

Violin 1

Charlie Barber



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Balancing historical reference with imaginative re-composition, *Khyal* pays homage to a centuries-old tradition while reinterpreting it for a new musical context.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

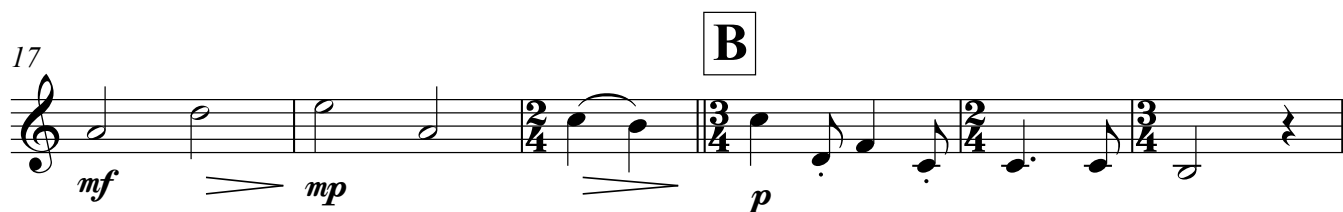
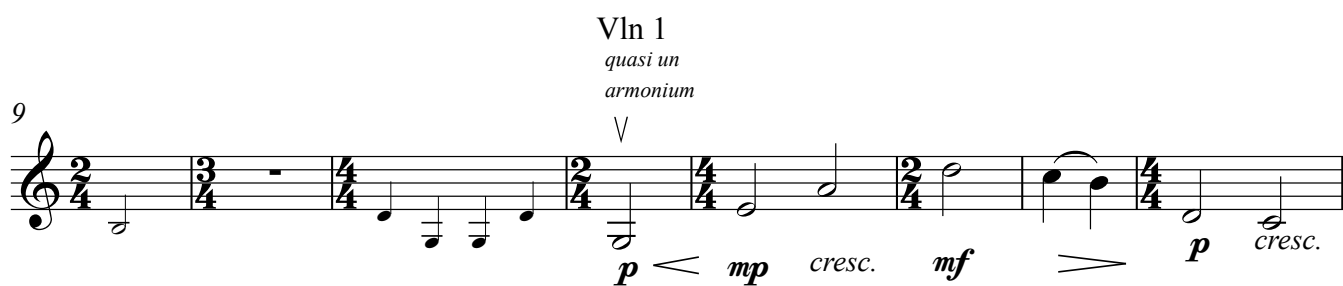
Khyal

1. After midnight (raag Malkauns)

Semplice

Charlie Barber

A ♩ = 84



Charlie Barber - Khyal

30

mp cresc. mf p cresc. mf

37

espress. p mf mp mf

44

mp mf cresc.

50

f mp cresc. mf p cresc. mf

57

p p

65

mp cresc.

71

mf p cresc. mf mp

Charlie Barber - Khyal

77 **E**

p *p*

85

mp *cresc.* *mf* *p* *cresc.*

93 **F**

mf *p*

100

p

108 **Rit.**

mp *cresc.* *mf* *p* *cresc.* *mf* *mp*

2. Late morning (raag Desi)

 $\text{♩} = 92$

115 **A** *espress.*

mp

118

mp

121 **B**

mf

124

f

127 **C** S Sax

mf

130

mp

Charlie Barber - Khyal

133 Vln 1

mp *cresc.* *f* $\underline{3}$

136

p *f* *p* *mf* $\underline{3}$

141 **D**

mf *p* *mp* $\underline{3}$

144

cresc. *mf* *f* $\underline{3}$ *dim.* $\underline{3}$

147 **E** S Sax

p *f* $\underline{3}$ $\underline{3}$

150 Vln 1

p *p* $\underline{3}$

153

pp *a niente*

3. Night music (raag Bageshri)

Tranquillo

♩ = 80

157 senza vib.

pp

165 norm.

pp

171

p

177 **A**

pp

184

cresc.

189

mf

p

Charlie Barber - Khyal

B

193

mp *p*

200

cresc. *mp* *cresc.*

C

207

f *mp* *pp*

214

p *mp*

219

mf *p*

225 **Rit.**

pp *dim.* *ppp*

Charlie Barber - Khyal

4. Monsoon rains (raag Gaud Malhar)

229 **A** $\text{♩} = 116$

mf *p* **B**

236 **C** *mp* *p*

243 **D** *mp* *p*

248 *p*

253 **E** *mp* *cresc.* *mf* *f* **F**

260 *cresc.*

264 **G** *ff* *mp* *p*

269 **H** *cresc.* *f*

274

Charlie Barber - Khyal

278 **I** **J**

p *cresc.* *mf* *mp*

285 *f*

291 **K**

mp *p* *f*

297 **L**

mp *mf*

304 **M**

f

309 *p*

N

313 *mp* *p*

O

319 *pp*

325 *mf* *pp* **Rit.**