

56 Shapes

For two fretted, stringed instruments with intervals of a perfect fourth between each string.

Duration: variable.

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56 Shapes

For two fretted, stringed instruments, with intervals of a Perfect Fourth between each string. (A bass in regular tuning EADG, a guitar tuned EADGCF, etc.)

Each movement consists of a duo with the two instruments playing, one a bar behind the other. Players may start a movement anywhere on the fretboard. The first note of each two-bar phrase repeats the last note of the previous phrase. For each phrase, players may create a shape in any direction on the fretboard that permits the completion of the shapes required.

Each shape consists of two bars. The bars have a length of $x - 1$ beats where x = the number of notes used to make the whole shape. The first bar consists of one note per beat; the second bar consists of one note for the length of the bar.

As one player starts a bar later than the other, one player will be holding a note for a whole bar while the other plays one note per beat.

For example the 'L Shape' movement consists of two bars each consisting of three beats. In the first bar, play three notes, one on each beat; in the second bar, play one note, held for three beats.

Players have control over tempo and how to transition between movements as well as how to end the piece. Ideally each performer plays each of the possible shapes at least once in each movement.

Movement 1. L

Two bars of three beats each. The number four represents the first beat of the second bar, held for three beats.) Sixteen possible options:

4	4	1	1
1 2 3	3 2 1	4 3 2	2 3 4

1 2 3	3 2 1	4 3 2	2 3 4
4	4	1	1

4	4	1	1
3	3	2	2
1 2	2 1	4 3	3 4

1 2	2 1	4 3	3 4
3	3	2	2
4	4	1	1

Movement 2. V

Two bars of two beats each, moving diagonally. The number three represents the first beat of the second bar, held for two beats. Eight possible options:

2	2	3	3	1	1
1 3	1 3	3 1	3 1	2	2
	2		2	1	1
				3	3

Movement 3. I

Two bars of one beat each. Four options:

1 2	2 1	2	1
		1	2