

Percussion

Charlie Barber

Taqsim

a fantasia for orchestra

Taqsim a fantasia for orchestra

Duration: c. 4 minutes

Notes:

Throughout the score, double barlines are used to articulate the 10/8 or 10/4 rhythmic structure.

String 'divisi' sections are divided between the two players reading from the same desk

Programme note:

Taqsim – a fantasia for orchestra

A *taqsim* is a traditional form of improvised solo music that typically precedes a classical Arabic, Kurdish, Greek, or Turkish composition. Usually performed by a single instrumentalist - sometimes accompanied by a percussionist or another supporting player - it serves as a free, expressive exploration of a mode or *maqam*.

While this work draws inspiration from this centuries-old practice and retains a sense of improvisatory freedom, it is a fully composed work conceived for a modern symphony orchestra. The main melodic theme is rooted in an instrumental form of Ottoman classical music, characterized by its rhythmic structure, using a specific 10/8 rhythmic pattern.

By expanding the intimate, spontaneous character of a solo *taqsim* into the rich palette of the orchestra, the piece transforms a personal act of ornamentation and discovery into a collective sonic journey - where individual instrumental voices intertwine, echo, and respond within a tapestry of rhythm and melody.

Charlie Barber, September 2025

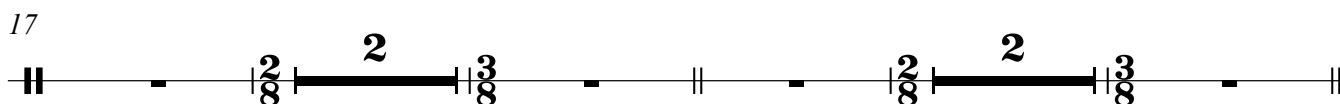
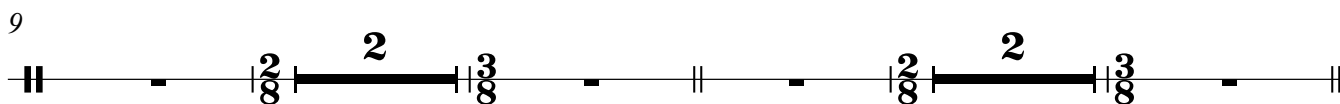
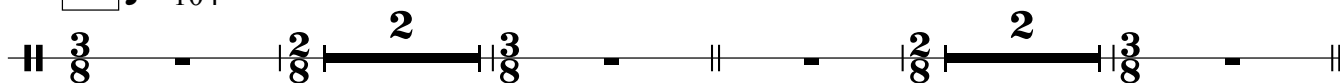
Triangle
Tambourine
Orchestral Bass Drum
Tam-tam
Bongos
Marimba

Taqsim

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A ♩ = 104



B

25

Triangle

p

Tambourine

p

tr

Section B (Measures 25-34) features a Triangle and Tambourine. The Triangle plays a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5, then rests. The Tambourine plays a steady eighth-note pattern. Measure 34 includes a trill on the Tambourine line.



C

35

Triangle

Tam-tam

pp

tr

Tam-tam l.v.

p

Bongos

p

Section C (Measures 35-43) features a Triangle, Tam-tam, and Bongos. The Triangle plays a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5, then rests. The Tam-tam plays a steady eighth-note pattern. The Bongos play a steady eighth-note pattern. Measure 43 includes a trill on the Tam-tam line.



Bongos

44

Section (Measures 44-48) features Bongos. The Bongos play a steady eighth-note pattern.



49

Section (Measures 49-53) features Bongos. The Bongos play a steady eighth-note pattern.

Charlie Barber - Taqsim, a fantasia for orchestra

53

Tambourine

Bongos

p

tr

57

D

mf

65

Triangle

p

Marimba
medium sticks

mp

73

E

Bass Drum

p

f

Charlie Barber - Taqsim, a fantasia for orchestra

76 Bongos

mf *cresc.* *f*

81 Bass Drum *tr*

pp *ff* *mf*

86 Bongos *tr* F

mp *pp*

93

2

101

2

109

2

Charlie Barber - Taqsim, a fantasia for orchestra

113 **G**

Triangle

Marimba
medium sticks

p

mp

121

Triangle

Marimba

p

129 **H**

137

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I Bongos

145 *p*

153 *p*

J Tambourine

161 *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf*

Bongos

mp *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf*

168 *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

174 *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf*

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181 **K**

Musical score for Bongos, measures 181-184. The score is written on a single staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The tempo is marked 'Allegretto' and the dynamics are 'p' (piano). The score consists of four measures. Measures 181 and 182 are connected by a double bar line. Measures 183 and 184 are connected by a double bar line. The notation includes eighth notes, quarter notes, and rests. There are also some markings that look like '2' and '3' above the staff, possibly indicating fingerings or counts.

189

Bass Drum

Tam-tam



197 **L**

ff

l.v.

ff

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201 Bass Drum *tr* *pp*

205 *mf*

209 Bass Drum *tr* *mp* *f* Bongos *f* **M**

216 Bass Drum *tr* *p*

221 *ff*

225 Bass Drum *tr* *mp* *ff* *tr* *mp* *ff*

The score is for a percussion ensemble and includes parts for Bass Drum, Bongos, and a Mallet (M). The music is in 2/4 and 3/4 time signatures. The score is divided into six systems, each starting with a measure number (201, 205, 209, 216, 221, 225). The notation includes various rhythmic values, dynamics (pp, mf, mp, f, ff), and articulation marks (tr, >). The score ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

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229 **N**

Triangle
p



237 Triangle

p



245



253 Bass Drum

Rit.

pp

Tam-tam

pp

l.v.

pp