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**James Primosch**

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# **Piano Variations**

*for Solo Piano*



## Program Listing

### Piano Variations (2006)

Prelude *fantastico, quasi improvisando*

Tema *semplice, ma espressivo e con poco rubato*

Variation I *sognando, flessibile*

Variation II *scampering; leggiero*

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 improvisando  $\text{♩} = 58$

The musical score consists of five systems of piano music. System 1 (measures 1-3) starts in 4/4, dynamic *pp*, with a tempo of  $\text{♩} = 58$ . It features eighth-note patterns and a dynamic transition from *pp* to *f*. System 2 (measures 4-6) begins with a dynamic *f* (interrupting) and changes time signature to 5/4. System 3 (measures 7-9) starts with a dynamic *f* and changes time signature to 3/4. System 4 (measures 10-12) starts with a dynamic *sf* and changes time signature to 4/4. The score includes various dynamics such as *p*, *pp*, *f*, *mp*, *mf*, *pressando*, *poco rit.*, and *con pedale*.

## Piano Variations

a tempo

14

(con pedale)

*mp*

18

*p*

*mf*

*mp*

22

*mf* decrescendo poco a poco

*mp*

**Tema**

$\text{♩} = 46$  semplice, ma espressivo e con poco rubato

26

*p*

*mp*

31

*p*

*p subito*

**10**

**10**

36

**Variation 1**

41

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

*con molto pedale*

47

53

*p subito*

55

Piano Variations  
*rit.* - - - a tempo

Musical score for Piano Variations, measures 57-61. The score consists of two staves. The top staff uses treble clef and 3/4 time, starting with a key signature of one flat. Measure 57 begins with a sixteenth-note pattern. Measure 58 shows a transition with a 6/8 measure containing eighth-note pairs. Measures 59-60 show more complex patterns with grace notes and slurs. Measure 61 concludes with a dynamic of *pp*. The bottom staff uses bass clef and 7/8 time, with a key signature of one sharp. It features eighth-note patterns and grace notes throughout the measures.

Variation 2

$\text{♩} = 120$  scampering; leggiero

Musical score for Variation 2, measures 66-68. The score consists of two staves. The top staff uses treble clef and 3/4 time, with a key signature of one flat. Measure 66 starts with a forte dynamic (*f*). Measures 67-68 show eighth-note patterns with grace notes. The bottom staff uses bass clef and 6/16 time, with a key signature of one flat. It features eighth-note patterns and grace notes, with dynamics *p* and *f*.

Musical score for Variation 2, measures 69-72. The score consists of two staves. The top staff uses treble clef and 6/16 time, with a key signature of one flat. Measure 69 starts with a dynamic *p*, followed by *f*. Measures 70-71 show eighth-note patterns with grace notes. The bottom staff uses bass clef and 6/16 time, with a key signature of one flat. It features eighth-note patterns and grace notes, with dynamics *p* and *mp*.

Musical score for Variation 2, measures 73-76. The score consists of two staves. The top staff uses treble clef and 3/4 time, with a key signature of one flat. Measure 73 starts with a dynamic *p*, followed by *f*. Measures 74-75 show eighth-note patterns with grace notes. The bottom staff uses bass clef and 3/4 time, with a key signature of one flat. It features eighth-note patterns and grace notes.

## Piano Variations

7

77

*8va*

*sf p*

*(8va)*

*8va*

*sf p*

*(8va)*

*rit.* —————— *a tempo*

*f*

*mp dim. poco a poco*

*pp*

*8vb*

## Variation 3

94       $\text{♩} = 132$  *con fuoco*

*f*      *f* *martellato; strepitoso*      3

97      *f*      *f sempre non legato*

101     3

105     3      *f*      *p*

108     *f*      *f*