

ALEX SHAPIRO

TIGHT SQUEEZE

For Concert Wind Band and Pre-recorded Soundscape.

Basic analysis for TIGHT SQUEEZE, from Alex Shapiro:

TIGHT SQUEEZE might best be described by the following suggestion: imagine Arnold Schoenberg, Henry Mancini, and Charlie Parker walking into a techno rave club in Havana. And, staying for at least three minutes.

On the heels of composing *PAPER CUT*, which pairs a wind band with not only an electronic track but a ream of printer paper, I knew I wanted to create another even more uptempo, groove-oriented piece that would be fun for fidgety teenagers with the attention spans of diabetic gnats. Okay, even fun for calmer musicians. Unexpectedly, that turned out to feature a twelve-tone row theme-- possibly the world's first for high school band, at least this far west of Vienna.

Here's the tone row theme, beginning at bar 7:

THE ROW: C D E^b F G^b A B^b G A^b B D^b E



The twelve pitches are first introduced in all their chromatic glory from bars 7-10, and the row reappears, horizontally only, in different key centers throughout the piece. I chose not to use the row vertically in favor of retaining full harmonic control.

In partial fulfillment of her Master's Degree through the American Band College of Central Washington University, in 2020, conductor and hornist Jean Flaherty launched an **online project** titled "*Literature for a Pandemic (and Beyond)*." *TIGHT SQUEEZE* is among the pieces she analyzed, and you can download the result in a .jpg image that can be zoomed in, **[HERE](#)**.