

Contrabass

Charlie Barber

Taqsim

a fantasia for orchestra

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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

Taqsim

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A ♩ = 104

11

pizz. arco

mp

2

20

pizz. arco

p

2

32

arco pizz.

p

2

41

arco

mf

57

pizz. arco

p

2

65

pizz.

2

73 **E** arco

mp *f* *mp* *cresc.* *f*

81

mp *p* *f* *mp*

89 **F**

mp *pizz.* *arco*

99

pizz. *arco* *mp* *pizz.*

109 **G**

arco *pizz.* *p*

120

arco *pizz.* *mp*

129 **H** solo arco

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

Charlie Barber - Taqsim, a fantasia for orchestra

136



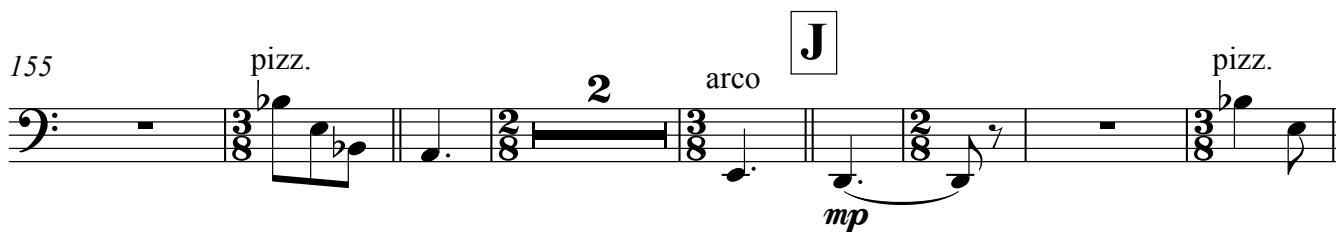
141



145



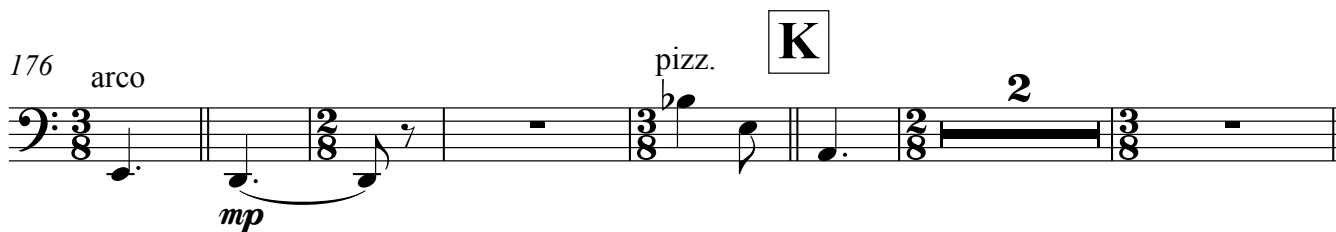
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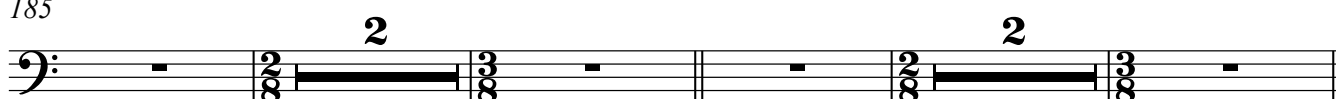
165



176



185



Charlie Barber - Taqsim, a fantasia for orchestra

193 L

201

208 M

214

221

226 N

233

243

253 **Rit.**

mp *f* *p* *mf* *mf* *f* *f* *mp* *ff* *mp* *pizz.* *arco* *p* *pp*

The musical score is written for Contrabass and consists of nine staves. The time signatures vary throughout the piece, including 2/8, 3/8, 2/4, 3/4, and 4/4. The score includes rehearsal marks L, M, and N. The dynamics range from *pp* (pianissimo) to *ff* (fortissimo). The piece concludes with a **Rit.** (Ritardando) marking.