

Bassoon

Charlie Barber



TERPSICHORE IN SNEAKERS

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

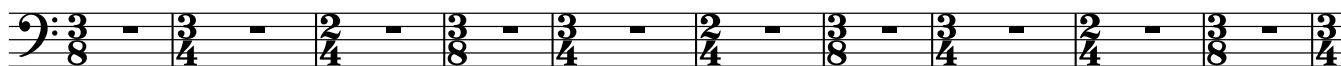
Terpsichore in Sneakers

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Allegro energico

♩ = 136

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11

a 2



20

A

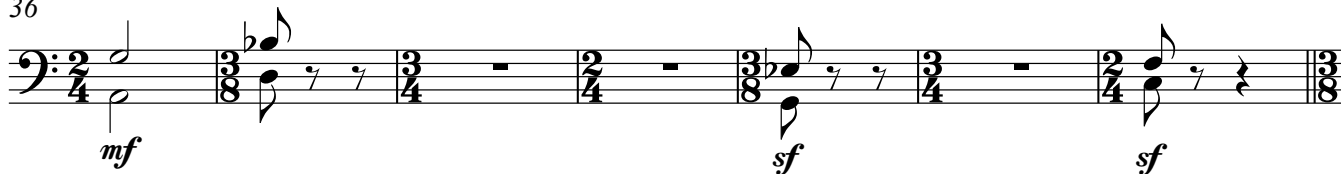


29

a 2

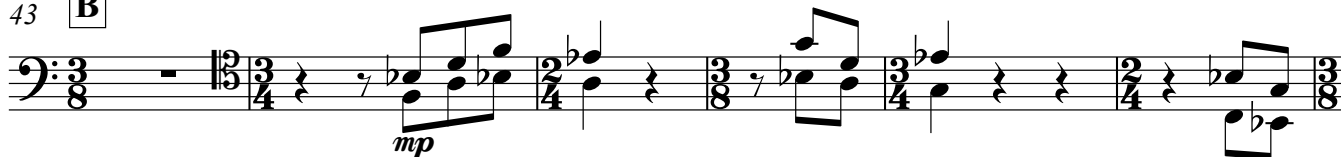


36



43

B



49



57

mf cresc. C ff

[illegible][illegible]

82

sf *mf* *f*

[illegible]

101

mf

E

mf

a 2

110

f

Charlie Barber - Terpsichore in Sneakers

117

[illegible]

133

f

[illegible]

150 *a 2*

f

f

The first system of the musical score for 'The Rose Tree' begins at measure 150. It features a single melodic line in the bass clef. The tempo is marked 'Allegretto' and the key signature has one sharp (F#). The system consists of nine measures with varying time signatures: 2/4, 3/8, 3/4, 2/4, 3/8, 3/4, 3/8, 3/4, and 2/4. The music starts with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes, with some measures containing rests. The system concludes with a double bar line.

159 a 2

ff *p* *sf*

167

The musical score for Example 167 is written on a single staff. It begins with a 3/4 time signature, followed by a 2/4 time signature, then a 3/8 time signature, and a 3/4 time signature. The dynamics are marked as *mf*, *f*, and *ff*. The score includes a fermata over the first 3/4 measure, a half note in 2/4, a quarter note in 3/8, and a quarter note in 3/4. The tempo marking 'a 2' is placed above the staff. The score ends with a 3/4 time signature.

[illegible]