

# INTERVAL CLASS SUCCESSION GRAPHS IN EDISON DENISOV'S *SONATA FOR ALTO SAXOPHONE*

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## Abstract

This paper celebrates the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Soviet/Russian composer Edison Denisov (1929-1996) by examining the third movement of his *Sonata for Alto Saxophone and Piano*. In this movement, much of the pitch material is derived from two distinct twelve-tone rows, but a significant portion of the pitch material is not based on any row at all. The main focus of this analysis is the relationship of the two rows to each other, and the relationship of the serial and non-serial music. To this end, I will introduce an analytical tool I call the *interval class succession graph* (ICSG).

An ICSG is a simple, graphic way to represent the ordered interval class content of a twelve-tone row. Each of the graph's nodes represents a single interval class that occurs between adjacent pitch classes in the row, and these nodes are connected by arrows that show the successions of interval classes found in the row. An ICSG is intended to capture the full range of possible interval class successions in a twelve-tone row.

I will demonstrate how comparison of the ICSGs of the *Sonata's* two rows reveals a structural similarity that may be otherwise overlooked. This section of the paper will focus primarily on the inclusion relation between two graphs. Finally, I will show several analytical examples where the ICSG of one of the *Sonata's* rows is used in a non-serial context.