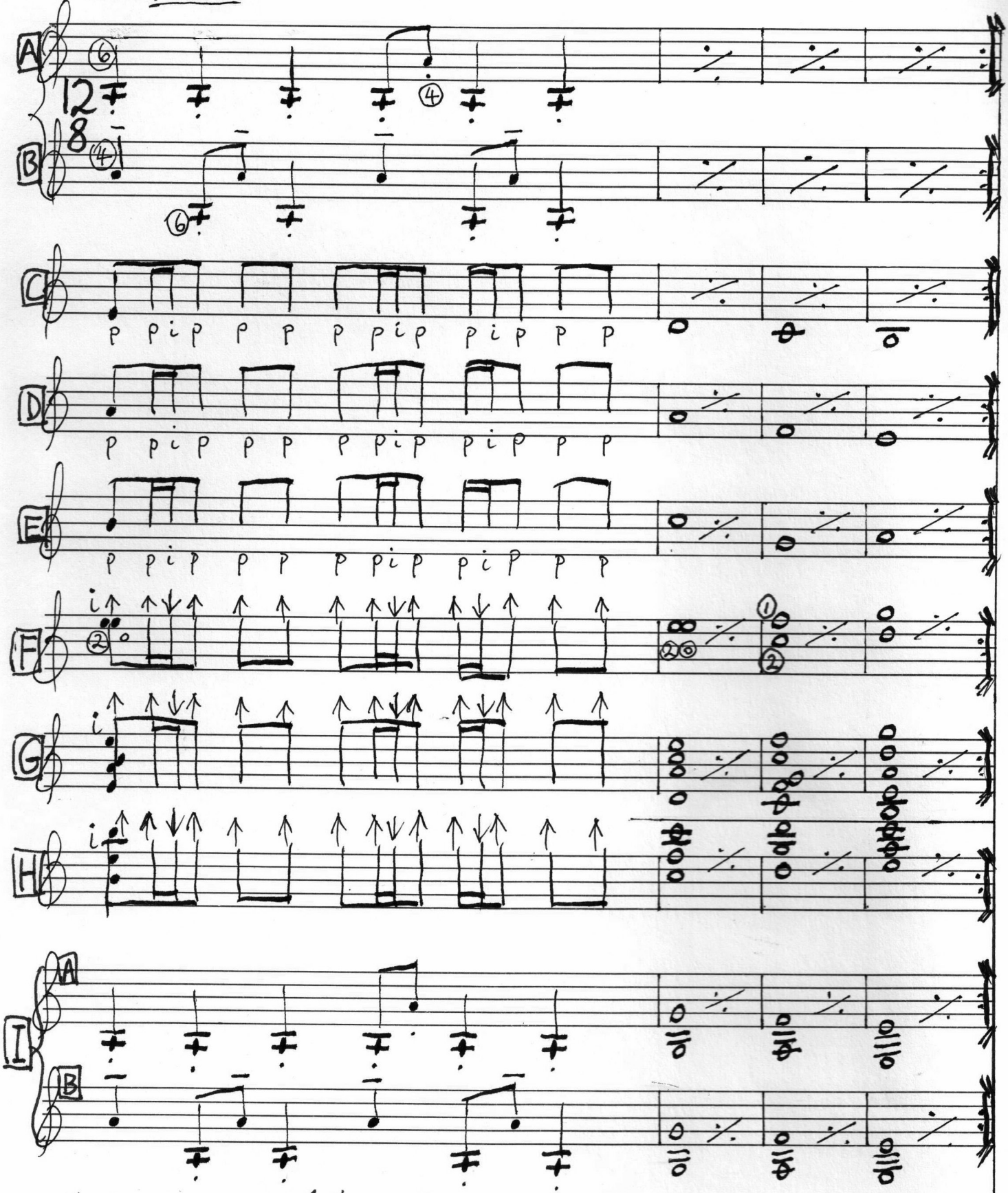
MUSHA STUDY for ensemble

John Williams ©

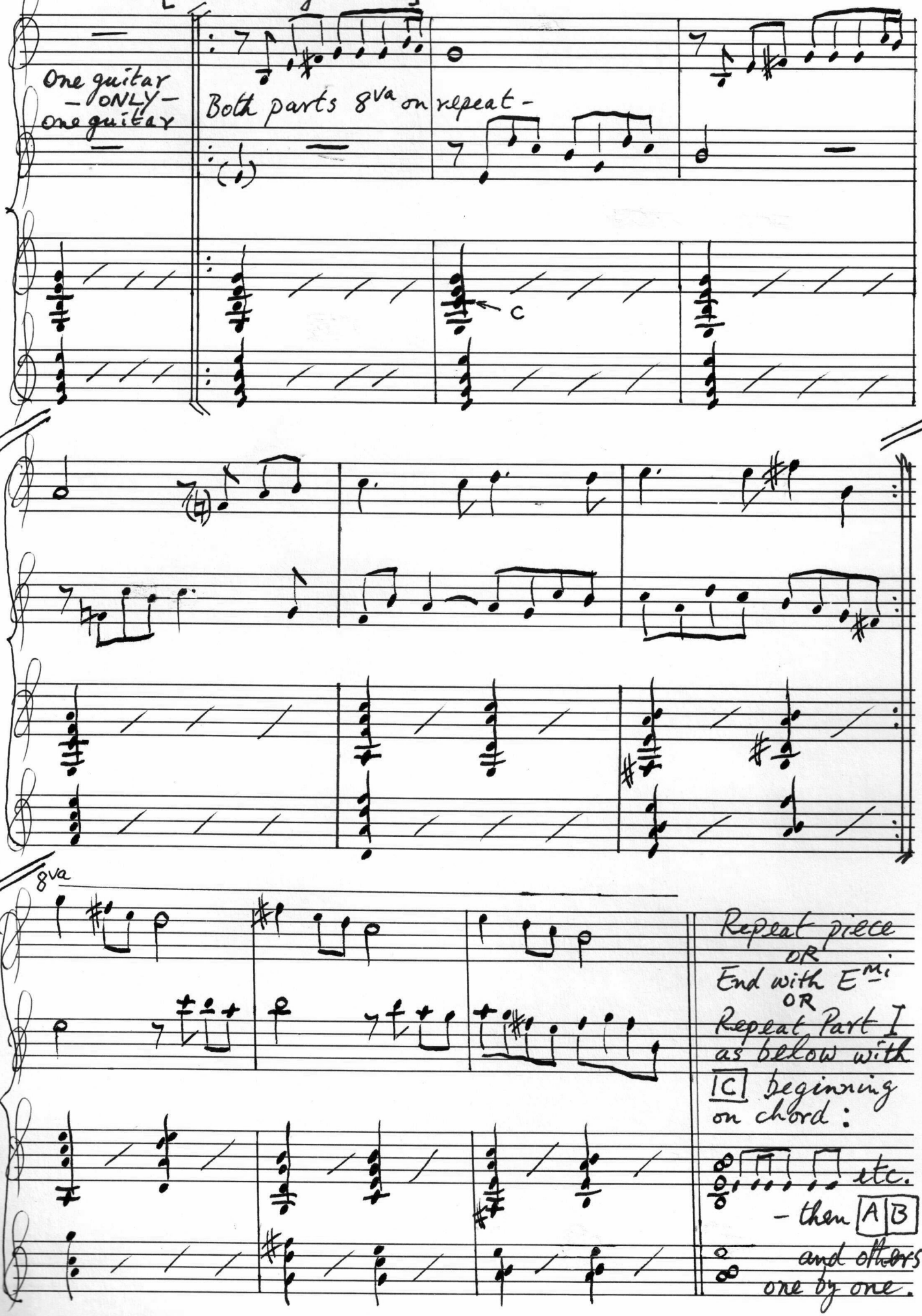
♩. = 132 Part I



MIDDLE TEN

♩ = 66 [Musha Study PART II] - ensemble -

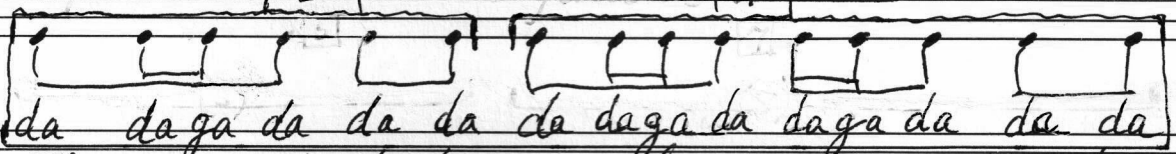
John Williams ©



Notes for "Musha Study"/"Middle Ten". — p.3.

The rhythm/dance of "Musha Study" (Part I) is traditional from Zimbabwe: two drummers play the equivalent of [A] and [B] and groups of men and women dance with "shakers" around their lower legs to the rhythm of [C] etc.

1. The rhythm of [A][B] is in 6 and 4, and the notes should be kept short for clarity.
2. Each measure of [C] etc. should be thought of in groups of: [5] and [7]



It is important to use r.h. p and i as marked to get the right feel. [A] and [B] are best with one player on each part — but from [C] on the more the better.

3. Part I should finish at the end of the line with no slowing up (and no downbeat!) — OR it can continue directly into Part II (in half-time).
4. The chords in Part II are "upside down" to save space at the bottom of the page (when downloading)
5. As a "piece" it can be played Parts I — II — I.
6. Both parts can be played by only four players, but Part I must have a player each for [A] and [B] — one for [G] and the fourth would have to be an improviser (almost any notes will fit!)
7. In "Middle Ten" the single lines must have only one player each — no doubling! (I will comment further about this another time.) The "exercise" is to blend the accompanying chords quietly, and they can have any number of players, as in Part I.
8. Both pieces are suitable for any improvisers on any instruments — but "Musha Study" is particularly good for mandolin and steel string g. together.