

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.

This work explores new ways of developing the so-called ‘Rossini crescendo’—an orchestral device popularised by the Italian opera composer Gioachino Rossini, in which layers of melodic, harmonic and rhythmic material gradually accumulate to create a sense of mounting excitement and frenzy.

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

Charlie Barber, September 2026

B **Piu mosso** ♩ = 96

9

Fl. *p*

Ob. *p*

Cl. *p*

Bsn. *p*

Hn. *p*

Tpt. *p*

Timp. *pp* *p*

Tam-tam *ppp* *pp*

T.-t. *ppp* *pp* l.v.

B **Piu mosso**

Vln. 1 *mp* *mp cresc.* *f*

Vln. 2 *mp* *mp cresc.* *f*

Vla. *f*

Vc. *f*

Db. *f* pizz. arco pizz.

Charlie Barber - Curtain Tune on a Ground

15

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

Tpt.

Timp.

T.-t.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

arco pizz.

arco pizz.

pizz.

arco pizz.

arco pizz.

Db.

Charlie Barber - Curtain Tune on a Ground

20

Fl. *f*

Ob. *f*

Cl.

Bsn. *mp*

Hn. *mp*

Tpt.

Timp. *p*

T.-t. *ppp*

Vln. 1 *cresc.*

Vln. 2 *cresc.*

Vla. *cresc.*

Vc. *cresc.*

Db. arco pizz. arco pizz. arco pizz. arco pizz.

Charlie Barber - Curtain Tune on a Ground

25

C

Fl. *mf stacc.*

Ob. *mf*

Cl. *mf stacc.*

Bsn. *mp*

Hn. *mp*

Tpt. a 2 *mf*

Timp. *f*

T.-t. *f* choke

C

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc. *pizz.* *mf*

Db. *sim. arco* *pizz.* *arco* *pizz.* *arco* *pizz.* *mf*

Charlie Barber - Curtain Tune on a Ground

28

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

Tpt.

Timp.

T.-t.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

mp

mp

mf

arco

pizz.

arco

pizz.

Charlie Barber - Curtain Tune on a Ground

30

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

Tpt.

Timp.

T.-t.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

arco pizz. arco pizz.

Detailed description: This page of the musical score, numbered 30, continues the piece 'Curtain Tune on a Ground' by Charlie Barber. It features a full orchestral ensemble. The woodwind section includes Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Clarinet (Cl.), Bassoon (Bsn.), Horn (Hn.), and Trumpet (Tpt.). The brass section includes Trombone (T.-t.). The string section includes Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Double Bass (Db.). The percussion section includes Timpani (Timp.). The score is divided into two measures. The first measure shows the Flute and Clarinet playing a rapid, sixteenth-note melody. The Oboe and Trumpet play a rhythmic pattern of quarter notes and eighth notes. The Bassoon and Horn play a sustained low note. The Viola and Violoncello play a sustained low note. The Double Bass plays a sustained low note. The second measure shows the Flute and Clarinet continuing their rapid melody. The Oboe and Trumpet play a rhythmic pattern of quarter notes and eighth notes. The Bassoon and Horn play a sustained low note. The Viola and Violoncello play a sustained low note. The Double Bass plays a sustained low note. The Timpani is silent in both measures.

32

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

Tpt.

Timp.

T.-t.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

arco

pizz.

detaché

mf

cresc.

Charlie Barber - Curtain Tune on a Ground

34

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

Tpt.

Timp.

T.-t.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

arco

pizz.

f

ppp

f

f

f

Charlie Barber - Curtain Tune on a Ground

36

Fl. *f* **D** (2.)

Ob. *f* *mf stacc.* a 2

Cl. *f* (2.)

Bsn. *mf* *f* *mf*

Hn. *mf* *f* *mf*

Tpt. *f* *mf*

Timp. *p* *f*

T.-t. *f* choke To B. D.

Vln. 1 *f* *mf* **D**

Vln. 2 *f* *mf*

Vla. *mf* arco

Vc. *mf* arco

Db. arco pizz. *mf* arco pizz. arco pizz.

Charlie Barber - Curtain Tune on a Ground

40

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

Tpt.

Timp.

B. D.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

1. *mf stacc.*

2.

f

mf

f

mf

f

mf

mp

arco pizz. arco pizz. arco pizz.

[illegible]

Charlie Barber - Curtain Tune on a Ground

46

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

Tpt.

Timp.

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

Vln. 1 *sim.*

Vln. 2 *sim.*

Vla. *sim.*

Vc. *sim.*

Db. *arco* *pizz.* *arco* *pizz.*

Charlie Barber - Curtain Tune on a Ground

48

Fl. *a 2* *volando* *f* *ff*

Ob. *a 2* *volando* *f* *ff*

Cl. *(2.)*

Bsn. *mf*

Hn. *mf*

Tpt. *a 2* *f* *volando* *ff*

Timp. *p* *f* *mf* *3*

T.-t. *(tr)* *f* *choke*

Vln. 1 *E* *detaché* *f*

Vln. 2 *f* *detaché*

Vla. *pizz.* *f*

Vc. *pizz.* *f*

Db. *arco* *pizz.* *f* *arco* *pizz.*

51

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

Tpt.

Timp.

T.-t.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

arco pizz. arco pizz. arco pizz.

Charlie Barber - Curtain Tune on a Ground

54

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

Tpt.

Timp.

T.-t.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

arco pizz.

f

ff

mf

f

3

3

Charlie Barber - Curtain Tune on a Ground

57

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

Tpt.

Timp.

T.-t.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

f

ff

f

ff

f

ff

ppp

arco

pizz.

arco

pizz.

arco

pizz.

tr

3

60

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

Tpt.

Timp.

T.-t.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

F

1.

2.

ff

dim.

p

straight mute in

tr

p

f

(tr)

f

F

measured

ff

measured

ff

measured

arco

ff

arco

measured

ff

arco

pizz.

ff

Charlie Barber - Curtain Tune on a Ground

63

Fl.

8va

1.

f

2.

Ob.

a 2

ff

Cl.

f

Bsn.

fp

Hn.

fp

Tpt.

a 2 con sord.

ff

Timp.

T.-t.

Vln. 1

dim.

f

Vln. 2

dim.

f

Vla.

dim.

f

Vc.

dim.

f

Db.

Charlie Barber - Curtain Tune on a Ground

66 (8)

Fl. *p* 1. *p*

Ob. *dim.* 1. *f* *dim.* *mf*

Cl. *p* 1. *p*

Bsn. *ff*

Hn. *ff*

Tpt. *dim.* 1. *f* *dim.* *mf*

Timp.

T.-t.

Vln. 1 *dim.* *p*

Vln. 2 *dim.* *p*

Vla. *dim.* *p*

Vc. *dim.* *p*

Db.

70

Fl.

2.

Ob.

dim.

p

Cl.

2.

Bsn.

Hn.

Tpt.

dim.

p

2.

p

open mute out

Timp.

tr

p

T.-t.

tr

ppp

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

Charlie Barber - Curtain Tune on a Ground

73 **G**

Fl. *f* *fp* *fp*

Ob. *f*

Cl. *f* *fp* *fp*

Bsn. *f*

Hn. *f*

Tpt. open *ff*

Timp. *ff*

T.-t. choke *ff* To B. D.

G

Vln. 1 *f stacc.*

Vln. 2 *f stacc.*

Vla. *f stacc.* sim.

Vc. *f stacc.* sim.

Db. arco pizz. *mf* arco pizz. arco pizz.

Charlie Barber - Curtain Tune on a Ground

76

Fl. *f* *f* *fp* *f*

Ob. *mf*

Cl. *f* *f* *fp* *f*

Bsn. *f*

Hn. *f*

Tpt.

Timp.

B. D. **Bass Drum** *mp*

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Db. *mf* arco pizz. arco pizz. arco pizz.

Charlie Barber - Curtain Tune on a Ground

79

Fl. *f* *fp* *f* *f*

Ob. *f*

Cl. *f* *fp* *f* *f*

Bsn. *f*

Hn. *f*

Tpt.

Timp.

B. D. *mf* *f* *ff* To T.-t.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Db. arco pizz. arco pizz. arco pizz. *mf*

79

Fl. *f* *fp* *f* *f*

Ob. *f*

Cl. *f* *fp* *f* *f*

Bsn. *f*

Hn. *f*

Tpt.

Timp.

B. D. *mf* *f* *ff* To T.-t.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Db. arco pizz. arco pizz. arco pizz. *mf*

Charlie Barber - Curtain Tune on a Ground

82

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

Tpt.

Timp.

T.-t.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

f

f

p

ppp

arco pizz. arco pizz. arco pizz.

(4)

Charlie Barber - Curtain Tune on a Ground

H

85

Fl. *mf stacc.*

Ob. *f* *volando* *ff*

Cl. *mf stacc.*

Bsn. *mf*

Hn. *f* *volando* *ff*

Tpt. *f*

Timp. *ff* *mf* 3

T.-t. *ff* choke

H

Vln. 1 *f*

Vln. 2 *f*

Vla. *pizz.* *mf*

Vc. *pizz.* *mf*

Db. *arco* *pizz.* *mf* *arco* *pizz.*

87

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

Tpt.

Timp.

T.-t.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

arco

pizz.

mf

f

f

pizz.

Charlie Barber - Curtain Tune on a Ground

89

Fl. *mf*

Ob. *ff*

Cl. *mf*

Bsn. *mf*

Hn. *ff*

Tpt.

Timp. *f* 3

T.-t.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Db. arco pizz.

Detailed description: This page of a musical score contains measures 89 and 90. The instrumentation includes Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Clarinet (Cl.), Bassoon (Bsn.), Horn (Hn.), Trumpet (Tpt.), Timpani (Timp.), Tom-tom (T.-t.), Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Double Bass (Db.). Measures 89 and 90 are marked with a key signature of one flat (B-flat major or D minor). The Flute, Clarinet, Bassoon, and Horn parts feature sixteenth-note patterns in measure 89 and eighth-note patterns in measure 90. The Oboe and Horn parts have long, sustained notes in measure 89. The Timpani part has a triplet of eighth notes in measure 90. The Violin 1 and Violin 2 parts play sixteenth-note patterns. The Viola and Violoncello parts play eighth-note patterns. The Double Bass part alternates between arco (arco) and pizz. (pizzicato) playing. Dynamics include *mf* (mezzo-forte) for Flute, Clarinet, Bassoon, and Horn, and *ff* (fortissimo) for Oboe and Horn. The Timpani part is marked *f* (forte). The Tom-tom part is marked with a double bar line. The Violoncello part is marked with a double bar line.

Charlie Barber - Curtain Tune on a Ground

91

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

Tpt.

Timp.

T.-t.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

arco pizz. arco pizz.

f *ff* *mf* *f*

91

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

Tpt.

Timp.

T.-t.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

arco pizz. arco pizz.

f *ff* *mf* *f*

Charlie Barber - Curtain Tune on a Ground

93

Fl. *mf*

Ob. *f*

Cl. *mf*

Bsn. *mf*

Hn. *f*

Tpt. straight mute in

Timp. *f* 3

T.-t.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Db. arco pizz. arco pizz.

Detailed description: This is a page of a musical score for a symphony orchestra. The page is numbered 93 at the top left. The title of the piece is 'Charlie Barber - Curtain Tune on a Ground'. The score is written for a full orchestra, including woodwinds, brass, percussion, and strings. The woodwind section (Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Bassoon, Horn, Trumpet) is in the upper half of the page. The percussion section (Timpani, Tom-tom) is in the middle. The string section (Violins 1 and 2, Viola, Violoncello, Double Bass) is in the lower half. The score is in 2/4 time and features a variety of musical notations, including dynamics (mf, f), articulation (arco, pizz.), and performance instructions (straight mute in). The woodwinds and strings play a melodic line, while the brass and percussion provide harmonic support. The double bass part includes both arco and pizzicato passages.

95

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

Tpt.

Timp.

T.-t.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

ff

ff

p

ppp

arco

pizz.

con sord.

open mute out

Charlie Barber - Curtain Tune on a Ground

I

97

Fl. (2.)

Ob.

Cl. (2.)

Bsn. *p* *cresc.* *mf*

Hn. *p* *cresc.* *mf*

Tpt. *f* *open* *pp*

Timp. *f* *p* *mf*

T.-t. *choke* *ff*

I

Vln. 1 *f*

Vln. 2 *f*

Vla.

Vc. *arco* *p stacc.* *sim.* *cresc.*

Db. *arco* *p stacc.* *sim.* *cresc.*

[illegible]

Charlie Barber - Curtain Tune on a Ground

104

Fl. *cresc.* *f*

Ob. *f*

Cl. *cresc.* *f*

Bsn. *cresc.*

Hn. *cresc.*

Tpt. *f*

Timp. *ff* *ff*

T.-t.

Vln. 1 *f*

Vln. 2 *f*

Vla. *cresc.* *f*

Vc. *cresc.* *f*

Db. *cresc.* *f*

Detailed description: This page of a musical score, numbered 36, is for the piece 'Curtain Tune on a Ground' by Charlie Barber. It covers measures 104 and 105. The score is written for a large orchestra. Measures 104-105 show a crescendo in the woodwinds and strings, leading to a fortissimo (ff) section in measure 105. The flute, clarinet, and horn parts have a crescendo in measure 104 and then play fortissimo in measure 105. The bassoon, trumpet, and timpani also have a crescendo in measure 104 and then play fortissimo in measure 105. The violin and viola parts have a crescendo in measure 104 and then play fortissimo in measure 105. The cello and double bass parts have a crescendo in measure 104 and then play fortissimo in measure 105. The percussion parts (timpani and triangle) have a crescendo in measure 104 and then play fortissimo in measure 105. The woodwinds (flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, horn, and trumpet) have a crescendo in measure 104 and then play fortissimo in measure 105. The strings (violin, viola, cello, and double bass) have a crescendo in measure 104 and then play fortissimo in measure 105.

106

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

Tpt.

Timp.

T.-t.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

f

tr

ppp

Charlie Barber - Curtain Tune on a Ground

108

J

a 2 *volando*

Fl. *cresc.* *f* *ff*

Ob. *cresc.* *f* *ff*

Cl. *cresc.* *f* *ff*

Bsn. *cresc.*

Hn. *cresc.*

Tpt. *cresc.* *ff*

Timp. *p* *ff* *f* 3

T.-t. (tr) *choke* To B. D. *ff*

Vln. 1 *cresc.* *f* *J*

Vln. 2 *cresc.* *f*

Vla. *cresc.* *f stacc.* *sim.*

Vc. *cresc.* *f stacc.* *sim.*

Db. *cresc.* *f stacc.* *sim.*

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

Tpt.

Timp.

B. D.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

114

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

Tpt.

Timp.

B. D.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

f

ff

ben marcato

a 2

f

ff

f

ff

f

ff

Charlie Barber - Curtain Tune on a Ground

117

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

Tpt.

Timp.

B. D.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

f

ff

f

ff

f

f

ppp

Tam-tam

tr

To T.-t.

120 (F#)

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

Tpt.

Timp.

T.-t.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

K

1.

ff

dim.

p

f

measured

arco measured

ff

straight mute in

l.v.

To B. D.

123

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

Tpt.

Timp.

B. D.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

8va

1.

f

a 2

ff

f

con sord.

a 2

ff

Bass Drum

f

3

dim.

f

dim.

f

dim.

f

dim.

f

dim.

f

Charlie Barber - Curtain Tune on a Ground

(8)

125

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

Tpt.

Timp.

B. D.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

fp

ff

dim.

f

ff

dim.

f

ff

dim.

p

dim.

p

dim.

p

dim.

p

To T.-t.

Charlie Barber - Curtain Tune on a Ground

(8)-----]

128

Fl. *p* *pp* 1. 2.

Ob. *dim.* *mf* *dim.*

Cl. *p* *pp* 1. 2.

Bsn.

Hn.

Tpt. *dim.* *mf* *dim.*

Timp.

T.-t.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

Charlie Barber - Curtain Tune on a Ground

131

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

Tpt.

Timp.

T.-t.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

p

mute out

Charlie Barber - Curtain Tune on a Ground

133

Fl. *cresc.* *mf* *a 2* *sf*

Ob. *mf* *sf*

Cl. *cresc.* *mf* *sf*

Bsn. *mf* *sf*

Hn. *mf* *sf*

Tpt. *mf* *sf*

Timp. *p* *sf*

Tam-tam *ppp* *f* *choke*

Vln. 1 *mf* *sf*

Vln. 2 *mf* *sf*

Vla. *mf* *sf*

Vc. *mf* *sf*

Db. *mf* *sf*