

Bass Drum  
Tam-tam

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

Charlie Barber

**Lento** ♩ = 60

**A** Bass Drum

*tr* *ppp* To T.-t. **3** *tr* *ppp* Tam-tam

10 *(tr)* *pp* **B** *Piu mosso* ♩ = 96 *l.v.* **9** *tr* *ppp*

25 **C** *choke* *f* **9** *tr* *ppp*

37 **D** *choke* *f* To B. D. Bass Drum *mp* **3** *mf* **3**

44 *f* **3** *ff* To T.-t. Tam-tam *tr* *ppp* **E** *choke* *f*

50 **9** *tr* *ppp* **F** *l.v.* **9** *f*

71 *tr* *ppp* **G** *choke* *ff* To B. D.

**Bass Drum**

78 *mp* *mf* *f* *ff* *ppp* Tam-tam *tr*

84 (tr) **H** choke 9 *ff* *ppp* **I** choke *ff*

98 9 *ppp* **J** choke To B. D. *ff*

**Bass Drum**

114 *f* *ff* *ppp* Tam-tam *tr*

120 (tr) **K** l.v. To B. D. **Bass Drum** *f*

126 *ff* *ppp* **Tam-tam** *tr* choke *f*

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