
James Primosch

Piano Variations

for Solo Piano



THEODORE
PRESSER
COMPANY

Program Listing

Piano Variations (2006)

Prelude *fantastico, quasi improvisando*
Tema *semplice, ma espressivo e con poco rubato*
Variation I *sognando, flessibile*
Variation II *scampering; leggero*
Variation III *con fuoco*
Variation IV *moderato, flowing*
Variation V *moderato; like a mechanical toy*
Variation VI *sempre delicato e legato*
Variation VII *andante; a bit tipsy*
Interlude *largo, contemplativo*
Variation VIII *allegretto*
Variation IX *pompous, a little grotesque*
Variation X *molto vivace*
Variation XI *grand; in romantic style*
Variation XII *senza tempo; quasi cadenza*
(like a parody of the preceding variation)
Variation XIII *cryptic*
Variation XIV *presto*
Postlude *fantastico, quasi improvisando*

Program Note

When Lambert Orkis asked me for a work for piano and synthesizer, I knew I would eventually adapt at least a portion of the piece for the more practical medium of piano alone. This set of 14 variations on an original theme served as the first movement of the *Sonata-Fantasia* I wrote for Lambert. The piece is framed by a prelude and postlude, with a brief interlude at the midpoint of the set.

Lambert wanted me to combine piano with synthesizer as an emblem of the keyboard's future. Yet, ghosts from the piano's history haunt these variations as they sometimes take as models keyboard textures created by past composers, both remote in time and more recent. The variations are not only on a theme, but on the very notion of what the piano itself can be.

for Lambert Orkis

Piano Variations

James Primosch

Prelude

Fantastico; quasi improvvisando ♩ = 58

15^{ma}
pp 3 f 8^{va} p 3 pp p poco (as though continuing)
Ped. → mf 3

4 (15^{ma}) 8^{va}
f (interrupting) 3 6 3 p mp 7 3
f 8^{va} mp

7 (8^{va})
pressando 6 5 f f 16 16
8^{va} f 16 16

10 ♩ = 54 (loco) poco rit.
sf 3 p pp p 3 3 3
(con pedale) p 3 3 5
Ped.

----- a tempo

14

3 5 3 mp (con pedale)

18

3 3 6 3 3 7 3 mp

22

p mf decrescendo poco a poco mp

Tema

♩ = 46 semplice, ma espressivo e con poco rubato

26

p mp

31

3 3 3 p mf p subito

36

3

p

Variation 1

41

$\text{♩} = 63$ *sognando, flessibile*

pp

pp

p

3

con molto pedale

47

mp

mf

53

f

55

p subito

ppp

p

ppp

p

57

6

pp

f

3

61

f

pp

pp

Variation 2

♩ = 120 *scampering; leggiero*

66

f

p

f

69

p

f

p

mp

73

p

f

77 *8va* *sf* *p* *8va*

79 *8va* *sf* *p* *8va*

81 *8va* *sf* *f* *p*

84 *rit.* *a tempo* *mf* *p*

87 *f* *mp* *dim. poco a poco*

90 *pp* *8va* *8vb*

Variation 3

94 $\text{♩} = 132$ *con fuoco*

f *8^{va}* *f martellato; strepitoso* 3

97 *f* *8^{va}* *f sempre non legato*

101 3

105 *f* *p* 3

108 *f* *p* *f*