

DAVID MATTHEWS

String Quartet No. 6

(1991)

SCORE

Preview File Only

FABER *ff* MUSIC

String Quartet No. 6 was commissioned by the Little Missenden Festival funded jointly by the friends of the Festival and the Buckinghamshire Arts Association.

The first performance was given by the Brindisi String Quartet at the Little Missenden Festival on 19 October 1991

The work is recorded by the Brindisi String Quartet on Metronome MET CD 1005-01

Duration: c.14 minutes

PROGRAMME NOTE

1. *Allegro moderato e flessibile*

2. *Adagio*

3. *Allegro energico*

When a friend of mine, the art critic Peter Fuller, was killed in a car accident in April 1990, I composed a short piece for string quartet which was later played at his memorial service. This piece forms the basis of the central slow movement of the present Quartet. The original piece survives more or less intact, but I enclosed it within a rhetorical frame, and at two points I introduced new developmental material.

The outer movements both derive their thematic material from the slow movement. Both are in sonata form. Much of the first movement is contemplative in character, though its second subject is a fierce chordal passage. In the last movement the main contrast is between the energy of the opening and the overt lyricism of the second group. The development precipitates a crisis, where a theme from the slow movement returns, high on the cello. The ending is, I hope, a reaffirmation of vitality.

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String Quartet No. 6

I

David Matthews
op. 56

Allegro moderato e flessibile (♩ = c.108)

Musical score for Violin I, Violin II, Viola, and Violoncello, measures 1-6. The score is in 3/4 time. Violin I and II have dynamics *p* and *mf*. Viola and Violoncello are mostly silent.

Musical score for Violin I, Violin II, Viola, and Violoncello, measures 7-11. The score is in 3/4 time. Violin I and II have dynamics *mf* and *espr.*. Viola and Violoncello have dynamics *p* and *mf*.

Musical score for Violin I, Violin II, Viola, and Violoncello, measures 12-15. The score is in 3/4 time. Violin I and II have dynamics *pp* and *ppp*. Viola and Violoncello have dynamics *pp dolce espr.*, *p*, *mf > p*, and *ppp*.

II

Adagio (♩ = c.48)

Musical score for Violin I, Violin II, Viola, and Violoncello, measures 1-3. The score is in 2/4 time and features dynamic markings such as *ffp* and *ff*. A trill is indicated above the first measure of the Violin I part.

Musical score for Violin I, Violin II, Viola, and Violoncello, measures 4-6. The score includes dynamic markings like *ffp*, *ff*, and *ff molto appassion.*. A trill is marked above the first measure of the Violin I part, and *pizz.* (pizzicato) is indicated for the Violin II and Violoncello parts.

Musical score for Violin I, Violin II, Viola, and Violoncello, measures 7-9. The score includes dynamic markings such as *ff*, *pp teneramente*, *p*, and *cresc.*. The instruction *arco con sord.* (arco with mutes) is present for all parts. A trill is marked above the first measure of the Violin I part.

III

Allegro energico ($\text{♩} = \text{c.}100$)

sulla corda

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Violoncello

(arco) *p*

(nat.) *p*

p

p

sulla corda

sulla corda

5

sulla corda

mf

mf

mf

mf

sulla corda

10

sulla corda

f

f

f

f

14

sulla corda

18

ff

ff

ff

dim.

23

f

f

sf

f

f

sf

27

f

sf

f

sf

f