

Charlie Barber

TERPSICHORE
IN SNEAKERS

for symphony orchestra

Instrumentation:

2 Flutes
 2 Oboes
 2 Clarinets in Bb
 2 Bassoons

2 Horns in F
 2 Trumpets in B flat
 2 Tenor Trombones
 Tuba

Timpani

2 Percussion (1: Orchestra Bass Drum, Snare Drum; 2: Cabasa, Marimba)

Harp

Violin 1
 Violin 2
 Viola
 Violoncello
 Contrabass

Strings: 'Divisi' indicates conventional outside-inside division

Score in C

Duration:

c. 3 minutes

Programme note:

Terpsichore in Sneakers takes its title from Sally Banes' influential 1987 text, which documents the emergence of post-modern dance [in the United States] and its evolution from avant-garde experimentation to hybrid, vernacular forms such as breakdancing. Like Banes' exploration of movement beyond the classical canon, this orchestral work draws inspiration from the collision of tradition and innovation.

Structured around a recurring 13-beat rhythmic cycle, the work integrates asymmetry and drive, evoking both ancient metrical practices and the kinetic energy of modern dance. The music shifts through contrasting textures and layered rhythmic patterns, echoing the playful, exploratory spirit of post-modern dance.

By foregrounding pulse, gesture, and transformation, ***Terpsichore in Sneakers*** aims to illuminate the enduring interdependence of music and movement. The work embodies a compositional inquiry central to the composer's practice: how sound might trace, provoke, or reflect the body in motion.

Charlie Barber, July 2025

Terpsichore in Sneakers

3

for symphony orchestra

Allegro energico

$\text{♩} = 136$

Charlie Barber

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

Flute

Oboe

Clarinet in B♭

Bassoon

Horn in F

Trumpet in B♭

Trombone

Tuba

ppp

sim.

ppp

sim.

Allegro energico

$\text{♩} = 136$

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

Timpani

Bass Drum

Snare Drum

pp

p

pp

Cabasa

p

Harp

p

sim.

Allegro energico

$\text{♩} = 136$

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

Violin 1

Violin 2

Viola

Violoncello

Contrabass

EFEGGA
B♭CDD

Fl. $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{3}{8}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{3}{8}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{3}{8}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{3}{8}$
 Ob.
 Cl. *a 2*
f ben marc.
 Bsn. *a 2*
f ben marc.
 Hn.
 Tpt.
 Tbn.
 Tba.
 Timp. $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{3}{8}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{2}{4}$ *secco* $\frac{3}{8}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{3}{8}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{3}{8}$
mf
 B. D.
 S. D. *p* *pp*
 Cab.
 Hp. *p* *cresc.* *f*
 Vln. 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{3}{8}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{3}{8}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{3}{8}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{3}{8}$
 Vln. 2
 Vla. *ben marc.*
f
 Vc. *ben marc.*
f
 Cb. *ben marc.*
f

A

22

Fl. $\frac{3}{8}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{3}{8}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{3}{8}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{3}{8}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{2}{4}$

Ob. $\frac{3}{8}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{3}{8}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{3}{8}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{3}{8}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{2}{4}$

Cl. $\frac{3}{8}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{3}{8}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{3}{8}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{3}{8}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{2}{4}$

Bsn. $\frac{3}{8}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{3}{8}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{3}{8}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{3}{8}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{2}{4}$

Hn.

Tpt.

Tbn.

Tba.

A

Timp. $\frac{3}{8}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{3}{8}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{3}{8}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{3}{8}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{2}{4}$

B. D.

S. D.

Cab. *pp*

Hp. *p*

A

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

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

Vla. $\frac{3}{8}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{3}{8}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{3}{8}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{3}{8}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{2}{4}$

Vc. $\frac{3}{8}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{3}{8}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{3}{8}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{3}{8}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{2}{4}$

Cb. $\frac{3}{8}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{3}{8}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{3}{8}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{3}{8}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{2}{4}$

f *mf* *pizz.*

B

43

Fl. $\frac{3}{8}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{3}{8}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{3}{8}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{3}{8}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{2}{4}$

mp

Ob.

mp

Cl.

mp

Bsn.

mp

Hn.

1. ben marc.

f

Tpt.

1.

f

f

p

f

Tbn.

Tba.

B

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

Tim.

B. D.

S. D.

mf

Mar.

Hp.

8va

mp

B

Vln. 1

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

f

Vln. 2

f

Vla.

unis.

f

Vc.

unis.

f

Cb.

pizz.

mp

arco

f

C

64

Fl. *ff* *p* *mf* *f*

Ob. *ff* *p* *mf* *f*

Cl. *ff* *a 2* *mf* *f*

Bsn. *ff* *a 2* *mf ben marc.* *f*

Hn. *ff* *a 2* *f*

Tpt. *ff* *a 2* *ff ben marc.*

Tbn. *ff* *p*

Tba. *ff* *p*

Timp. *ff* *p* *f*

B. D. *ff*

S. D. *p* *pp*

Mar.

Hp.

Vln. 1 *div.* *f* *sf*

Vln. 2 *div.* *ff* *f* *sf*

Vla. *ff* *f* *ff* *p* *f*

Vc. *ff* *f* *sf* *f*

Cb. *ff* *f* *sf* *f*

[illegible]

E

106

Fl. *mp* *mf* *f*

Ob. *mp* *mf* *f*

Cl. *a 2* *mf* *f*

Bsn. *a 2* *mf* *f*

Hn. *f* *a 2* *f*

Tpt. *f* *a 2* *f*

Tbn. *f*

Tba. *f*

E

Temp. *mf* *secco*

B. D.

S. D. *f*

Mar.

Hp. *mp* *8va*

E

Vln. 1 *f* *div.*

Vln. 2 *f* *div.*

Vla. *f*

Vc. *f*

Cb. *pizz.* *f*

127

F

Fl. *f* *a 2*

Ob. *f* *a 2*

Cl. *f* *a 2*

Bsn. *f* *a 2*

Hn. *f*

Tpt. *mf* *f*

Tbn. *f* *p* *f*

Tba. *f* *p* *f*

Tim. *f* *p* *f*

B. D.

S. D. *f*

Mar.

Hp. *mf*

F

Vln. 1 *p* *cresc.* *ff*

Vln. 2 *p* *cresc.* *ff*

Vla. *p* *cresc.* *f* *unis.*

Vc. *p* *cresc.* *f* *unis.*

Cb. *pizz.* *mp* *f* *arco*

EFEGGAA
BbCDDq

138

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

Tpt.

Tbn.

Tba.

Timp.

B. D.

S. D.

Mar.

Hp.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

f

mf

cresc.

f

mf

cresc.

f

mf

cresc.

p

f

p

f

p

p

f

p

tr

pp

molto

mp

cresc.

un.

mf

cresc.

un.

mf

cresc.

mf

cresc.

mf

cresc.

mf

cresc.

mf

cresc.

157 3/8 3/4 2/4 3/8 3/4 a 2 2/4 3/8 3/4 2/4 3/8 3/4

Fl. *f* *ff* *p* *sf*

Ob. *f* *ff* *p* *sf*

Cl. *f* *ff* *p* *sf*

Bsn. *f* *ff* *p* *sf*

Hn. *f* *ff* *p*

Tpt. *ff*

Tbn. *p* *ff*

Tba. *p* *ff*

Timp. *p* *ff*

B. D. *p* *ff*

S. D. *p* *ff*

Mar. *f*

Hp. *f*

Vln. 1 *ff* *sf*

Vln. 2 *ff*

Vla. *ff* *sf*

Vc. *ff*

Cb. *sf* *f*

Chord diagram for Harp: Eb F# G# A# B C# D#

167

Fl. sf f p f ff

Ob. sf f p f ff

Cl. mf f p f ff

Bsn. mf f ff p ff

Hn. f f ff

Tpt. f f ff

Tbn. p f f p ff

Tba. p f f ff

Timp. p f p ff

B. D. p ff

S. D. p f

Mar. f cresc. ff

Hp. f ff

Vln. 1 div. ff f ff

Vln. 2 div. ff f ff

Vla. ff

Vc. ff

Cb. p f ff