

Horn 1 & 2

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

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A ♩ = 104

9

17

25 **B**

33

41 **C**

46

53 **D**

61

mp *mf* *mp* *mf*

69 **E**

76

83

89 **F**

97

106 **G**

114

122

129 **H**

133

141 I

146 *mp* 2

153 *mp*

161 J *p* *pp* 2

170 *p* 2

177 K 2 *mf* 2

185 2 2

193 L *mf* 2

200 *p*

Charlie Barber - Taqsim, a fantasia for orchestra

205 *mf* *p*

212 **M** *a 2 cantabile* *f*

217 *mf* *f*

223 *mp* *ff*

229 **N**

237

245

253 *Rit.*