

**tetherball**

**book 2**

**Larry Polansky**

**for percussion ensemble  
or any six musicians**

# tetherball book 2

Larry Polansky

*tetherball* is a set of pieces for six musicians, each playing a different percussion instrument (or anything that makes sound).

Please see the notes for Book 1 for detailed information on performing the pieces.

*tetherball I* ("frenghmusic" 1-4) was composed by computer, in a short program written in Java to compute accelerandi at different exponential powers. It was in part inspired by some of the work of composer Mike Frenghel, a graduate student thesis advisee of mine at Dartmouth College. Thanks to douglas repetto for very interesting advice on the algorithms used.

LP  
Lebanon, NH  
5/9/01

# Ia frengelmusic 1

(powers: 2,3,4,5,6; forward)

Fast

The musical score consists of six staves, labeled I through VI. Each staff begins with a common time signature 'C' and an accent mark (>) over the first note. The notes are represented by dots on the staff lines. The density of notes increases exponentially from left to right across the six measures. In the first measure, there are 2 notes. In the second, 3 notes. In the third, 4 notes. In the fourth, 5 notes. In the fifth, 6 notes. In the sixth, 7 notes. The notes in each measure are spaced out to represent the exponential growth. The first two measures are marked with a vertical line, indicating they should be in unison. The sixth measure has an 'even pulse' label above the first two notes and accent marks (>) above the first, third, fifth, and seventh notes.

The smallest notational unit of division for any voice is the 16th sextuplet (the last few measures in the higher parts), but the score should be treated primarily as a spatial guide for the exponential accelerandi. The notation is an approximation of the results of a mathematical process (a different exponential acceleration for each voice) to even 16th note sextuplets. No attempt at vertical simultaneity needs to be made except for where indicated: the first two beats should be in unison in parts I-V, the first accented.

LP, Lebanon  
xmas, 1999; 5/9/01

# Ib fregelmusic 2

(powers: 2,3,4,5,6; backward)

Fast

The musical score consists of six staves, labeled I through VI. Each staff begins with a common time signature 'C'.  
- Part I: A dense sequence of notes, starting with a common time signature 'C'.  
- Part II: A sparse sequence of notes, starting with a common time signature 'C'.  
- Part III: A sparse sequence of notes, starting with a common time signature 'C'.  
- Part IV: A sparse sequence of notes, starting with a common time signature 'C'.  
- Part V: A sparse sequence of notes, starting with a common time signature 'C'.  
- Part VI: A sequence of notes labeled 'even pulse' with a pulse symbol above the first note, starting with a common time signature 'C'.  
The score is divided into six measures. In the final measure, all six parts (I-VI) converge to play the same notes in unison. Vertical lines connect the notes of all parts in this final measure.

As in I, but now the last two beats of Parts I-V are in unison.

LP, Lebanon  
xmas, 1999/  
5/9/01

# Ic

## frengelmusic 3

2,3,4,5,6

Fast

Musical score for six voices (I-VI) in common time (C). The tempo is marked 'Fast'. The score consists of six staves. Staves I, II, III, and IV begin with a common time signature 'C' and a fermata. Staves V and VI begin with a common time signature 'C' and a fermata. The music progresses through six measures. In the final measure, all staves feature a dense tremolo pattern. The instruction 'even pulse' is written below the first measure.

even pulse

Musical score for six voices (I-VI) in common time (C). The tempo is marked 'Fast'. The score consists of six staves. Staves I, II, III, and IV begin with a common time signature 'C' and a fermata. Staves V and VI begin with a common time signature 'C' and a fermata. The music progresses through six measures. In the final measure, all staves feature a dense tremolo pattern. The instruction 'even pulse' is written below the first measure.

# Id fregelmusic 4

2,3,4,5,6  
(backwards)

Fast

Musical score for six staves (I-VI) in common time. The score is divided into six measures. Staves I and II contain a dense sequence of notes, while staves III, IV, V, and VI contain a sparse sequence of notes. The notes in staves III-VI are marked with accents (>) above them.

even pulse

Musical score for seven staves (7-VI) in common time. The score is divided into six measures. Staves 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11 contain a dense sequence of notes, while staff 12 contains a sparse sequence of notes. The notes in staff 12 are marked with accents (>) above them. Vertical lines connect the notes in staves 7-11 across the measures.