

Charlie Barber

Improvisations & Allegro on a Theme by Handel

for string orchestra

Instrumentation:

Violin 1
 Violin 2
 Viola
 Cello
 Contrabass

Duration: c. 7 mins

*Programme note:***Improvisations & Allegro on a Theme by Handel**

These two movements are inspired by the works of G. F. Handel.

The opening movement, 'Improvisations', is based on two bars from the Handel's *Sonata in G minor*, HWV 356a. Transposed through a cycle of fifths, the musical phrase is developed in miniature concertante form: soli viola and cello alternating with tutti strings.

The 'Allegro' section, derived Handel's Sonata for *Viola da Gamba and Harpsichord*, is in binary form: two related sections both repeated. With a slight nod to the 18th century affinity with the land of Egypt, the music gains extra energy with a vigorous, driving 13/8 rhythm of Middle Eastern origin.

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Adagio
♩ = 40

Violin 1
Violin 2
Viola (Solo)
Viola
Violoncello (Solo)
Violoncello
Contrabass

2/4 4/4 3/4 2/4

p *pp* *p* *pp* *p* *pp* *p* *pp*

Larghetto
♩ = 80

Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla. (Solo)
Vla.
Vc. (Solo)
Vc.
Cb.

6 2/4 4/4 3/4 2/4

mf *mf* *mf* *mp* *mf* *mf* *mf*

B

11

2/4 4/4 3/4 2/4

Vln. 1 *p* *mp*

Vln. 2 *p* *mp*

Vla. (Solo) *f* *mf*

Vla. *f* *mf*

Vc. (Solo) *mf* *f*

Vc. *mf* *f*

Cb. *mf*

C

16

2/4 4/4 3/4 2/4

Vln. 1 *mp* *mf*

Vln. 2 *mp* *mf*

Vla. (Solo) *mp* Solo *mf* *mp*

Vla. *mp* *mf*

Vc. (Solo) *mp* Solo *mf*

Vc. *mp* *mf*

Cb. *mp* *mf*

D

21

2/4 4/4 3/4 2/4

Vln. 1 *f*

Vln. 2 *f*

Vla. (Solo) *mp*

Vla. *mp*

Vc. (Solo) *mf*

Vc. *mf*

Cb. *mf*

E

26

2/4 4/4 3/4 2/4

Vln. 1 *mp* *mf*

Vln. 2 *mp* *mf*

Vla. (Solo) *mp* *mf*

Vla. *mp* *mf*

Vc. (Solo) *mp* *mf*

Vc. *mp* *mf*

Cb. *mp* *mf*

F

31

Vln. 1 *mp* *mf*

Vln. 2 *mp* *mf*

Vla. (Solo) *f* *mf*

Vla. *f* *mf*

Vc. (Solo) *mf* *f*

Vc. *mf* *f*

Cb. *mf*

2/4 4/4 3/4 2/4

G

36

Vln. 1 *f* *f*

Vln. 2 *f*

Vla. (Solo) *mp* *mf*

Vla. *mp* *mf*

Vc. (Solo) *mf*

Vc. *mf*

Cb. *mf*

2/4 4/4 3/4 2/4

H

41 **2/4** **4/4** **3/4**

Vln. 1 *mf* *mf cresc.* *f*

Vln. 2 *f* *mf*

Vla. (Solo) *mf* *f*

Vla. *mf* *f*

Vc. (Solo) *f* *mf*

Vc. *f* *mf*

Cb. *mf*

I

45 **3/4** **2/4** **4/4**

Vln. 1 *f*

Vln. 2 *f*

Vla. (Solo) *mf*

Vla. *mf*

Vc. (Solo) *mf* *f*

Vc. *mf* *f*

Cb. *f*

49

J

3/4 **2/4** **4/4**

Vln. 1 *f*

Vln. 2 *f*

Vla. (Solo) *mf*

Vla. *mf*

Vc. (Solo) *mp*

Vc. *mp*

Cb. *f*

K

3/4 **2/4** **4/4**

Vln. 1 *mf* *f* *mf*

Vln. 2 *mf*

Vla. (Solo) *f* *mf*

Vla. *f* *mf*

Vc. (Solo) *mf* *f*

Vc. *mf* *f*

Cb. *f*

58

L

3/4 **2/4** **4/4**

Vln. 1 *mf* *f* *f*

Vln. 2 *f* *f* *f*

Vla. (Solo) *f* *f* *f*

Vla. *f* *f* *f*

Vc. (Solo) *mf* *mf* *mf*

Vc. *mf* *mf* *mf*

Cb. *mf* *mf* *mf*

63

3/4 **2/4**

Vln. 1 *mf* *mf* *mf*

Vln. 2 *mf* *mf* *mf*

Vla. (Solo) *mf* *mf* *mf*

Vla. *mf* *mf* *mf*

Vc. (Solo) *f* *f* *f*

Vc. *f* *f* *f*

Cb. *f* *f* *f*

M

66

2/4 4/4 3/4 2/4

Vln. 1 *pp* *mp*

Vln. 2 *pp* Solo *mp*

Vla. (Solo) *mp* *p* *cresc.*

Vla. *pp* *mp*

Vc. (Solo) Solo *p* *mp* *cresc.*

Vc. *pp* *mp*

Cb. *pp* *mp*

N

71

2/4 4/4 3/4 2/4

Vln. 1 *f* *mf*

Vln. 2 *f* *mf*

Vla. (Solo) *f* *ff*

Vla. *f* *ff*

Vc. (Solo) *f* *f*

Vc. *f*

Cb. *f*

0

2/4 **4/4** **3/4**

76

Vln. 1 *mf* *f*

Vln. 2 *f*

Vla. (Solo) *mf* *f*

Vla. *mf* *f*

Vc. (Solo) *f* *mf*

Vc. *f*

Cb. *f*

3/4 **2/4** **4/4** **3/8**

80

Vln. 1 *p* *Rit.*

Vln. 2 *p*

Vla. (Solo) *p*

Vla. *p*

Vc. (Solo) *p*

Vc. *p*

Cb. *p*

P

85 **Allegro** $\text{♩} = 108$

Vln. 1 *f*

Vln. 2 *f*

Vla. *f*

Vc. *mf*

Cb. *mf*

Time signatures: $\frac{3}{8}$, $\frac{3}{4}$, $\frac{2}{4}$, $\frac{3}{8}$, $\frac{3}{4}$, $\frac{2}{4}$

90

Vln. 1 *f*

Vln. 2 *mf*, *f*

Vla. *f*

Vc. *mf*, *f*

Cb. *mf*, *f*

Time signatures: $\frac{2}{4}$, $\frac{3}{8}$, $\frac{3}{4}$, $\frac{2}{4}$, $\frac{3}{8}$, $\frac{3}{4}$

95

3/4 **2/4** **3/8** **3/4** **2/4**

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

mf *f* *f* *mf* *mf*



99

2/4 **3/8** **3/4** **2/4** **3/8** **3/4**

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

f *f* *mf* *cresc.* *cresc.* *cresc.*

104

Vln. 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ ff

Vln. 2 f mf

Vla. ff f

Vc. f *ben marcato* mf

Cb. f *ben marcato* mf

Measures 104-107. Time signatures: $\frac{3}{4}$, $\frac{2}{4}$, $\frac{3}{8}$, $\frac{3}{4}$, $\frac{2}{4}$. Dynamics: ff , f , mf . Performance markings: *ben marcato*, accent .

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108

Vln. 1 $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{3}{8}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{3}{8}$ f

Vln. 2 f

Vla. f

Vc. f

Cb. f

Measures 108-111. Time signatures: $\frac{2}{4}$, $\frac{3}{8}$, $\frac{3}{4}$, $\frac{2}{4}$, $\frac{3}{8}$. Dynamics: f .

112 **3/8** **3/4** **2/4** **3/8**

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

==

115 **Q** **3/8** **3/4** **2/4** **3/8** **3/4** **2/4**

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

Measures 120-124 of the score. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The time signature changes are: 2/4, 3/8, 3/4, 2/4, 3/8, 3/4. The dynamics are: *cresc.*, *mp*, *cresc.*, *cresc.*, *cresc.*. The instruments are Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vc., and Cb.

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Measures 125-129 of the score. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The time signature changes are: 3/4, 2/4, 3/8, 3/4, 2/4, 3/8. The dynamics are: *mf*, *cresc.*, *f*, *cresc.*, *f*. The instruments are Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vc., and Cb.

130

3/8 **3/4** **2/4** **3/8** **3/4**

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

f *mf* *f*

==

134

3/4 **2/4** **3/8** **3/4** **2/4** **3/8**

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

cresc. *ff* *cresc.* *ff* *cresc.* *f*

mf *mf* *cresc.* *f ben marcato* *f ben marcato*



139

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

3/8 3/4 2/4 3/8 3/4 2/4 3/8

f *ff* *f* *f* *mf*

Detailed description: This system of the musical score covers measures 139 to 144. The time signature changes frequently: 3/8, 3/4, 2/4, 3/8, 3/4, 2/4, and 3/8. The first violin (Vln. 1) has a melodic line with some rests. The second violin (Vln. 2) plays a continuous sixteenth-note pattern. The viola (Vla.) also plays a sixteenth-note pattern. The cello (Vc.) and double bass (Cb.) play a rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes. Dynamics include *f* (forte), *ff* (fortissimo), and *mf* (mezzo-forte).



145

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

3/8 3/4 2/4 3/8 3/4 2/4

f *mf* *f* *mf* *f* *mf*

Detailed description: This system of the musical score covers measures 145 to 150. The time signature changes: 3/8, 3/4, 2/4, 3/8, 3/4, and 2/4. The first violin (Vln. 1) continues its melodic line. The second violin (Vln. 2) and viola (Vla.) continue their sixteenth-note patterns. The cello (Vc.) and double bass (Cb.) continue their rhythmic pattern. Dynamics include *f* (forte) and *mf* (mezzo-forte).

150

2/4 **3/8** **3/4** **2/4**

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

f

==

153

2/4 **3/8** **3/4** **2/4**

Rit. on 2nd time

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.