

Percussion

Charlie Barber



for symphony orchestra

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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

Snare Dm

14 *tr*

Cabasa

pp

22 **A**

Cabasa

pp

22 3/8 - 3/4 - 2/4 - 3/8 - 3/4 - 2/4 - 3/8 - 3/4 - 2/4

30

Marimba

mf

30 2/4 - 3/8 - 3/4 - 2/4 - 3/8 - 3/4 - 2/4 - 3/8 - 3/4 - 2/4

39

Snare Dm

pp *mf*

tr

B

39 2/4 - 3/8 - 3/4 - 2/4 - 3/8 - 3/4 - 2/4 - 3/8 - 3/4 - 2/4

47

Snare Dm

mf

tr

47 3/4 - 2/4 - 3/8 - 3/4 - 2/4 - 3/8 - 3/4 - 2/4 - 3/8 - 3/4 - 2/4

57

Bass Dm

tr

pp

Marimba

p

cresc.

f

64

C Bass Dm

ff

Snare Dm

p

tr

pp

73

Bass Dm

p

f

Marimba

mf

81

Snare Dm

pp

f

D

86

Snare Dm

p *tr* *pp*

96

Bass Dm

p *tr* *f*

Marimba

f

104

Snare Dm

pp *tr* *f* **E**

112

120

Marimba

Snare Dm

pp

tr

mp

127

F

f

137

Marimba

mp

144

Bass Dm

pp

tr

molto

f

cresc.

G

149

155

Bass Dm

tr

p *ff*

Marimba

f

Measures 155-163: Snare drum rests, Marimba rests.
Measure 164: Snare drum trill (p to ff), Marimba melodic line (f).

164

Snare Dm

tr

p *f*

Measures 164-169: Snare drum rests, Marimba melodic line.
Measure 170: Snare drum trill (p to f), Marimba rests.

170

Bass Dm

tr

p *ff*

f *cresc.* *ff*

Measures 170-178: Snare drum rests, Marimba melodic line (f, cresc.).
Measure 179: Snare drum trill (p to ff), Marimba rests.