

# **Mingus**

## **Live In The Underworld**

**for Solo Double Bass and Narrator**

**Music: Frank Proto**  
**Text: John Chenault**



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Andante Rubato

First musical staff, bass clef, 4/4 time signature. Starts with a piano (*p*) dynamic and ends with a fortissimo (*ff*) dynamic. The melody is written in a single line.

Second musical staff, bass clef, 5/4 time signature. Features a triplet of eighth notes. Includes markings for *poco ponticello* and *accel.* with a dashed line.

Third musical staff, bass clef, 5/4 time signature. Includes markings for *poco meno*, *accel.* with a dashed line, and *naturalé*. The staff ends with a triplet of eighth notes.

Fourth musical staff, bass clef, 4/4 time signature. Includes markings for *rit.*, *a tempo*, and *p*. The staff ends with a triplet of eighth notes.

Fifth musical staff, bass clef, 5/4 time signature. Includes markings for *mf*, *p*, and *accel.*

Sixth musical staff, bass clef, 5/4 time signature. Includes markings for *crescendo & accelerando* with a dashed line and *fff*.

Seventh musical staff, bass clef, 5/4 time signature. Starts with the word **Mingus!** and a *sffz* dynamic. Includes markings for *ponticello*, *naturalé*, and a sixteenth note triplet. Ends with the phrase **In the spotlight,**

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26 *ponticello* *tr* *naturalé* *accel.* //

*sempre ff*

Glissando to top of fingerboard  
molto vibrato (non harmonic)

**In the underworld cafe**

30 *Begin slowly* *ponticello* *spicc.* *sim.*

*ffzfp* *III* *accel. & crescendo* *poco a poco*

**The bearded blue demigod of lust swings**

**to the sacred music of the Boogie Stomp Shuffle.**

35 *naturalé pont.* *natur. pont.* *naturalé* 6

*ff*

**He has stolen the fire of heaven, carried it naked in his cleft hands, composed and conducted it in wood and**

40 *Appassionato* *ff*

**metal, until the blue flames leapt and flew phoenix-like from his fingers to be reborn as saints and sinners in a netherworld symphony.**

44

49

**Mingus!**

54 *Ferocé* *ponticello* *ff*

**The boogie man god walks bass lines sharp as needles.**

Walk ♩ = 120

**Bass lines that pop skin and leave bloody tracks**

*sempre ponticello*

*ff* *mf*

**on veins. Bass lines that spell his name in hieroglyphs and tatoos of flatted fifths and stigmata of diminished seventh chords That bleed blue on**

*fp*

**the augmented palms of crucified jazz saviors.**

*a tempo*  
*pizz.*

**Fractured icons**

*ff* *ff* *p*

**of bass lines that blow the mind. Bittersweet and plucked like forbidden fruit from**

*mf* *f* *ff*

**the tree of life. Or poured straight no chaser from shot glasses like wisdom. Messianic**

*p* *ff*

**bass lines, melodic as a snake's spine, that curve over the horizon like a spent sun destined to reincarnate with each**

*p* *ff*

**dawn.**

**The bass sets down in the west and it rises in the east hey now.**

*Freely*  
*(pizz.) espr.*

*p*

**I said the bass sets down in the west and it rises in the east.**

*(pizz.)*  
*p*

**Mingus!**

**Ferocé** ♩ = 168

*ff* Glissando up G and D strings *rit.* *appassionato*

91 **God Mingus must be** ♩ = 84

*fff* **Must God be Mingus**

94 **A Boogie Woogie Man with his**

*p cantabile*

**wooden box and horse hair bow playing serious until Carnegie Hall falls down**

98

*poco a poco agitato & crescendo*

**like London Bridge.**

101 **Mingus!**

*fff* **tempo 1 ponticello sfz**

103 **Hey Diddle Diddle the Black Cat and the Fiddle,**

**V.S.**

Walk ♩ = 120

**The cow jumped over the moon. He swings his axe and heads**

105 *pizz.* *f* *agressive*

**roll from the bandstand. He swings his axe and the mad hearts weep and moan.**

110

**He swings his axe and the celestial virgins impale themselves on his microphone stand. While all the King's horses and all the kings men are dancing**

115 *p* *cresc.*

**on Humpty's grave. Fie Fi Fo Fum I smell the blood of the underdog.**

119 *ff* *vibr.* **Mingus!** *(pp)*

122 ♩ = 60 *p* *dolce*

**You are the fable, the fairy tale, the myth of eternity**

**wide vibrato**

*arco* *p* *molto ponticello & flautando*

III

**The legend legends are made of. Without you there is no mythology, no theology, no guts, no glory.**

127 *naturale* *V*

IV III

**Without you God is a naked string stretched between heaven  
and earth without a song to sing.**

132

**Mingus**

*(pp)*

135

**In the  
spotlight**

Walk ♩ = 100 (*poco meno*)  
(arco) ponticello

**In the underworld  
cafe, the god of**

**boogie dances on the throne. His smile,  
a pizzicato grimace, cuts to the bone as shards  
of stone fall from his lips to become pyramids**

138

repeat if necessary

**obelisks, avenues of  
sphinxes that stretch  
from horizon to horizon.**

**Jazz licks the sweat on his forehead like a halo. His Faubus fabled eyes  
pierce the smoke**

142 a bit slower ♩ = 100

**as demons dance on the head of the tune and death in a porkpie hat strolls through  
the door in triplets just in time for**

146

**the last set.**

150

155

dim. poco a poco al fine

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## Live In The Underworld

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### Long Solo Bass Introduction

Andante Rubato  
p  
mf  
p  
ff  
accel.  
poco meno  
naturalè  
accel.  
ra.  
p  
crescendo & accelerando  
fff

Excitedly **MINGUS!**

End of Intro.

Short 2 bar bass exclamation

In the spotlight,

Short 3 bar bass exclamation

In the underworld cafe,

Bass begins slowly. Wait about 3 or 4 seconds. Then read the next 6 lines in a moderate tempo.

You should finish anywhere from 4 to 10 seconds before the bass comes to a long note.

The bearded blue demigod of lust swings to the sacred music  
Of the Boogie Stomp Shuffle.  
He has stolen the fire of heaven, carried it naked in his cleft hands,  
Composed and conducted it in wood and metal,  
Until the blue flames leapt and flew phoenix-like from his fingers  
To be reborn as saints and sinners in a netherworld symphony.

Right after the bass finishes the long note....

Excitedly

**MINGUS!**

Short 1 bar exclamation  
(like the beginning)

The boogie man god walks bass lines sharp as needles.

Wait for the bass to play about 1 measure of (quasi) walking bass. Then continue.

Bass lines that pop skin and leave bloody tracks on veins.  
Bass lines that spell his name in hieroglyphs and  
tatoos of flatted fifths  
And stigmata of diminished seventh chords  
That bleed blue on the augmented palms of crucified jazz saviors.  
Fractured icons of bass lines that blow the mind,  
Bittersweet and plucked like forbidden fruit from the tree of life  
Or poured straight no chaser from shot glasses like wisdom.  
Messianic bass lines, melodic as a snake's spine, that curve over  
The horizon like a spent sun destined to reincarnate with each dawn.

Wait for bass to end note before going on.

The bass sets down in the west and it rises in the east hey now.

Bass plays 1 slow, soft phrase.



I said the bass sets down in the west and it rises in the east.

*Bass plays another short, soft phrase (just 4 notes).*

*Excitedly*

**MINGUS!**

*Loud, passionate phrase. Go on as bass holds note with crescendo.*

God Mingus must be

*short silence.*

Must God be Mingus

*Bass plays quietly about 3 bars.*

*Read these lines as bass gets more and more agitated. Finish just before bass reaches the high point.*

A Boogie Woogie Man with his wooden box and horse hair bow  
Playing serious until Carnegie Hall falls down like London Bridge.

*(High point into silence.)*

*Excitedly.*

**MINGUS!**

*Short 1 bar exclamation (like the beginning)*

Hey Diddle Diddle the Black Cat and the Fiddle,

*Bass begins moderate walking bass line.*

*Read these lines in a moderate tempo. You should finish around the same time the bass comes to a held note.*

The Cow jumped over the moon.

He swings his axe and heads roll from the bandstand

He swings his axe and the mad hearts weep and moan

He swings his axe and the celestial virgins impale themselves

On his microphone stand.

While all the King's horses and all the King's men  
are dancing on Humpty's grave.

Fie Fi Fo Fum

I smell the blood of the underdog.

*Softly, but with tension.*

**Mingus**

*Bass plays 2 notes softly.*

You are the fable, the fairy tale, the myth of eternity,

*Wait for bass to play 1 slow phrase. Shortly after the start of the next phrase continue.*

*Read these lines slowly. The bass plays quietly. You should finish as the bass comes to a silence.*

The legend legends are made of.

Without you there is no mythology,  
no theology, no guts, no glory.

Without you God is a naked string  
Stretched between heaven and earth

Without a song to sing

*Leave a couple of seconds of silence. Then.....*

*Softly.*

**Mingus**

*Bass bounces bow quietly. At silence continue.*

In the spotlight,

*Bass begins moderately slow walking bass line (arco). Wait about 2 measures before going on.*

*Read these lines in a slower tempo than before. When you come to the word "Pyramids" the bass stops.*

{ In the spotlight,  
In the underworld cafe,  
The god of boogie dances on his throne.  
His smile, a pizzicato grimace, cuts to the bone  
As shards of stone fall from his lips to become pyramids,

*Read these lines in silence.*

obelisks, avenues of sphinxes that stretch from horizon to horizon.

*Bass begins a still slower walking bass line (pizzicato). Wait 2 or 3 measures before going on.*

*Read these lines in a moderate tempo. You should finish about ten measures before the bass.*

{ Jazz licks the sweat on his forehead like a halo.  
His Faubus fabled eyes pierce the smoke  
As demons dance on the head of the tune  
And death in a pork pie hat strolls through the door in triplets  
Just in time for the last set.