

Turkish Belly Dance

Don Orfeo

♩ = 132

Measures 1-5 of the piece. The music is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The bass line consists of a steady eighth-note pattern: C4, E4, G4, A4. The treble line is mostly rests, with a melodic phrase starting in measure 5: B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4, C4.

Measures 6-9. Measure 6 begins with a treble line melodic phrase: C4, E4, G4, A4, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4, C4. The bass line continues with the eighth-note pattern. Measure 7 has a repeat sign. Measures 8 and 9 continue the treble line melody: C4, E4, G4, A4, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4, C4.

Measures 10-13. Measure 10 starts with a treble line melodic phrase: C4, E4, G4, A4, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4, C4. The bass line continues with the eighth-note pattern. Measure 11 has a repeat sign. Measures 12 and 13 continue the treble line melody: C4, E4, G4, A4, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4, C4.

Measures 14-17. Measure 14 starts with a treble line melodic phrase: C4, E4, G4, A4, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4, C4. The bass line continues with the eighth-note pattern. Measure 15 has a repeat sign. Measures 16 and 17 continue the treble line melody: C4, E4, G4, A4, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4, C4.

Measures 18-21. Measure 18 starts with a treble line melodic phrase: C4, E4, G4, A4, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4, C4. The bass line continues with the eighth-note pattern. Measure 19 has a repeat sign. Measures 20 and 21 continue the treble line melody: C4, E4, G4, A4, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4, C4.

2

22

26

30 *Coda poco e poco accel.*

33

I dined at a Turkish restaurant in 1985 in Chicago, and enjoyed the live band and belly dancer. (I still remember the belly!) Unique to Turkish music are microtonal intervals such as eighth tones. This did not stop me from attempting to emulate the musical style within the twelve-tone system, and that resulted in this dance.

For a long time, I was confused by the scale. Although in the key of one sharp, it was a C sharp instead of an F sharp, and the tonal center was around E. This did not fit any traditional Western tonal scale or mode, but after much deliberation, I realized that, as it was in a Turkish style, it must be in the key of Asia minor!