Suite du Cirque is a six-movement suite piece depicting a circus show, with every movement representing a different act.

1. Danse Cirque (1:10)

The opening movement introduces the circus with a light and joyful dance. As the crowd settles in, the mood somewhat darkens to set up the first act, Tightrope. The end of this movement should flow directly attacca into the next movement.

2. Tightrope (2:30)

A mysterious tone settles over the stage as the crowd watches the performers on the tightrope in anticipation. The tense melody is emphasized by the use of augmented seconds and intervals of the octatonic scale in the woodwinds combined with harmonics in the violins and violas.

3. Clown Act (2:48)

The clowns enter the spotlight for a humorous act full of jokes and pranks, with the sixteenth-note motive in half steps representing their laughter. The use of various percussion instruments depicts the chaos of the clowns bumping into each other and stumbling, always followed by laughter. A much darker melody resembles the creepier side of the clowns before reaching the climax, where the clumsy clown slips and falls, followed by a full symphony

applause. As the clown gets up, the movement closes with echoing laughter.

4. Trapeze (4:00)

The movement opens with a calm and graceful tone, as two trapeze acrobats swing across the stage. A somewhat darker melody follows, as the tense excitement gradually builds up. The performers then begin faster stunts, represented by the suspenseful bassline under the main melody at rehearsal D before building to a grand climax, where the performers spiral down. The beginning melody returns to close the movement in a peaceful manner.

5. Wheel of Death (2:20)

The opening features a low brass melody, with open fifths in the low strings creating an open yet foreboding atmosphere as the performers enter the turning wheel. A slightly faster melody follows as the wheel begins to spin. The sforzando pizzicatos in the strings depict the performers jumping on the wheel, joined by the woodwind scales resembling the turning of the wheel. The excitement builds as the wheel gains speed and the performers run faster, leading to a grand ending.

6. Finale (1:54)

As the show comes to an end, all of the previous themes are highlighted while the performers from each act are brought back on stage to take a bow. The final ending depicts the conclusion of the circus with the clowns giving one final laugh.