

Bass Drum
Guero
Tam-tam
Tambourine

Charlie Barber

An aerial photograph of a dirt path winding through a dense forest. The path is light brown and leads from the bottom center towards the top of the frame. The trees on either side are lush green. Overlaid on this image is the title 'Songs from an Old World' in a large, blue, serif font. The text is arranged in three lines: 'Songs' on the top line, 'from an' on the middle line, and 'Old World' on the bottom line. The letters are semi-transparent, allowing the forest background to be visible through them.

Songs
from an
Old World

for chamber orchestra

Instrumentation:

2 Flutes
 2 Oboes (+ Cor Anglais)
 2 Clarinets in B flat
 2 Bassoons

2 Horns in F
 2 Trumpets in B flat

Timpani

Percussion (one player): Large Tam-tam, Orchestral Bass Drum, Guiro, Tambourine

Violin 1
 Violin 2
 Viola
 Violoncello
 Contrabass

Score in C

Duration:

c. 8 minutes

Programme note:

Songs from an Old World bridges two distinct musical universes, weaving the oral traditions of Hindustani classical music into the structural and harmonic frameworks of the Western orchestra. The melodic material for this work is drawn from transcriptions of vocal improvisations by some of the great classical singers of northern India.

At the heart of the piece is the concept of the *raag*—the foundational melodic framework of Indian classical music. While comparable to a Western mode or scale, a *raag* is far more complex, encompassing prescribed ornamentations, characteristic phrases, and deeply rooted emotional and temporal associations. Each *raag* is traditionally bound to a specific time of day or season, a quality that dictates the narrative arc of the work's three movements:

1 Late morning / Raag Desi
 2 Nocturne / Raag Bageshri
 3 Monsoon rains / Raag Gaud Malhar

Through this synthesis, *Songs from an Old World* does not merely contrast East and West, but seeks a shared expressive space where ancient vocal lineages and contemporary orchestral textures illuminate one another.

Charlie Barber, September 2026

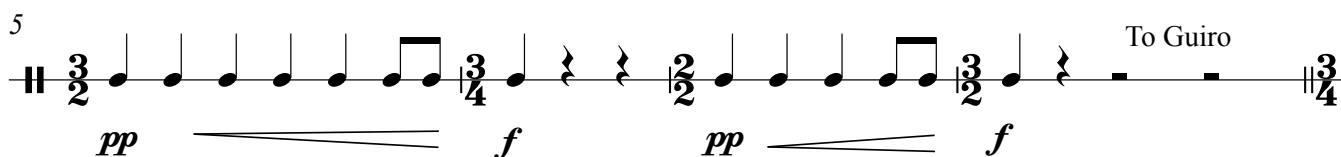
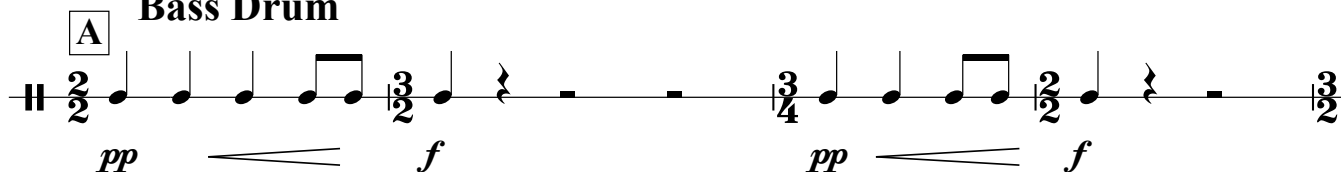
Songs from an Old World

1. Late Morning / Raag Desi

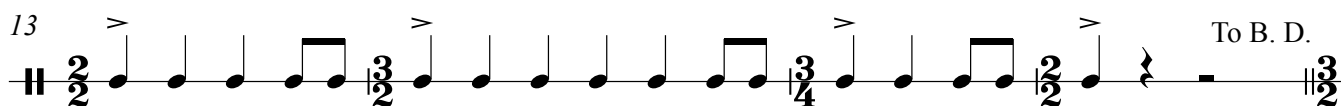
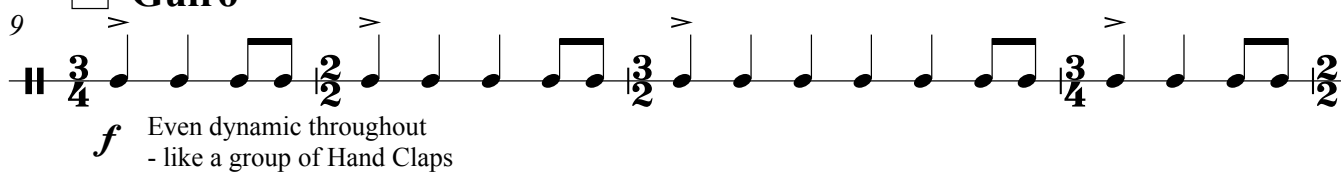
Tempo comodo ♩ = 92

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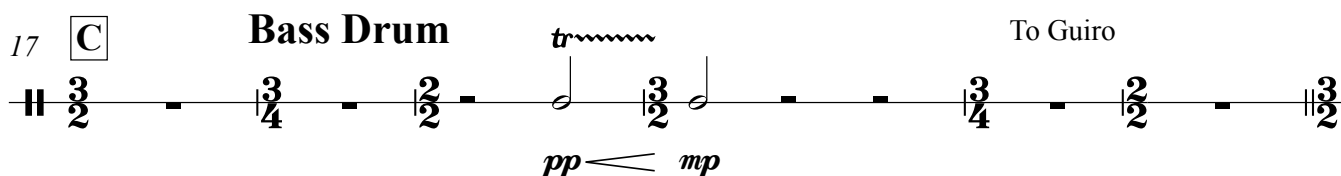
A Bass Drum



B Guero



C Bass Drum



Bass Drum, Guiro, Tam-tam, Tambourine

Charlie Barber - Songs from an Old World

23 **D** **Guiro**

mf

27

31 **To B. D.**

35 **E** **Bass Drum**

pp *mp*

To Guiro

41 **F** **Guiro**

mf

45 **To T.-t.**

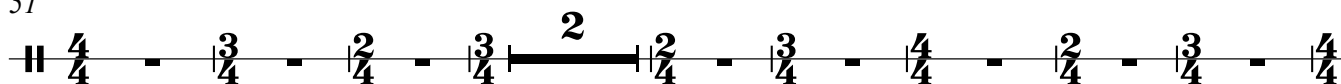
pp

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2. Nocturne / Raag Bageshri

Tranquillo ♩ = 80

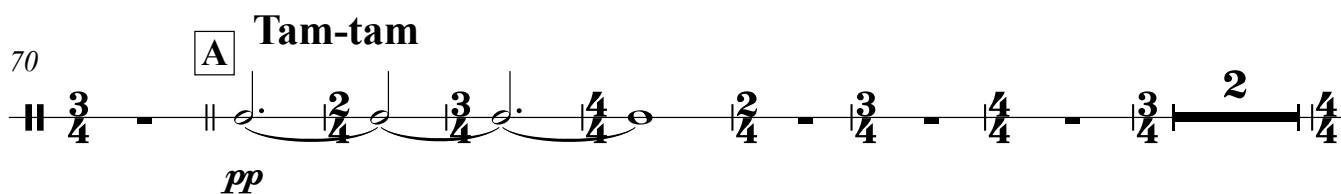
51



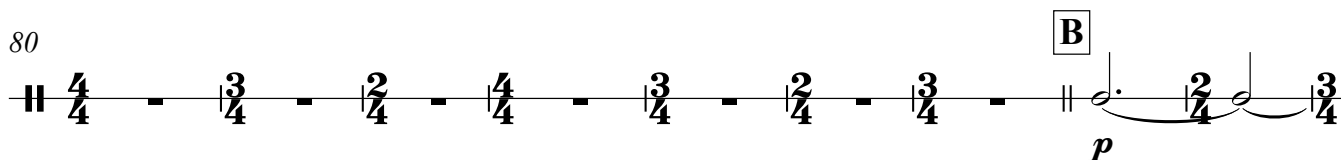
61



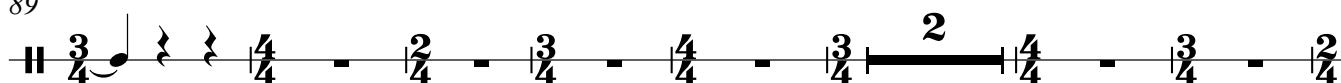
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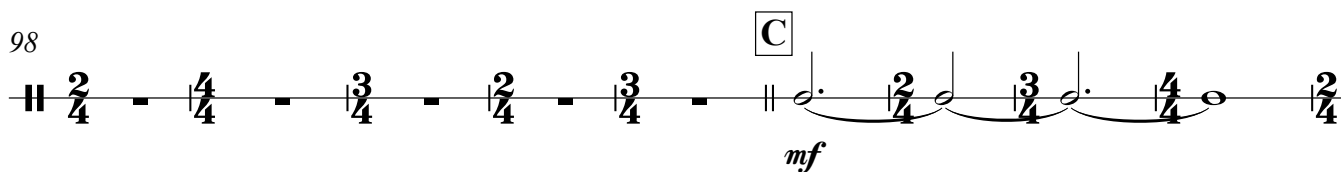
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89

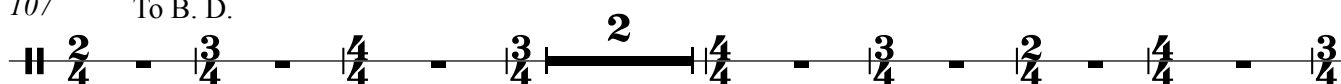
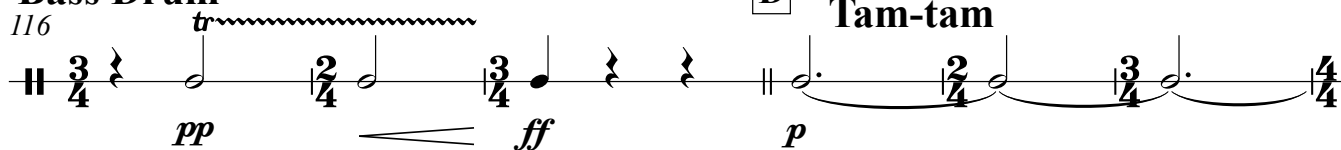


98



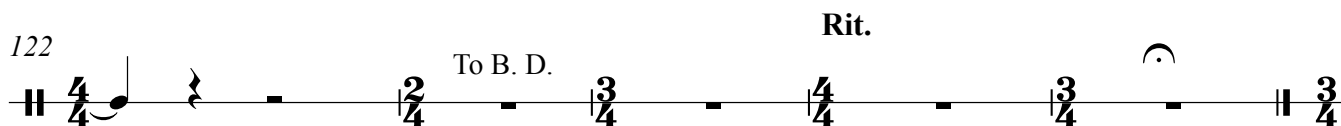
107

To B. D.

**Bass Drum**

122

To B. D.



3. Monsoon Rains / Raag Gaud Malhar

Allegro animato ♩ = 120

127 **A Bass Drum** To Tamb.

p *f* *p* *f*

133 **B Tambourine** Trills jingles only

mf *p* *p*

139 **C**

mf mp *p*

145 **D**

mf *dim.* *p*

151 **E**

mf mp *mf* *p*

157 **F** To T.-t. **Tam-tam** **G**

mf *pp* *p* *ff*

166 To Tamb. **Tambourine** **H**

p *mf mp*

173 **I**

p *mf* *mp*

The musical score is written on a single staff with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a 3/4 time signature. The tempo is marked 'Allegro animato' with a quarter note equal to 120 beats per minute. The score is divided into sections A through I, each with a starting measure number. Section A (Bass Drum) starts at measure 127 and ends at 133. Section B (Tambourine) starts at 133 and ends at 139. Section C starts at 139 and ends at 145. Section D starts at 145 and ends at 151. Section E starts at 151 and ends at 157. Section F (Tam-tam) starts at 157 and ends at 166. Section G starts at 166 and ends at 173. Section H (Tambourine) starts at 173 and ends at 179. Section I starts at 179 and ends at 185. The score includes various dynamics such as *p* (piano), *f* (forte), *mf* (mezzo-forte), *mp* (mezzo-piano), *pp* (pianissimo), and *ff* (fortissimo). It also includes trills, slurs, and a double bar line with a repeat sign. The notation for the Bass Drum and Tam-tam parts uses a different clef and note values than the Tambourine parts.

Charlie Barber - Songs from an Old World

179 *tr* J

p $\leq$ *mf* *mp*

185 *tr* K

p $\leq$ *mf*

191 *tr* L

p $\leq$ *mf*

197 *tr* M

dim. *p* $\leq$ *mf*

203 *tr* N To T.-t.

dim. *p* $\leq$ *mf*

Tam-tam *tr* O To Tamb. **Tambourine** *tr*

pp *p* $\leq$ *f* *p* $\leq$

220 P *f*

226 *tr* *To T.-t.* *tr*

ff *pp* *p* $\leq$ *ff*