Six Degrees

for Split Chamber Ensemble

collaboration in the face of isolation

Ariel Sol Bertulfo Schwartz

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Instrumentation:

Six Degrees is written for chamber ensemble of open instrumentation with a minimum of two players. Musicians choose their part before performance according to the range and capabilities of their instrument. Each musician will need a stopwatch/timing device and streaming device (see "Use of Technology"). Though the piece is scored for 6 people, any staff/staves may be omitted. Staves may also be doubled if need be. Chord symbols are provided for those who wish to improvise; please take the written musical gestures as a guide. All instrumental parts and score are in C. If desired, the ensemble may have a conductor, though it is not necessary.

Six Degrees is dedicated to the medical staff and essential personnel fighting the COVID-19 pandemic.

A note from the Composer:

The self-isolation and quarantine measures required to combat the COVID-19 pandemic have forced many around the world to separate from their work, social lives, and usual activities. These changes, though necessary, can surely cause feelings of incredible loneliness and hopelessness. Despite these difficulties, the inherent nature of epidemiology points to an underlying wellspring of hope: viral spread is made possible only by the vast network of deeply meaningful human relationships that make up our world. We are susceptible because our sense of community, our fundamental interconnection, and our unflinching togetherness define us as a people and a species.

The idea of "six degrees of separation" is that all people are, at most, six social connections away from each other. These connections hold us steadfast through difficult times and even in isolation provide a network of support. Through *Six Degrees*, musicians are invited to engage their connections with each other and with their audiences in the hopes that even one person's day may brighten.

Performance Guide

Reading the Score:

Rather than using measure numbers, *Six Degrees* denotes sections of music with time stamps. The ensemble synchronizes clocks (see "Use of Technology") and begins playing at 0:00. Musicians play measure's written excerpt repeatedly until the next time stamp is reached. When a new time stamp is reached, musicians immediately transition to the new excerpt (leaving a repetition unfinished is okay). This process continues through the piece, ending once the 3:40 time stamp is reached. Musicians only need to synchronize timing, they do not need to be in the same tempo and should NOT try to synchronize their excerpts. The recommended tempo is between 100 and 126 beats per minute.

For those inclined to improvise, chord symbols are provided above each time stamp. Please use the written excerpts as a guide regarding the dynamic level, melodic contour, rhythmic density, and overall intensity of the section. If the ensemble chooses to have a conductor, that person will cue each time stamp for the musicians.

Use of Technology:

Six Degrees is designed to be performed and viewed via livestream or conference call. Each of the musicians stream video (live) to the audience at the same time. There are several possibilities for how to do this; below is an example method.

1. The ensemble decides on one time to start their personal stopwatches/timing devices. The timing devices must be able to display time in seconds. For this example, they start when the clock turns 12PM CST (aka 1PM EST, 2PM AST, etc).
2. Prior to this time, the musicians each set up livestreams (such as via Twitch) or a conference call (for example, Zoom). The decision of livestream vs. call will depend on the individual capabilities and needs of the ensemble: equipment, experience, internet speed, etc.
3. The audience views the streams (such as via MultiTwitch) or joins the conference call (on mute!) slightly before 12PM CST. Note: ensemble members will have to tell the audience how to view the performance.
4. At 12PM CST, the musicians start their stopwatches and the piece begins. If preferred, an ensemble member (or conductor) may count off or cue the beginning.

Please contact the composer with any questions.
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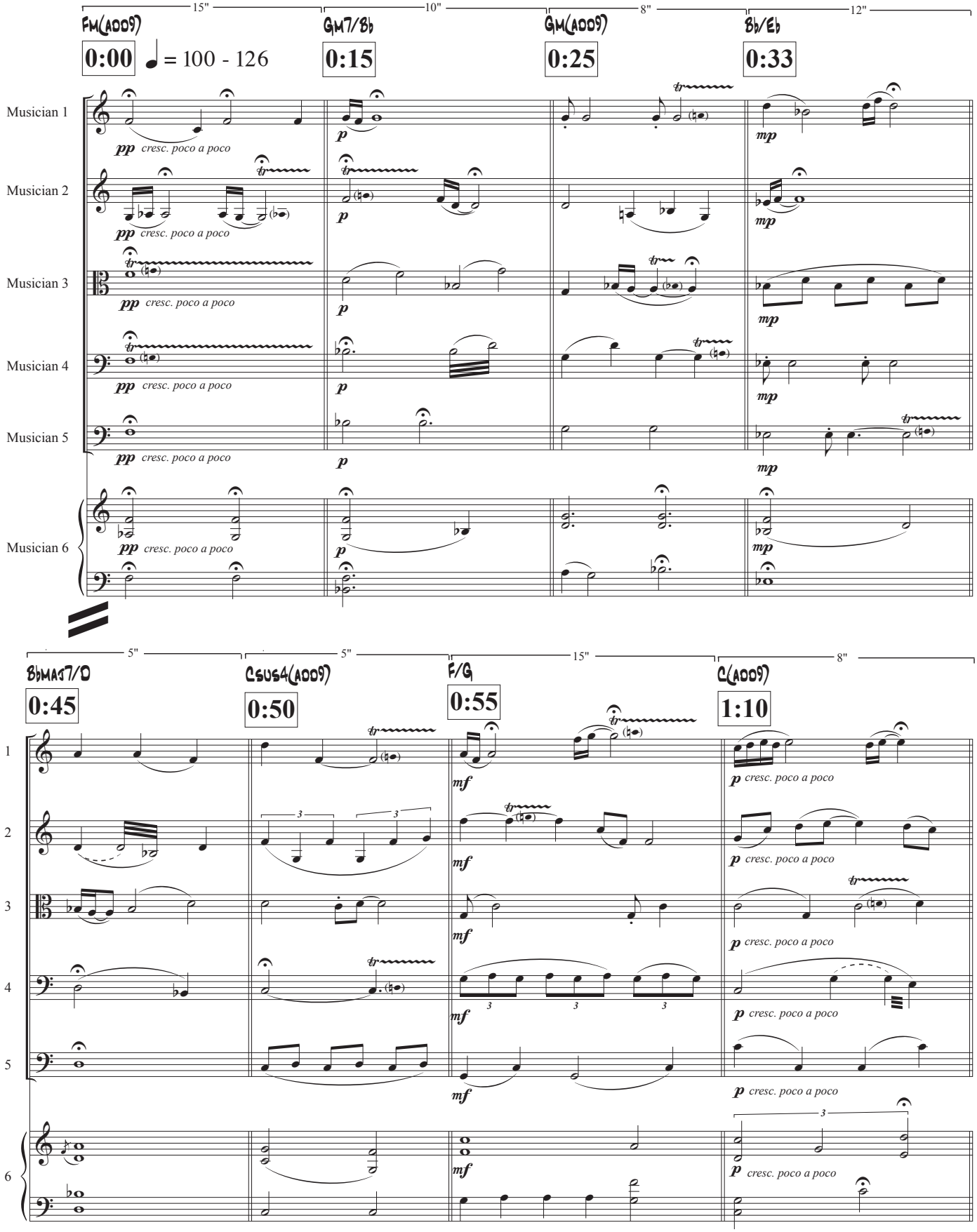
Score in C

Six Degrees

Ariel Sol Bertulfo Schwartz



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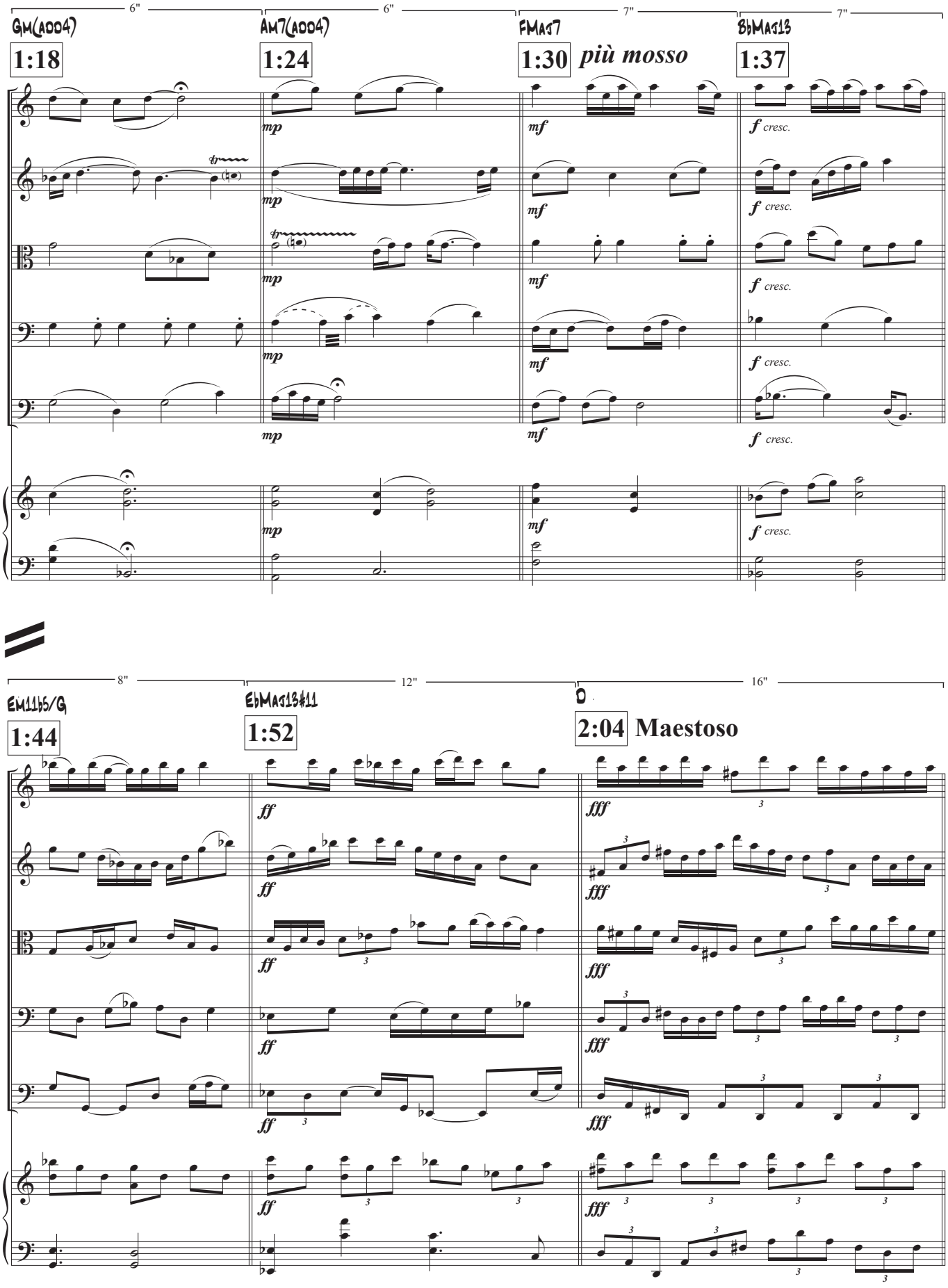
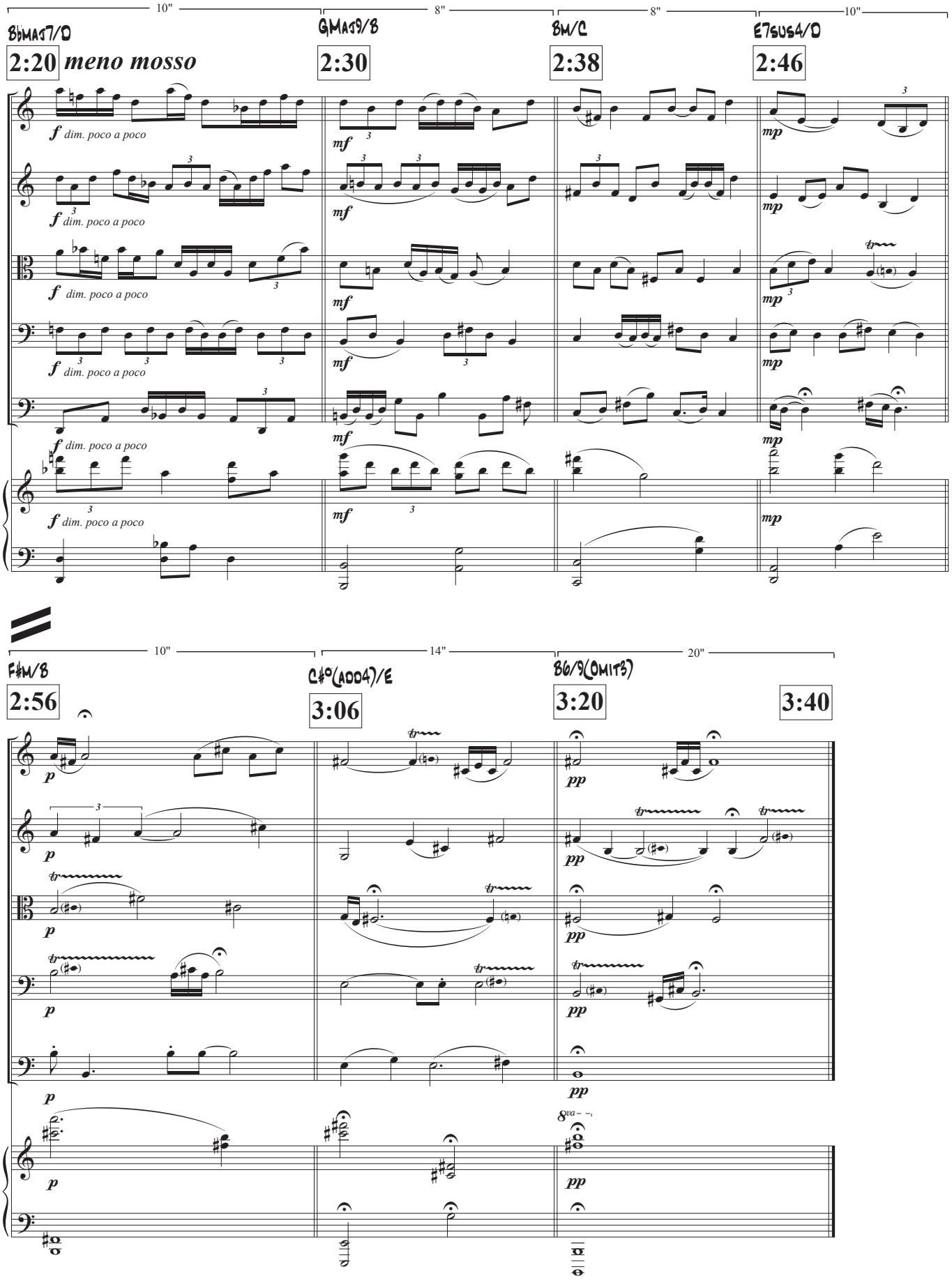

6"
6"
7"
7"
Gm(add4)
Am7(add4)
FMaj7
BbMaj13
1:18
1:24
1:30
più mosso
1:37
mp
mf
f cresc.
8"
12"
16"
Em11b5/G
EbMaj13#11
D
1:44
1:52
2:04
Maestoso
ff
fff


10"
8"
8"
10"
BbMAJ7/D
GMAJ9/B
Bm/C
E7SUS4/D
2:20 meno mosso
2:30
2:38
2:46
f dim. poco a poco
mf
mp
10"
14"
20"
F#m/B
C#o(ADD4)/E
B6/9(OMIT5)
2:56
3:06
3:20
3:40
p
pp
8va