is used, position the player in between these two "choirs."

- Kati Agócs & Brandon Quarles, 2019