

Soprano Saxophone

Charlie Barber



KINYAL

Instrumentation:

Soprano saxophone
 Violin 1
 Violin 2
 Viola
 Violoncello
 Contrabass

Score in C

Duration:

c. 12 minutes

Programme note:

Khyal—meaning both “lyric” and “imagination”—is a genre of North Indian classical music that flourished in the royal courts of Hindustan. Its origins are shrouded in legend, scattered commentary, and speculation, with many attributing its invention to the poet and composer Amir Khusrau Dihlavi (1251–1326).

This composition, titled *Khyal*, is a contemporary reflection on that tradition. Written in April 1991 and revised in September 2025, it draws its melodic material from transcriptions of vocal improvisations by some of the great classical singers of northern India. The opening movement is based on an improvisation by Bade Ghulam Ali Khan (1903–1968), while the concluding movement takes inspiration from a vocal improvisation by Narayan Rao Vyas (1902–1984).

The work unfolds in four movements, each evoking a different moment in time and atmosphere through its chosen raag:

1. After midnight (raag Malkauns)
2. Late morning (raag Desi)
3. Night music (raag Bageshri)
4. Monsoon rains (raag Gaud Malhar)

Balancing historical reference with imaginative re-composition, *Khyal* pays homage to a centuries-old tradition while reinterpreting it for a new musical context.

Charlie Barber, September 2025

Khyal

1. After midnight (raag Malkauns)

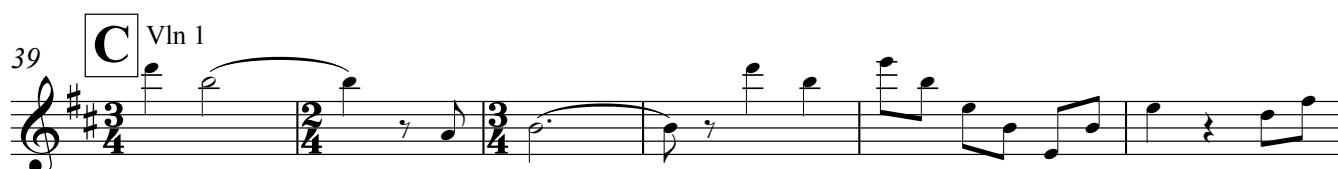
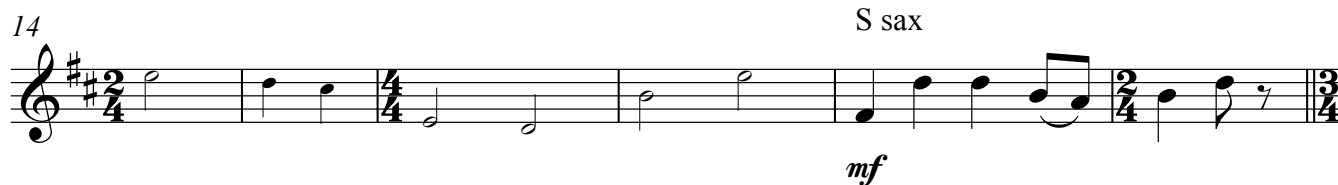
Charlie Barber

A Semplice

♩ = 84

6

Vln 1



Charlie Barber - Khyal

51 S sax

mf *cresc.* *f*

56 **D**

mf *p* *mf*

63

p *mf* *cresc.*

69

f

74

f

77 **E**

mf

83

mf

Charlie Barber - Khyal

89

cresc. *f* *mf* *cresc.*

93

f *mf*

96

F

mp *mf*

102

mf

105

mf

108

cresc. *f* *mf* *cresc.*

112

Rit.

f *mf*

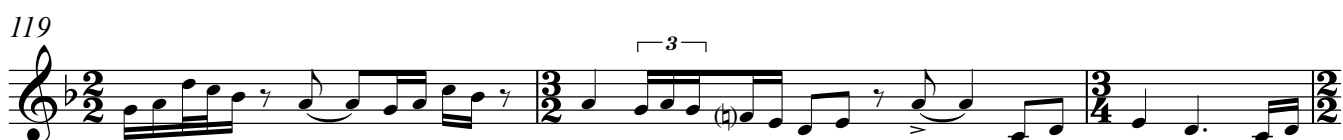
2. Late morning (raag Desi)

♩ = 92

115 **A** Vln 1



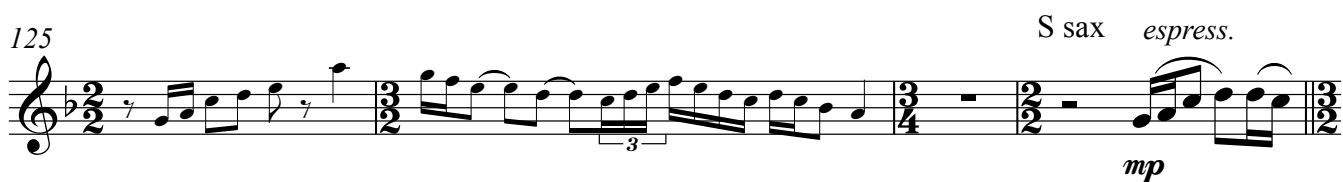
119



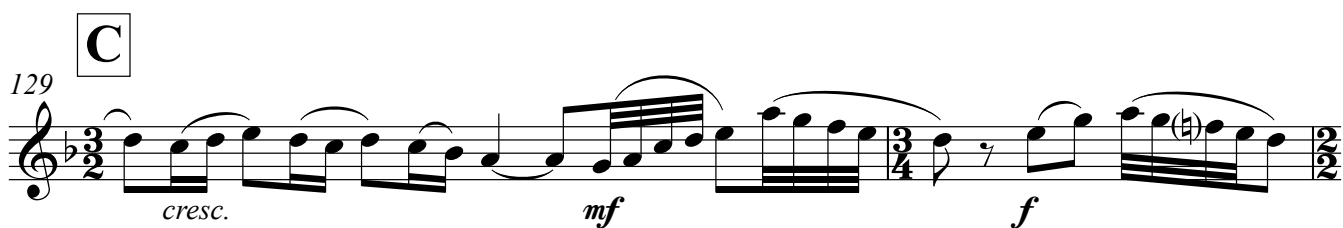
122 **B**



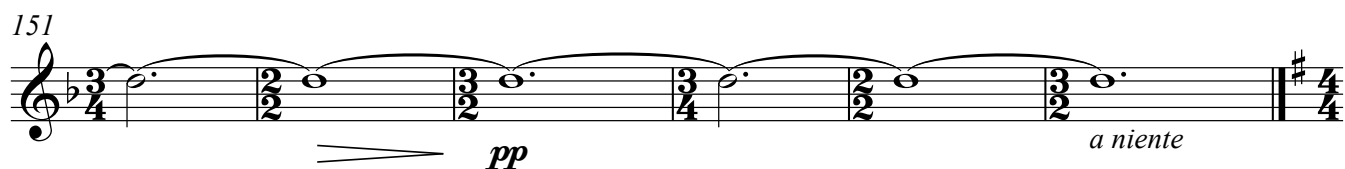
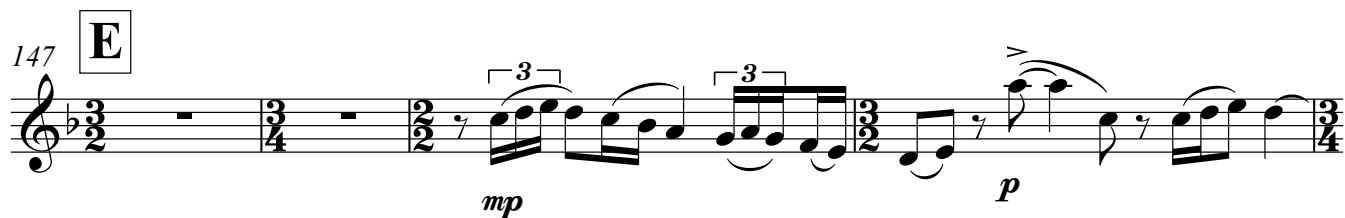
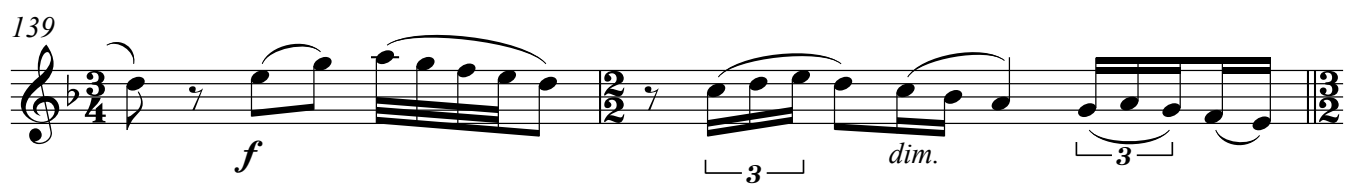
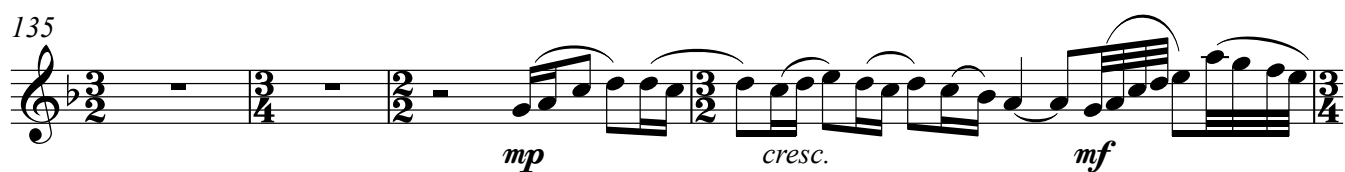
125 S sax *espress.*



129 **C**



Charlie Barber - Khyal



3. Night music (raag Bageshri)

Tranquillo

♩ = 80

157 Vln 1 norm.

166

174 A S sax *cantabile*

180

184 *cresc.*

189 *mf*

Charlie Barber - Khyal

193 **B**

mp *cresc.* *mp*

198

mp *cresc.*

203

f

209 **C**

p

214

mp *mf*

218

cresc. *f*

223

Rit.

4. Monsoon rains (raag Gaud Malhar)

♩ = 116

229 **A** Vln 1 S sax *f*

235 **B**

241 **C** *f* *mf*

244 Vln 1

247 **D**

251 S sax **E** *f*

254 Vln 1

Charlie Barber - Khyal

F

259

G

265

S sax

f

H Vln 1

270

274

I S sax

278

f

J

282

f

286

292

f *p*

296

K

mf *f*

301

L

mf *f*

304

mf *f*

306

M

2

mf *f*

Charlie Barber - Khyal

311

mf

315

N

mp

318

p

322

O

f

327

Rit.

p