

Horn in F

Charlie Barber



for chamber orchestra

Instrumentation:

2 Flutes
 2 Oboes
 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

Violin 1
 Violin 2
 Viola
 Violoncello
 Contrabass

Score in C

Duration:

c. 6 minutes

Programme note:

Curtain Tune on a Ground is a reworking of the opening music from *BreakBeats*, a multimedia event written in 2006. Originally titled *12-Bar Ground*, the piece was written for piano, percussion, DJ and breakdancers. This new version is scored for chamber orchestra.

A ‘curtain tune’ is theatrical music played to accompany the raising or lowering of a stage curtain, and historically the term was also used for an overture. A ground, or ground bass, is a short, repeating melodic phrase in the bass that provides the foundation for an entire composition.

The title also pays homage to the Curtain Tunes of the British Baroque composers Matthew Locke and Henry Purcell.

Charlie Barber, September 2026

Curtain Tune on a Ground

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A Lento
♩ = 60

pp

7

B Più mosso
♩ = 96

mp *mp* **x 3**

13

C **x 2** 33

mp *cresc.* *f*

25

D

mf *f* *mf* *f*

37

45

mf

E

49

mf *f*

55

F

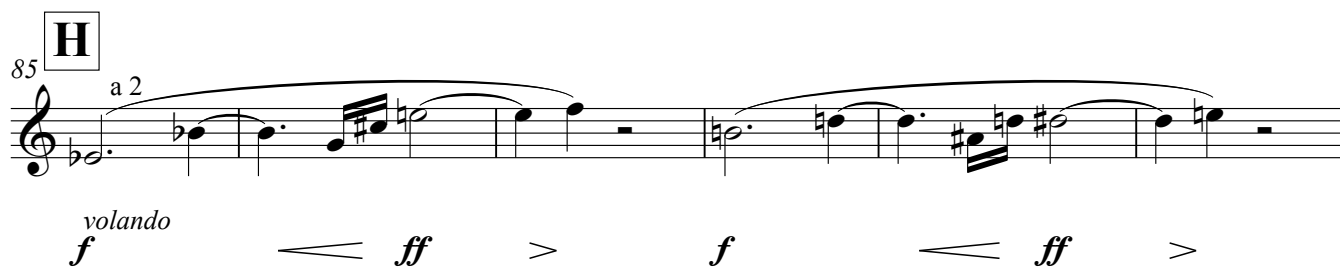
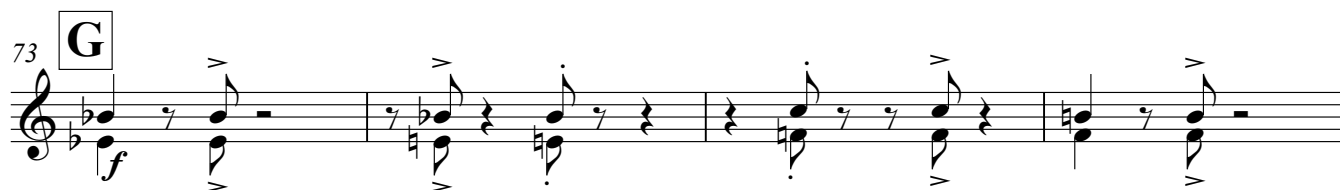
61

ff *dim.* *p* *fp* *ff*

2 5

Detailed description of the musical score: The score is for a Horn in F part. It begins with Section A, a slow melody in 4/4 time with a tempo of 60 beats per minute. The melody is written in treble clef and consists of a series of half notes and quarter notes, mostly in the lower register. Section B is a faster section in 4/4 time with a tempo of 96 beats per minute. It features a more active melody with eighth and sixteenth notes. Section C is a repeat of Section B, marked with a '2' and a '33' indicating the number of measures. Section D is a section with a more rhythmic, eighth-note pattern. Section E continues this rhythmic pattern. Section F is the final section, featuring a series of chords and a final cadence. The score includes various dynamic markings such as *pp*, *mp*, *f*, *mf*, *ff*, *dim.*, and *cresc.*, as well as repeat signs and measure numbers.

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5

97 **I**

mp *cresc.* *mf*

103

cresc. *f* *cresc.*

109 **J**

f

117

121 **K**

ff *dim.* *p* *fp*

127

ff *mf* *sf*