

Viola

Charlie Barber

KHYAL

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Balancing historical reference with imaginative re-composition, *Khyal* pays homage to a centuries-old tradition while reinterpreting it for a new musical context.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

3

1. After midnight (raag Malkauns)

Semplice

Charlie Barber

A $\text{♩} = 84$
quasi un
armonium

p *p*

8 *mp* *cresc.* *mf*

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

23 *p*

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

37 *espress.* *p* *mf* *mp* *mf*

44 *mp* *mf* *cresc.*

50 *f* *mp* *cresc.* *mf* *p* *cresc.*

55 *mf* **D** 5

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65



71



77

E

83



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89



96

F

103



108

Rit.



2. Late morning (raag Desi)

♩ = 92

115 **A** *espress.*

mp

118

121

123 **B**

mf *f*

126

mf

129 **C**

p *f* *p* *mf*

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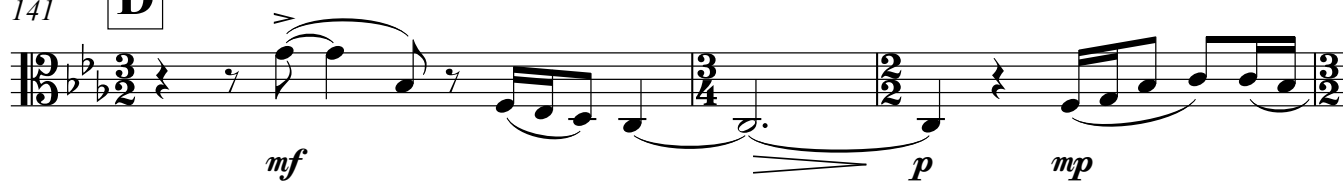
133



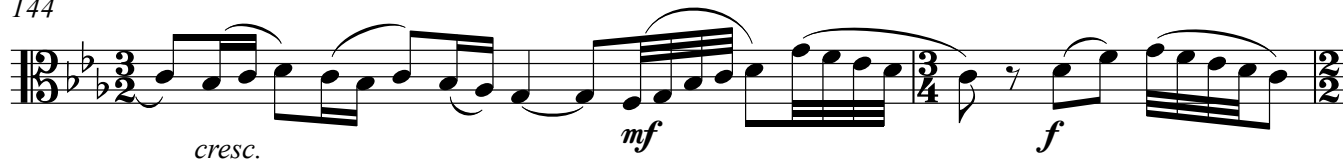
136



141

D

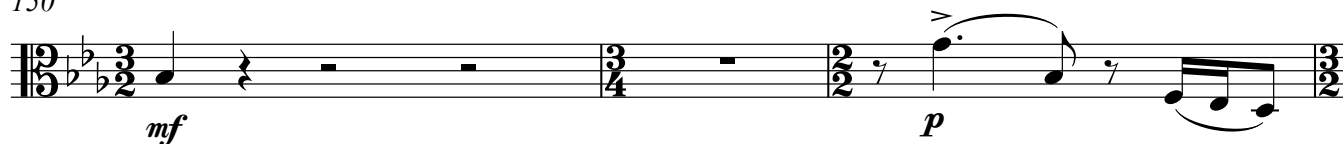
144



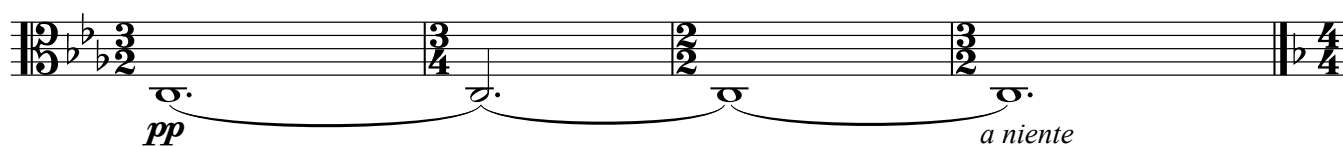
146

E

150



153



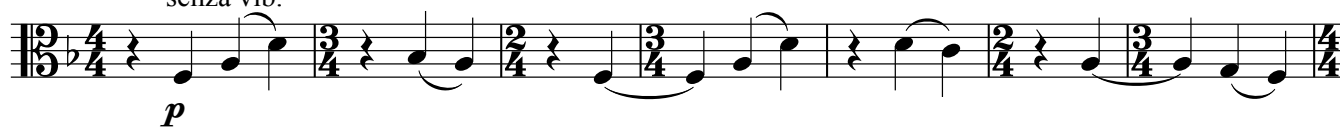
3. Night music (raag Bageshri)

Tranquillo

$\text{♩} = 80$

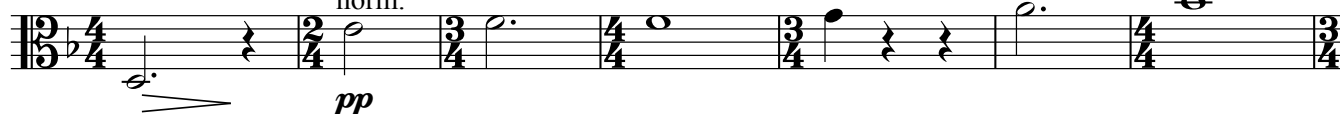
157

senza vib.



164

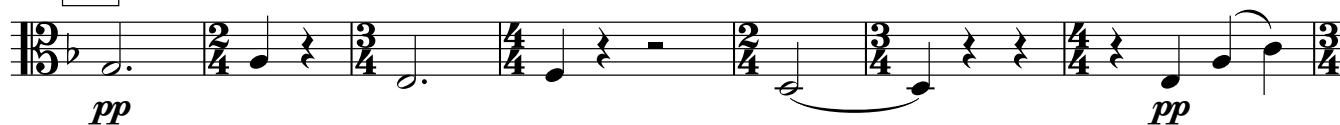
norm.



171



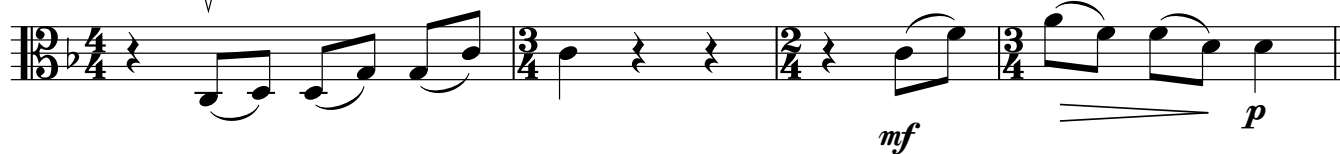
177 **A**



184



189



193 **B**

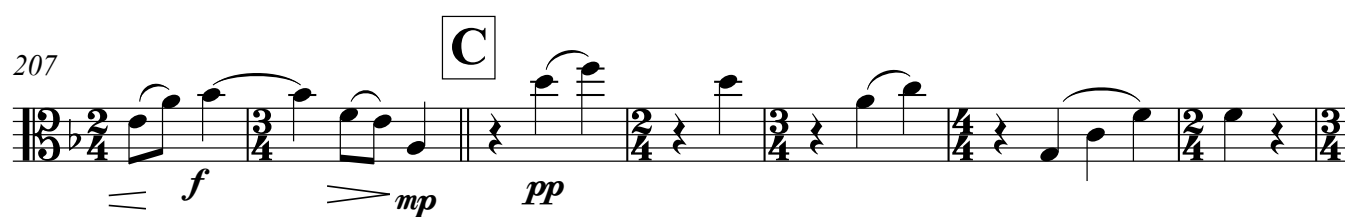


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200



207



214

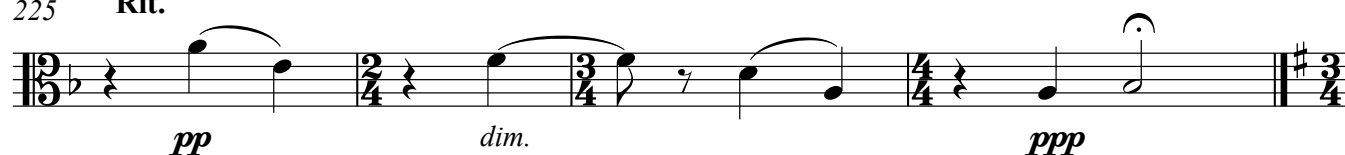


219



225

Rit.



4. Monsoon rains (raag Gaud Malhar)

229 **A** $\text{♩} = 116$ **B**

mf *p*

236 **C**

mf >

242 **D**

p *mp* *p*

248 > *p*

253 **E**

mf *mf* >

259 **F**

f *cresc.*

265 **G**

ff > *mp* *p* >

272 **H**

mf

Charlie Barber - Khyal

278 **I** **J**

p *cresc.* *mf* *mp*

285

f

291 **K**

mp *p*

297 **L**

mp *mf* *f*

303

308 **M**

f *p* *mp*

314 **N**

p

321 **O**

pp

325 **Rit.**

mf *pp*

The musical score is for the Viola part of 'Khyal' by Charlie Barber. It spans 325 measures. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 12/8. The score is divided into sections labeled I through O. The dynamics range from piano (p) to fortissimo (f), with a pianissimo (pp) section starting at measure 321. A ritardando (Rit.) marking is placed above the final staff. The notation includes various note values, rests, and articulation marks.