

Variations on a Hymn Tune

James Primosch

Variations on a Hymn Tune

composed on a commission from the Council Rock School District for the Council Rock High School North and South Orchestras, Newtown and Holland, Pennsylvania.

Instrumentation

Flute 1, 2 (2 doubling piccolo)

Oboe 1, 2

B-flat clarinet 1, 2

Bassoon 1, 2

F horn 1, 2

B-flat trumpet 1, 2

Trombone 1, 2

Tuba

Timpani

Percussion 1

vibraphone

bass drum

bongos

gong (shared with Percussion 2)

medium suspended cymbal (shared with Percussion 2,3)

Percussion 2

tubular bells

medium suspended cymbal (shared with percussion 1,3)

gong (shared with Percussion 1)

tambourine

snare drum

shaker

Percussion 3

glockenspiel

triangle

medium suspended cymbal (shared with percussion 1, 2)

2 tom-toms

temple blocks

claves

Violin 1

Violin 2

Viola

Violoncello

Contrabass

N.B: This is a transposed score

Duration

approximately 5:20

Program Note

Composed at the request of the Council Rock School District, these variations are based on a 19th century hymn tune called “Ebenezer”, written by Welsh composer Thomas J. Williams. I came to know the tune with the text “Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow”, but my music does not reflect that somewhat lugubrious title! After a short introduction, the hymn is heard in the violins. Variations 1 and 3 treat the tune contrapuntally, with the tune sometimes played at different speeds simultaneously. Variations 2 and 4 change the rhythm of the hymn more dramatically. The extended ending of the 4th variation recalls some of the gestures of the introduction.

I tried to write a piece that would include a variety of moods, would appeal to young players, and would give each orchestral section a chance to shine. I am very grateful to the music program of Council Rock for a chance to work with their orchestras, and offer my heartfelt thanks to the student musicians who have worked so hard to bring this music to life.

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Introduction

Allegro $\text{♩} = 116$

Musical score for the Introduction section, featuring various instruments and percussion. The score is in 12/8 time and includes dynamic markings such as *f*, *fp*, *mf*, and *p*. The instruments listed are Piccolo, Flute 1, Oboe 1, Oboe 2, Clarinet in B \flat 1, Clarinet in B \flat 2, Bassoon 1, 2, Horn in F 1, Horn in F 2, Trumpet in B \flat 1, Trumpet in B \flat 2, Trombone 1, Trombone 2, Tuba, Timpani, Percussion 1 (vibraphone), Percussion 2, and Percussion 3. The score includes dynamic markings such as *f*, *fp*, *mf*, and *p*. The tempo is marked Allegro with a metronome marking of $\text{♩} = 116$. The key signature has one flat (B \flat).

Allegro

Musical score for the main section, featuring Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Violoncello, and Contrabass. The score is in 12/8 time and includes dynamic markings such as *f*, *mf*, and *p*. The tempo is marked Allegro with a metronome marking of $\text{♩} = 116$. The key signature has one flat (B \flat).

6

Picc. *mf* *crescendo poco a poco*

Fl. 1 *mf* *crescendo poco a poco*

Ob. 1 *mf* *f* *fp* *f* *mf* *crescendo poco a poco*

Ob. 2 *f* *fp* *f* *mf* *crescendo poco a poco*

B \flat Cl. 1 *mf* *f* *fp* *f* *mf* *crescendo poco a poco*

B \flat Cl. 2 *f* *fp* *f* *mf* *crescendo poco a poco*

Bsn. 1, 2 *f* *p* *f* *mf* *crescendo poco a poco*

Hn. 1 *fp* *f* *fp* *f*

Hn. 2 *f* *f*

B \flat Tpt. 1 *fp* *f* *fp* *f*

B \flat Tpt. 2 *fp* *f* *fp* *f*

Tbn. 1 *f* *f*

Tbn. 2 *f* *f*

Tuba

Timp.

Perc. 1 *Leo.* *mf* *med.susp.cymb.*

Perc. 2 *p*

Perc. 3

6

Vln. I *mf* *f* *fp* *f* *mf* *crescendo poco a poco*

Vln. II *f* *fp* *f* *mf* *crescendo poco a poco*

Vla. *mf* *f* *fp* *f* *mf* *crescendo poco a poco*

Vc. *f* *p* *mf* *crescendo poco a poco*

Cb. *f* *p* *mf* *crescendo poco a poco*

Theme

11

Picc. *ff*

Fl. 1 *ff* *f*

Ob. 1 *ff* *f*

Ob. 2 *ff* *f*

B♭ Cl. 1, 2 *ff* *f*

Bsn. 1, 2 *ff* *f*

Hn. 1 *p* *f*

Hn. 2 *mp* *f*

B♭ Tpt. 1 *p* *f*

B♭ Tpt. 2 *mp* *f*

Tbn. 1 *p* *f*

Tbn. 2 *mp* *f*

Tuba *p* *f*

Timp. *mf* *f*

Perc. 1 *f*

Perc. 2 *f* (non l. v.)

Perc. 3

11

Vln. I *ff* *mf*

Vln. II *ff* *mf*

Vla. *ff* *f*

Vc. *ff* *mf* *f*

Cb. *ff* *mf* *f*

16

Picc. *mf*

Fl. 1

Ob. 1, 2

B♭ Cl. 1, 2

Bsn. 1

Bsn. 2

Hn. 1, 2 *f*

B♭ Tpt. 1, 2 *f*

Tbn. 1 *f*

Tbn. 2 *f*

Tuba *f*

Timp. *f*

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3 *glock* *mf* *l.v.*

16

Vln. I *p*

Vln. II *p*

Vla. *f*

Vc. *mf* *f* *pizz.* *p*

Cb. *mf* *f* *pizz.* *p*

21

Fl. 1

Ob. 1, 2

B♭ Cl. 1, 2

Bsn. 1, 2

Hn. 1, 2

B♭ Tpt. 1, 2

Tbn. 1, 2

Tuba

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

21

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

Picc. *f* take flute

Fl. 1 *f*

Ob. 1, 2 *f*

B♭ Cl. 1, 2 *f*

Bsn. 1 *f*

Bsn. 2 *f*

Hn. 1, 2 *f* a 2

B♭ Tpt. 1 *f*

B♭ Tpt. 2 *f*

Tbn. 1, 2 *f*

Tuba *f*

Timp. *f*

Perc. 1

Perc. 2 *f* sempre l.v. *p* tubular bells

Perc. 3

Vln. I *pp* sul G

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

Variation I

l'istesso tempo

31

Fl. 1

Ob. 1

B \flat Cl. 1

Bsn. 1, 2

Hn. 1, 2

B \flat Tpt. 1, 2

Tbn. 1, 2

Tuba

Timp.

Perc. 1
vibraphone
p sempre l.v.

Perc. 2

Perc. 3
glock
p sempre l.v.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.
pizz.
p