

STEVEN SNOWDEN

STEAM MAN OF THE PRAIRIES

*FOR ALTO SAXOPHONE, PIANO
AND ELECTRONICS*

STEAM MAN OF THE PRAIRIES

COMMISSIONED BY SUNIL GADGIL

PROGRAM NOTES:

Steam Man of the Prairies was a dime store science fiction novel written by Edward S. Ellis in 1868 and is widely considered to be the earliest depiction of a humanoid robot in popular culture. Despite Ellis's rather clumsy writing style and overtly racist depictions of Irish immigrants and Native Americans, this novel provides an interesting perspective on the excitement surrounding innovations in steam technology and exploration of the Western United States in the late 1800's.

Just as the *Steam Man* represented the attainment of superhuman capabilities through the use of technology, this piece utilizes electronics to expand the sonic palate of the piano and alto sax. By limiting electronically produced sounds to only recordings of extended piano techniques (bowed, plucked, muted, and scraped) my goal was to create a sonic bridge between the timbres of the sax and piano in an attempt to create the illusion of a single super-instrument. As a means to take this sonic cohesion one step further, amplification of the electronic sounds in this piece forgoes a typical loudspeaker setup in favor small vibration speakers attached to the soundboard of the piano. This method allows the strings of the piano to vibrate sympathetically with the electronics and takes advantage of the instrument's natural acoustic resonance.

-Steven Snowden

Get technical info about running the electronics for this piece at
<http://www.stevensnowden.com/tech/>

STEAM MAN OF THE PRAIRIES

FOR ALTO SAX, PIANO, AND ELECTRONICS

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*J = 96
(empty bar)*

Like a prolonged scream

Alto Sax

Piano { *(empty bar)* *strum lowest 3-4 octaves of strings* *ff* *f*

Ped. _____

Gradually dissolving

Alto Sax

Pno. { *ff* *mf* *<f* *mf* *mp*

+456 (quarter-tone trill)

+Tf

Alto Sax

Pno. { *f* *mp* *3* *+Tf*

2

STEAM MAN OF THE PRAIRIES

8 (tr) (quarter-tone trill)

Alto Sax

Pno.

gradually lift pedal to hear individual dampers touch the strings

12

Alto Sax

Pno.

Silently depress pitches

* Sos. Ped. (hold down until M. 71)

19 Serene, but with a strong sense of anticipation

Alto Sax

Pno.

Ped.

25

Alto Sax

Pno.

STEAM MAN OF THE PRAIRIES

29

Alto Sax

Pno.

Ped.

Musical score for Alto Sax and Piano, page 32. The Alto Sax part starts with a dotted quarter note followed by a sixteenth-note rest, then three more rests. The dynamic is *p*. The Piano part consists of two staves. The upper staff shows a melodic line with grace notes and a dynamic of *mp*. The lower staff shows harmonic bass notes. The dynamic for the piano part changes to *pp* at the end.

Musical score for Alto Sax and Piano. The page number is 38, and the measure number is 40. The Alto Sax part starts with a dynamic of *mp*, followed by *ppp*. The Piano part consists of two staves: the upper staff shows a treble clef, and the lower staff shows a bass clef. The piano dynamic is *mp* for the first measure, *mp* for the second measure, and *pp* for the third measure. The piano part includes a bass line with eighth-note patterns. The vocal line "Ledo" is written below the piano staff.

STEAM MAN OF THE PRAIRIES

43

Alto Sax

Pno.

48

Alto Sax

Pno.

51 (8)

Alto Sax

Pno.

Pno.

STEAM MAN OF THE PRAIRIES

5

55

Match articulation and dynamics to short bowed piano sound in the electronics

Alto Sax

Pno.

58

Alto Sax

Pno.

61

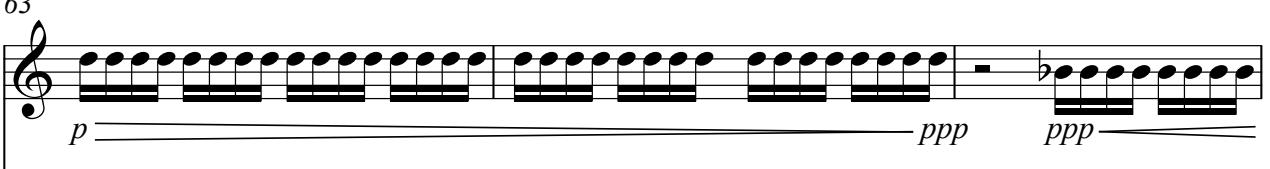
Alto Sax

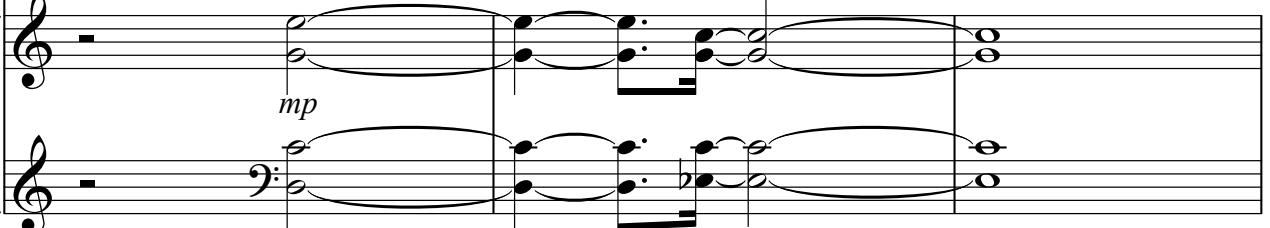
Pno.

STEAM MAN OF THE PRAIRIES

6

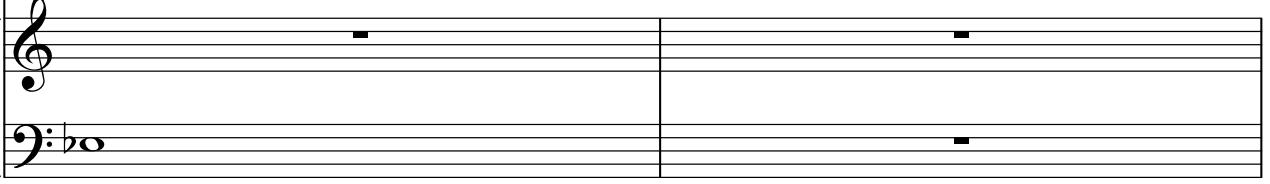
63

Alto Sax 

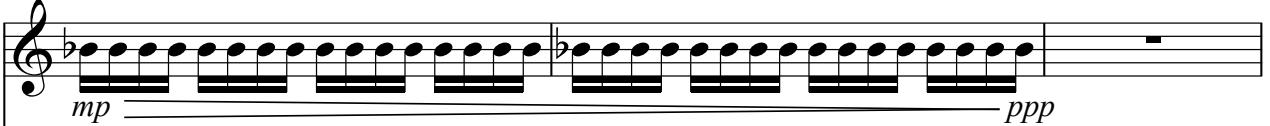
Pno. { 

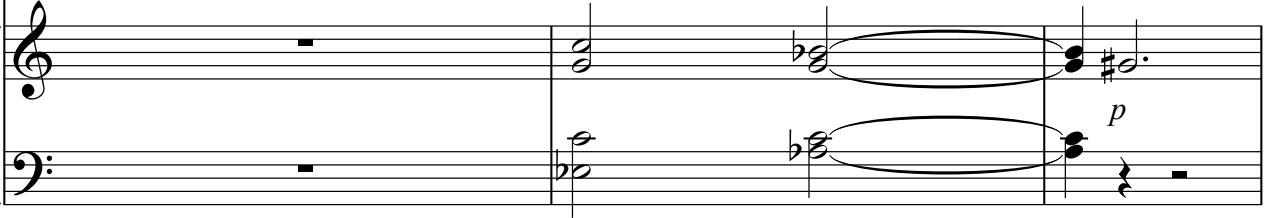
66

Alto Sax 

Pno. { 

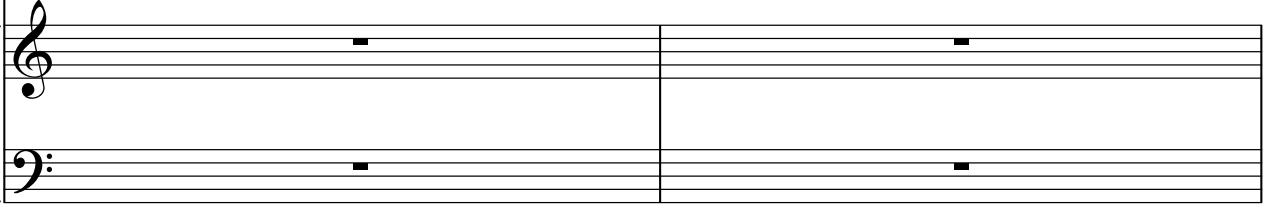
68

Alto Sax 

Pno. { 

71

Alto Sax 

Pno. { 

release Sos. Ped

STEAM MAN OF THE PRAIRIES

7

73

Alto Sax

Alto Sax: 8 eighth-note groups followed by a rest. Dynamics: *mp*, *pp*, *ppp*.

Pno.: Treble clef, *mf*. Bass clef, *mp*. Octave marker (8).

77

Alto Sax

Alto Sax: Rest, then 8 eighth-note groups.

Pno.: Treble clef, *ppp*. Bass clef.

Pno.

Treble clef. Bass clef.

80

Alto Sax

Alto Sax: 8 eighth-note groups followed by a rest. Dynamics: *p*.

Pno.: Treble clef. Bass clef.

Pno.

Treble clef. Bass clef.

82

Alto Sax

Alto Sax: 8 eighth-note groups.

Pno.: Treble clef, *ppp*. Bass clef.

Pno.

Treble clef. Bass clef.

STEAM MAN OF THE PRAIRIES

84

Alto Sax **85** $\text{♩} = 128$ ($\leftarrow \begin{smallmatrix} \text{♩} \\ \text{♩} \end{smallmatrix} \rightleftharpoons \begin{smallmatrix} \text{♩} \\ \text{♩} \end{smallmatrix}$)

pp

Pno.

Gradually accumulating rhythmic density

Alto Sax

3 3 3 3

ppp

Pno.

pp

90

Alto Sax

ppp

Pno.

p

95

Alto Sax

pp

Pno.

mp

mp

STEAM MAN OF THE PRAIRIES

9

100

Alto Sax Pno.

p ppp p

105

Alto Sax Pno.

pp pp

110

Alto Sax Pno.

pp p mp

112

114

Alto Sax Pno.

pp

STEAM MAN OF THE PRAIRIES

117

Alto Sax

Pno.

120

Alto Sax

Pno.

124

Alto Sax

Pno.

128

Alto Sax

Pno.

The musical score consists of four systems of music, each containing two staves: Alto Saxophone and Piano. The Alto Saxophone part is primarily characterized by eighth-note pairs, often with grace notes. The Piano part provides harmonic support, with dynamics ranging from *p* (pianissimo) to *pp* (ppianissimo). The score is marked with measure numbers 117, 120, 124, and 128.

117

Alto Sax

Pno.

120

Alto Sax

Pno.

124

Alto Sax

Pno.

128

Alto Sax

Pno.

131

Alto Sax Pno.

135

Alto Sax Pno.

138 A bit funky

139

Alto Sax Pno.

143

Alto Sax. Pno.

STEAM MAN OF THE PRAIRIES

147

Alto Sax.

Pno.

151

Alto Sax.

Pno.

155

Alto Sax.

Pno.

Escalating intensity
timbre trill
tr ~~~~~

pp ————— *mf* —————

159 (tr) 160 Bold, impassioned

This musical score page contains two staves. The top staff is for the Alto Saxophone, which starts with a dynamic of *p*, followed by a crescendo to *f*, and then a decrescendo to *mp*. The bottom staff is for the Piano, featuring sustained notes and a dynamic of *f*. Measure 159 concludes with a trill. Measure 160 begins with a dynamic of *f*.

162

This musical score page contains two staves. The top staff is for the Alto Saxophone, starting with a dynamic of *f*. The bottom staff is for the Piano, with dynamics of *p* and *mf*. The piano part features eighth-note patterns.

165

This musical score page contains two staves. The top staff is for the Alto Saxophone, showing eighth-note patterns. The bottom staff is for the Piano, with dynamics of *p* and *f*. The piano part includes eighth-note patterns and sustained notes.

STEAM MAN OF THE PRAIRIES

169

Alto Sax.

Pno.

(8)

mp *f* *mp* *f*

=mf *p* *f* *f*

173

Alto Sax.

Pno.

f *mf*

177

Alto Sax.

Pno.

f *mp* *f*

180

Alto Sax.

This musical score consists of two staves. The top staff is for the Alto Saxophone, which plays a sustained note followed by a melodic line. The bottom staff is for the Piano, featuring a bass line with sustained notes and a treble line with eighth-note patterns. Measure 180 concludes with a fermata over the piano's bass line.

Pno.

15^{ma}

182

Alto Sax.

This musical score consists of two staves. The top staff is for the Alto Saxophone, starting with a sustained note and transitioning to a melodic line. The bottom staff is for the Piano, showing eighth-note patterns in both treble and bass staves. Dynamics indicated are *mp* (measures 1-2) and *pp* (measures 3-4). Measure 182 ends with a fermata over the piano's bass line.

Pno.

(15)

mf

184

Alto Sax.

This musical score consists of two staves. The top staff is for the Alto Saxophone, which remains silent throughout the measure. The bottom staff is for the Piano, featuring eighth-note patterns in both treble and bass staves. Measure 184 ends with a fermata over the piano's bass line.

Pno.

(15)

STEAM MAN OF THE PRAIRIES

186

Alto Sax.

Pno.

(15)

mp

189

Alto Sax.

Pno.

(15)

p

pp

193

Alto Sax.

Pno.

(15)

ppp

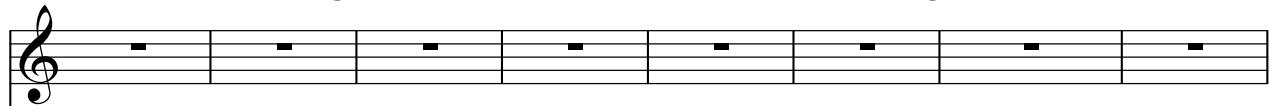
STEAM MAN OF THE PRAIRIES

198

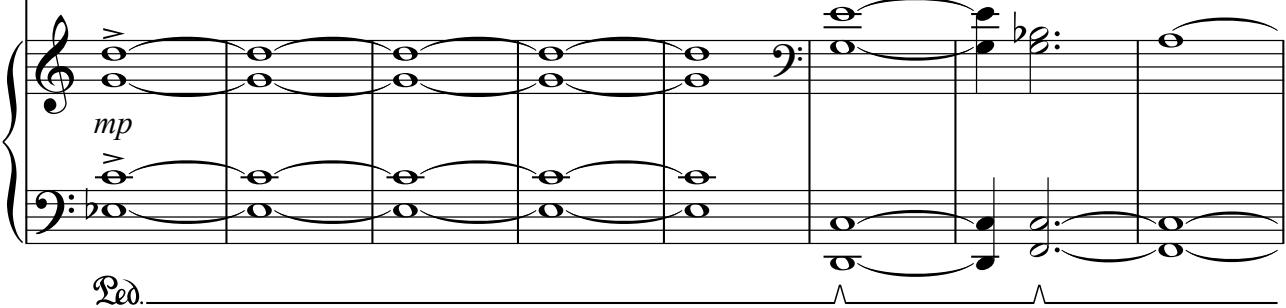
17

 $\text{♩} = 96$ Serene again, but this time with a sense of prolonged resolution

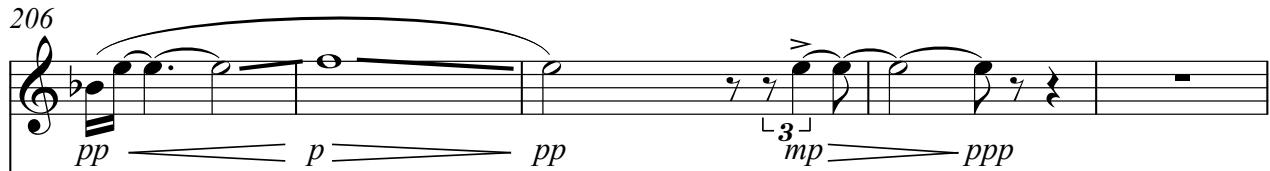
Alto Sax.



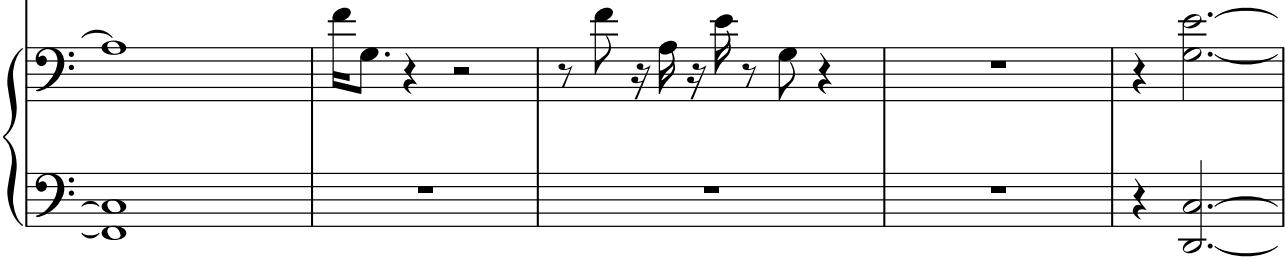
Pno.



Alto Sax.



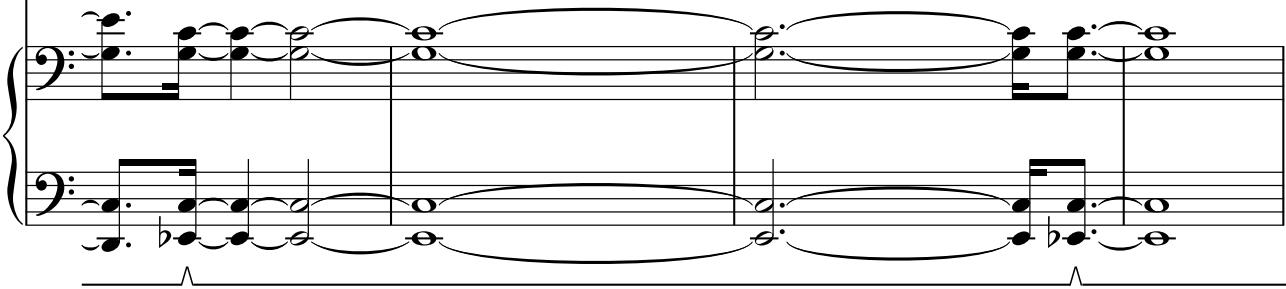
Pno.



Alto Sax.



Pno.



STEAM MAN OF THE PRAIRIES

215

Alto Sax.

Alto Saxophone part (measures 215-220):

Measure 215: Treble clef, dynamic *tr*, *tr* on the first note. Dynamics: *ppp*, *pp*, *mp*, *p*, *ppp*, *< mp*. Articulations: slurs, grace notes, accents.

Measure 216: Continuation of the melodic line with eighth-note patterns.

Measure 217: Continuation of the melodic line.

Measure 218: Continuation of the melodic line.

Measure 219: Continuation of the melodic line.

Measure 220: Continuation of the melodic line.

Pno.

Piano part (measures 215-220):

Measure 215: Bass clef, 8th-note chords in G major (B, D, G) and A major (C, E, A).

Measure 216: Bass clef, 8th-note chords in G major (B, D, G) and A major (C, E, A).

Measure 217: Bass clef, 8th-note chords in G major (B, D, G) and A major (C, E, A).

Measure 218: Bass clef, 8th-note chords in G major (B, D, G) and A major (C, E, A).

Measure 219: Bass clef, 8th-note chords in G major (B, D, G) and A major (C, E, A).

Measure 220: Bass clef, 8th-note chords in G major (B, D, G) and A major (C, E, A).

220

Alto Sax.

Alto Saxophone part (measures 220-225):

Measure 220: Continuation of the melodic line with eighth-note patterns, dynamics *pp*, *mp*, *pp*, *mp*, *pp mp*.

Measure 221: Continuation of the melodic line.

Measure 222: Continuation of the melodic line.

Measure 223: Continuation of the melodic line.

Measure 224: Continuation of the melodic line.

Measure 225: Continuation of the melodic line.

Pno.

Piano part (measures 220-225):

Measure 220: Rests in the bass clef staff.

Measure 221: Rests in the bass clef staff.

Measure 222: Rests in the bass clef staff.

Measure 223: Rests in the bass clef staff.

Measure 224: Rests in the bass clef staff.

Measure 225: Rests in the bass clef staff.

STEAM MAN OF THE PRAIRIES

19

223

Alto Sax.

Pno.

8va--

mf

trill speed slows as dynamic level decreases

226

Alto Sax.

fpp — n fpp — pppp > n fpp — pppp >> n

Pno.

(8)