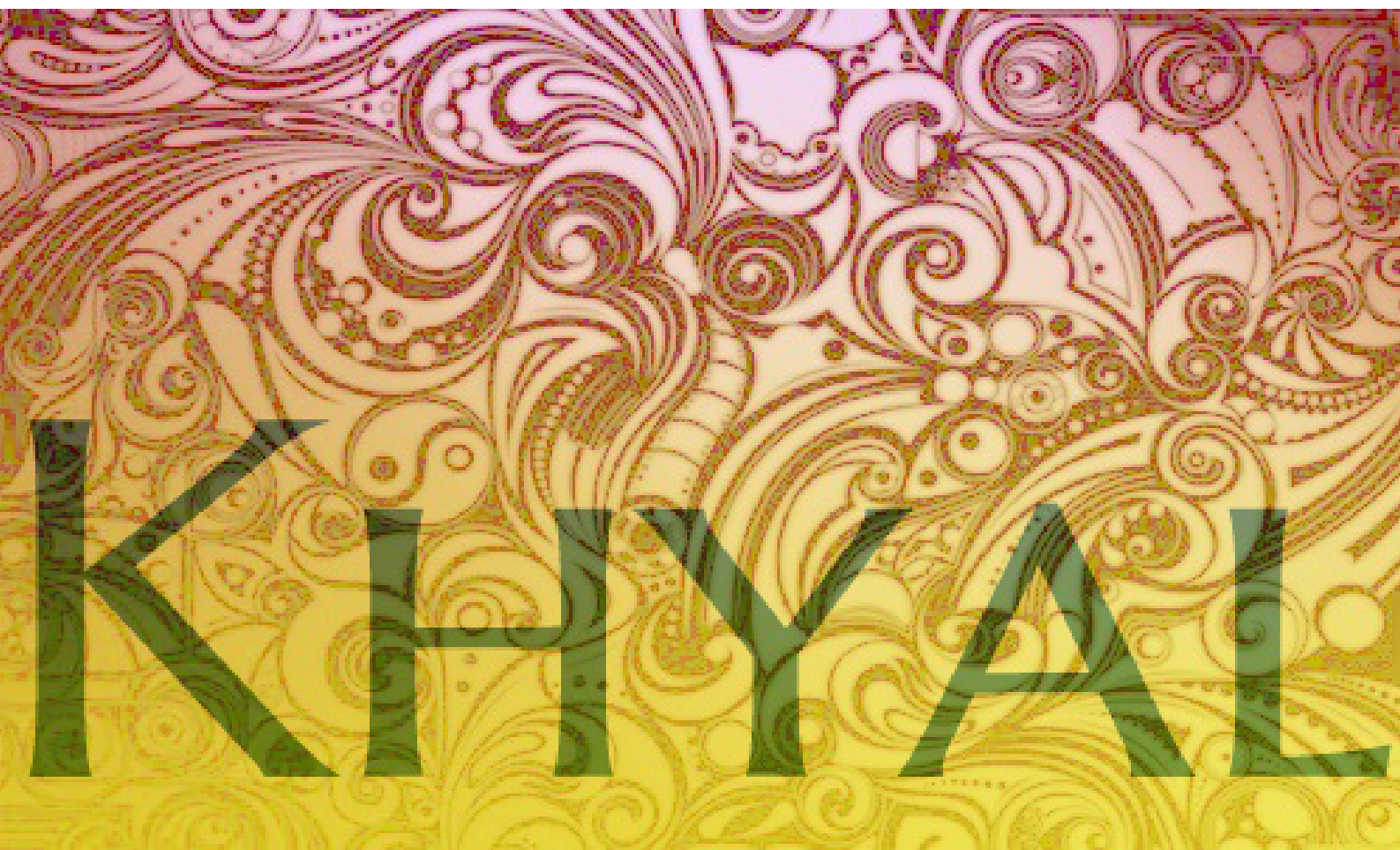


Contrabass

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Balancing historical reference with imaginative re-composition, *Khyal* pays homage to a centuries-old tradition while reinterpreting it for a new musical context.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

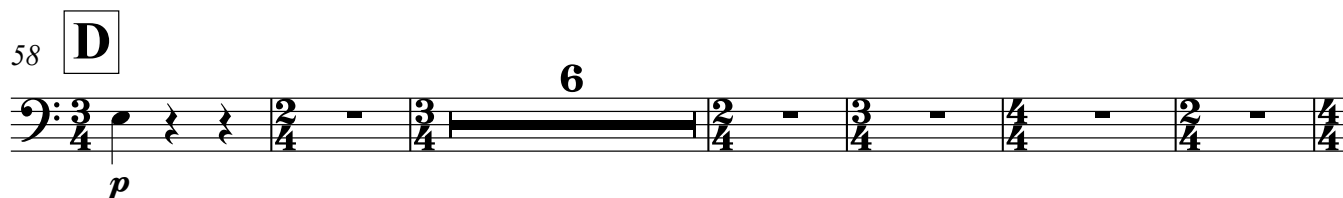
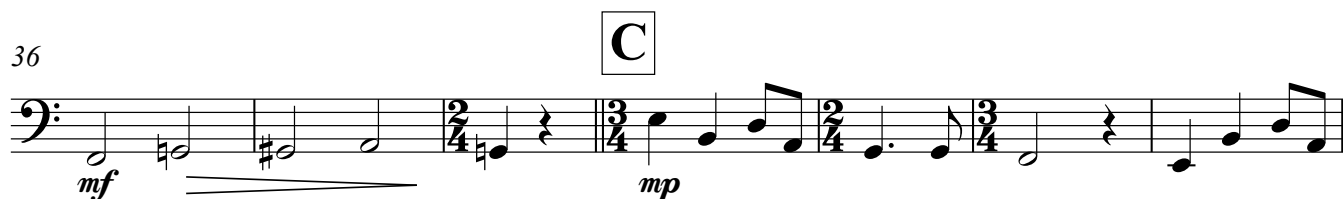
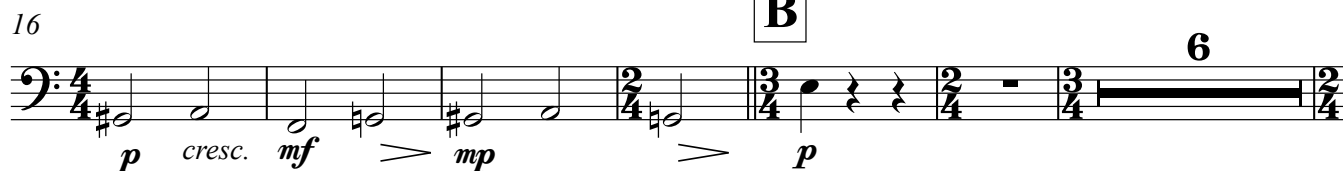
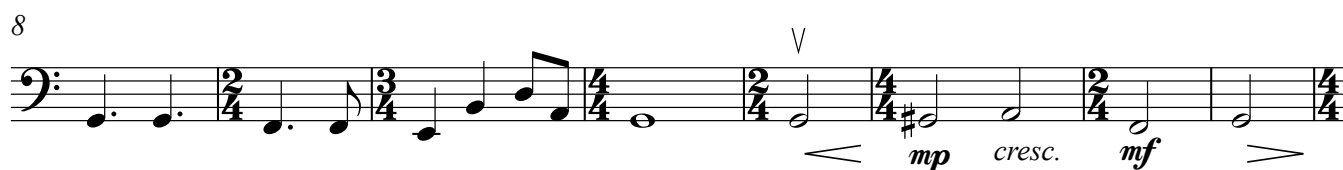
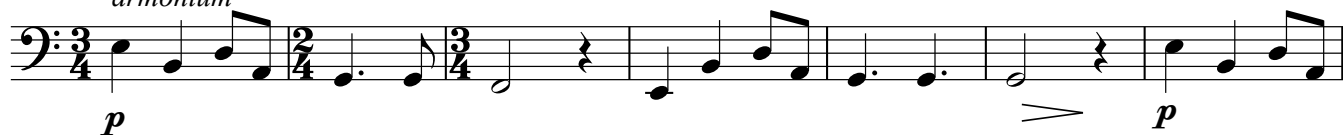
3

1. After midnight (raag Malkauns)

A Semplice
♩ = 84

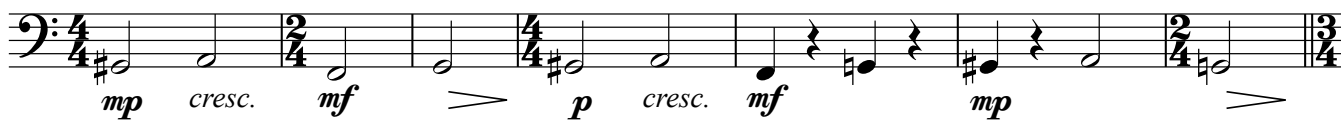
Charlie Barber

*quasi un
armonium*



Charlie Barber - Khyal

70



Charlie Barber - Khyal

2. Late morning (raag Desi)

115 **A** ♩ = 92

p < *f* *p* < *mf* *p* < *f*

121 **B**

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

127 **C**

mf > *p* < *f* *p* < *mf*

133

p < *f* *p* < *mf* *p* < *f*

139 **D**

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

145 **E**

mf > *p* < *f* *p* < *mf*

151

p *pp* *pizz.* *arco*

Charlie Barber - Khyal

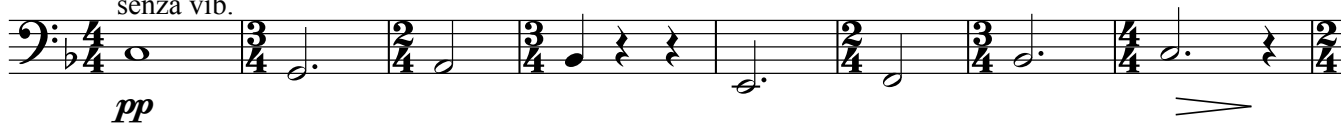
3. Night music (raag Bageshri)

Tranquillo

♩ = 80

157

senza vib.



165

norm.



174

A



183

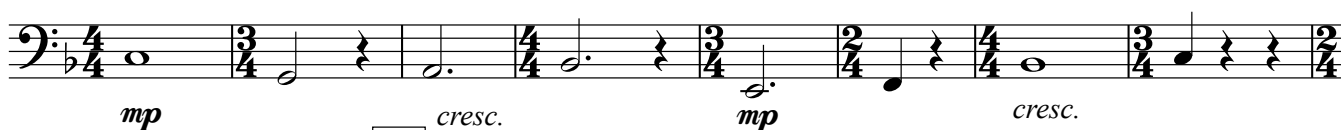


190

B



199



207

C



215



222

Rit.



Charlie Barber - Khyal

4. Monsoon rains (raag Gaud Malhar)

229 **A** ♩ = 116

235 **B** **C**

243 **D**

250 **E**

Charlie Barber - Khyal

257 **F**

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

264 **G**

ff *mp* *p*

272 **H**

mf

278 **I**

p *cresc.* *mf*

284 **J** pizz.

mf

290 arco

f *mp*

295 **K**

f *mp*

Charlie Barber - Khyal

300

pizz.

L

mf

306

arco

M

f

2

314

N

pizz.

p

mp

321

O

arco

pizz.

pp

mf

326

Rit.

arco

pp