

DECISIONS

For Six-Mallet Marimba Solo

BY

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PORTER
PUBLICATIONS

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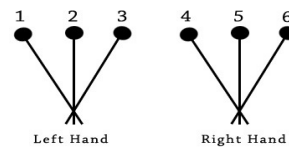
Program Notes

Decisions was written in August of 2012, after improvising at the marimba. I had just received my marimba, made by Doug Domorrow, and I wanted to write something to highlight its rich low end. The piece quickly came together, and it stemmed from the idea of making decisions. I think the mid-twenties is a time in life where we are faced with making many important decisions. One of the larger concepts in the piece is that of tension and release, which is typical for almost every decision that we make. As for the six-mallet technical aspect of the piece, I wanted to write an etude-like section that would isolate six-mallet independence, and further my technical growth. This passage happens near the end and uses a constant flow of piano-like arpeggios in the left hand with a melody in the right hand. The end result is a piece that is fun to play and extremely challenging!

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The length of *Decisions* is approximately 6.5 minutes.

Decisions



Score

for Six-Mallet Marimba Solo

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Expressive ♩ = 60

p *cresc.* *f* *p* *accel.* *cresc.* *rit.* *f* *dim.* *ff* *f*

1 2 3 Left Hand
4 5 6 Right Hand

5 10 14 17

2/4

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21

25

29

32

36

40

Freely ♩ = 70

44

47 $(\text{♩} = 85)$ *rit.*

50 **(With Momentum ♩ = 92 or faster)** *Recommended Sticking:* 6 4 6

53

56 6 4 6 4 6 4 6

59 4 6 4 6

62

65

102

Musical score for measures 102-104. The piece is in a minor key, indicated by two flats in the key signature. The melody in the treble clef consists of chords and rests. The bass line features a steady eighth-note accompaniment.

105

Musical score for measures 105-107. The melody in the treble clef includes a sequence of chords and rests. The bass line continues with a consistent eighth-note accompaniment.

108

Musical score for measures 108-110. The melody in the treble clef features a sequence of chords and rests. The bass line maintains the eighth-note accompaniment.

110

Musical score for measures 110-112. The melody in the treble clef consists of chords and rests. The bass line continues with the eighth-note accompaniment.

113

Musical score for measures 113-115. The melody in the treble clef includes a sequence of chords and rests. The bass line maintains the eighth-note accompaniment.

115

Musical notation for measures 115-117. The treble clef staff contains chords and rests, while the bass clef staff contains a continuous eighth-note accompaniment.

118

Musical notation for measures 118-120. Similar to the previous system, with chords in the treble and eighth-note accompaniment in the bass.

121

Musical notation for measures 121-123. Includes "cresc." markings in both staves.

124

Musical notation for measures 124-126. Includes a fermata in the bass staff.

127

Musical notation for measures 127-129. Includes a "ff" marking in the bass staff.

() = May not be practical on some marimbas **ff**

130

Musical notation for measures 130-131. Treble clef with a key signature of two flats. Bass clef with a key signature of two flats. Measure 130 contains chords in the treble and eighth notes in the bass. Measure 131 continues with similar patterns.

rit. -----

132

Musical notation for measures 132-134. Treble clef with a key signature of two flats. Bass clef with a key signature of two flats. Measure 132 has chords in the treble and eighth notes in the bass. Measure 133 has chords in the treble and eighth notes in the bass. Measure 134 has a whole note chord in the treble and eighth notes in the bass. A dashed line above the staff indicates a ritardando.

Understanding (♩. = 110)

135

Musical notation for measures 135-138. Treble clef with a key signature of two flats. Bass clef with a key signature of two flats. Measure 135 has chords in the treble and eighth notes in the bass. Measure 136 has chords in the treble and eighth notes in the bass. Measure 137 has chords in the treble and eighth notes in the bass. Measure 138 has chords in the treble and eighth notes in the bass. A dynamic marking of *mp* is present.

139

Musical notation for measures 139-142. Treble clef with a key signature of two flats. Bass clef with a key signature of two flats. Measure 139 has chords in the treble and eighth notes in the bass. Measure 140 has chords in the treble and eighth notes in the bass. Measure 141 has chords in the treble and eighth notes in the bass. Measure 142 has chords in the treble and eighth notes in the bass.

143

Musical notation for measures 143-146. Treble clef with a key signature of two flats. Bass clef with a key signature of two flats. Measure 143 has chords in the treble and eighth notes in the bass. Measure 144 has chords in the treble and eighth notes in the bass. Measure 145 has chords in the treble and eighth notes in the bass. Measure 146 has chords in the treble and eighth notes in the bass.

147

Musical notation for measures 147-150. Treble clef with a key signature of two flats. Bass clef with a key signature of two flats. Measure 147 has chords in the treble and eighth notes in the bass. Measure 148 has chords in the treble and eighth notes in the bass. Measure 149 has chords in the treble and eighth notes in the bass. Measure 150 has chords in the treble and eighth notes in the bass. A dashed line above the staff indicates a ritardando.