Dan O’Neill

Three pieces for Saxophone Quartet

Different Shades
Rothko’s Colours
An Ending

(2010)
ca. 13’
Programme Note

This Saxophone Quartet was completed in the winter of 2010 in preparation for a December concert. I chose to write the work in three separate short movements rather than one continuous piece. The reason for this was to create contrast between the individual movements. As with some other pieces I have written, there is an obvious influence of colour. The first and second movements take their titles from this subject. *Different Shades* provides slow colour changes and examines the mood that is created when these colours collide. The second movement, *Rothko’s Colours*, is dedicated to the American artist Mark Rothko, and contains very slow harmonic changes. The static blocks of harmony shift very slowly inside a dense texture. The pulsing sensation of the second movement links it to the final movement, *An Ending*, which develops a regular rhythmic pattern that is sustained throughout the piece.

Notes to Performers

All the accidentals hold through the bar unless cancelled by a natural sign.

Score is written in Concert Pitch with all parts sounding as written.