

C.SAHASRA

(b.2005)

Flashes

Composed in 2025

(For saxophone quartet)

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About the Composer

Sahasra Chakkirala (b.2005) (She/Her/Hers) is a composer, classical guitarist, pipe organist, and educator based in Tucson, Arizona. Known for blending innovation with emotional depth, her music transports listeners into rich, multi-layered sonic worlds. With a distinctive voice that combines narrative-driven storytelling, minimalist textures, and inventive instrumental techniques, Sahasra invites audiences to experience music as a journey.

She is currently pursuing studies in Composition and Classical Guitar under the mentorship of Dr. Pamela Decker, Dr. Kay He, and Professor Tom Patterson at the University of Arizona. Throughout her academic career, she has showcased her versatility through solo and ensemble performances, as well as conducting choral ensembles across a range of skill levels. She has arranged and directed repertoire for middle school choirs, serving as a guest conductor and fostering musical growth in emerging musicians.

On classical guitar, Sahasra has performed extensively and participated in masterclasses with the renowned David Russell. She has premiered works by leading contemporary composers, including Olga Amelkina-Vera, and has been an active member of the Tucson Guitar Society Orchestra. As a composer, her original works for guitar orchestra have been performed nationally and internationally, including by the Glendale College Guitar Orchestra and the Essex Classical Guitar Society Orchestra in the United Kingdom. Her acclaimed trilogy *Stars*—featuring *Tracing Orion*, *Constellations*, and *The Sky Remembers*—exemplifies her immersive, story-driven approach to music.

A passionate educator, Sahasra operates a private studio teaching guitar across a wide range of styles and to students of all ages. She provides private composition lessons for K–12 students, emphasizing both the history and craft of music, and offers specialized instruction in counterpoint, focusing on 16th-century techniques. As a mentor and tutor, she cultivates creativity, technical skill, and artistic expression in her students.

Looking forward, Sahasra continues to expand her compositional horizons through collaborations with visual artists and multimedia projects while writing for guitar orchestras and solo instruments worldwide, establishing herself as a dynamic and visionary voice in contemporary music

Program Notes

Flashes for saxophone quartet is a study in sudden brilliance—brief bursts of energy, color, and motion that appear and vanish almost before they can be fully grasped. The piece draws its title from these fleeting musical gestures: sharp rhythmic strikes, quick exchanges between voices, and shimmering textures that illuminate the ensemble in constantly shifting ways. Rather than presenting themes in a traditional narrative arc, the work unfolds as a sequence of moments that ignite, flare, and dissolve.

Across the quartet, each saxophone captures a different facet of the “flash.” The soprano often introduces bright, high-frequency sparkles; the alto carries agile, darting figures; the tenor adds warmth and resonance to the unfolding patterns; and the baritone grounds the ensemble with bold, percussive entrances. These timbral contrasts allow the piece to move rapidly between intensity and stillness, building a mosaic of short-lived yet vividly defined ideas.

As the work progresses, the flashes begin to connect—small motives recur, intersect, and accumulate into increasingly cohesive currents of motion. By the final section, the ensemble reaches a dynamic convergence, where the rapid-fire gestures merge into a single, pulsing luminosity. Flashes ultimately celebrates the beauty of the instantaneous: the way a momentary spark can illuminate far more than its brief duration suggests.

Instrumentation -

Soprano Saxophone

Alto Saxophone

Tenor Saxophone

Baritone Saxophone

Flashes

For Saxophone Quartet

Composed by C.Sahasra
Composed in 2025

With emotion ♩ = 68

Soprano Saxophone

Alto Saxophone

Tenor Saxophone

Baritone Saxophone

8 A

S. Sax.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

14

S. Sax.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

20

S. Sax.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

24

S. Sax.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

mf

mp

mf

mp

mf

p

mf

p

31

S. Sax.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

B

mp

mp

mp

mp

39

S. Sax.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

44

S. Sax.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

48

S. Sax.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

C**With force** ♩ = 168

51

S. Sax.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

mf

57

S. Sax.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

mf

mp

mf

mf

63

S. Sax.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

68

S. Sax.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

74

S. Sax.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

80

S. Sax.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

85

S. Sax.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

sf

mf

sf

mp

mp

mp

91

S. Sax.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

mf

mf

mf

mf

96

S. Sax.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

sf

sf

102

S. Sax.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

sf

sf

sf

sf

106

S. Sax.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

sf

sf

sf

sf

sf

sf

sf

109

S. Sax.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

sf

sf

sf

sf

119 (a small pause)

S. Sax.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

sf *ff* *sf* *ff*

122

S. Sax.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

f *f* *f*

127

S. Sax.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

132

S. Sax.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

Measures 132-136. S. Sax. has rests in measures 132-133 and a melodic line in 134-136. A. Sax. has a continuous eighth-note pattern. T. Sax. and Bar. Sax. have eighth-note patterns with accents.

137

S. Sax.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

Measures 137-141. S. Sax. has a melodic line with a slur. A. Sax. has a continuous eighth-note pattern. T. Sax. and Bar. Sax. have eighth-note patterns with accents.

142

S. Sax.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

Measures 142-146. S. Sax. has a melodic line with a slur. A. Sax. has a continuous eighth-note pattern. T. Sax. and Bar. Sax. have eighth-note patterns with accents.

147

S. Sax.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

sf

152

S. Sax.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

sf

157

S. Sax.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

162

S. Sax.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

165

S. Sax.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

170

S. Sax.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

[illegible]

174

S. Sax.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

The musical score for measures 174 and 175 is written for four saxophones: Soprano Saxophone (S. Sax.), Alto Saxophone (A. Sax.), Tenor Saxophone (T. Sax.), and Baritone Saxophone (Bar. Sax.). The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). The time signature is 4/4. The score includes various musical notations such as eighth notes, quarter notes, half notes, and rests, along with dynamic markings like *sf* (sforzando). The Soprano Saxophone part features a melodic line with a half note and a quarter note. The Alto Saxophone part has a series of eighth notes and a half note. The Tenor Saxophone part includes a series of eighth notes and a half note. The Baritone Saxophone part has a series of eighth notes and a half note. The score is divided into two measures by a vertical bar line.

176

(a small pause)

S. Sax.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

sf

ff

sf

ff

sf

ff

179

S. Sax.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

The musical score for measures 179-182 is as follows:

Measure	S. Sax.	A. Sax.	T. Sax.	Bar. Sax.
179	Bb4	Bb4	Bb3	Bb3
180	A4	A4	A3	A3
181	G4	G4	G3	G3
182	F4	F4	F3	F3
183	E4	E4	E3	E3
184	D4	D4	D3	D3