

ABSTRACT

CREATIVE PROJECT: An Analysis of Francis Poulenc's *Sextuor*, First Movement

STUDENT: Malorie Danielle Jessup

DEGREE: Master of Music in Piano Chamber Music/Accompanying

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Although Francis Poulenc, an early twentieth-century French composer and pianist, wrote works in many different genres, some of his most distinctive compositions were written for chamber ensembles. *Sextuor*, one of Poulenc's most extensive chamber works, demonstrates a variety of stylistic characteristics developed by Poulenc throughout his lifetime. Written for piano and winds, the harmonic, melodic, textural, and structural elements of *Sextuor* feature the influence of such diverse styles as Neoclassicism, experimentalism, and popular music of the twentieth century. A formal analysis of the first movement of *Sextuor*, followed by an detailed discussion of Poulenc's compositional techniques, will provide both the listener and the performer with a more informed and nuanced understanding of this work and Poulenc's musical style as a whole.