

JOHN WEBBER
200808

VARIATIONS
on a Medieval Theme
for orchestra

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VARIATIONS ON A MEDIEVAL THEME

Based on *O Heiland reiß die Himmel auf* by Friedrich von Spee

ORCHESTRA:

3 flutes, 3rd. doubling piccolo
3 oboes
3 clarinets in B \flat
3 bassoons

4 horns in F
3 trumpets in B \flat
3 trombones
1 tuba

timpani

strings

durata circa 13 minutes
score is transposed

O Heiland, reiß die Himmel auf,
Herab, herab, vom Himmel lauf!
Reiß ab vom Himmel Tor und Tür,
Reiß ab, wo Schloß und Riegel für!

O Gott, ein' Tau vom Himmel gieß;
Im Tau herab, o Heiland, fließ.
Ihr Wolken, brecht und regnet aus
Den König über Jakobs Haus.

O Erd', schlag aus, schlag aus, o Erd',
Daß Berg und Tal grün alles werd'
O Erd', herfür dies Blümlein bring,
O Heiland, aus der Erden spring.

Wo bleibst du, Trost der ganzen Welt,
Darauf sie all' ihr' Hoffnung stellt?
O komm, ach komm vom höchsten Saal,
Komm tröst uns hie im Jammertal.

O klare Sonn', du schöner Stern,
Dich wollten wir anschauen gern.
O Sonn', geh auf, ohn' deinen Schein
In Finsternis wir alle sein.

Hie leiden wir die größte Not,
Vor Augen steht der ewig' Tod;
Ach komm, führ uns mit starker Hand
Vom Elend zu dem Vaterland.

Da wollen wir all' danken dir,
Unserm Erlöser, für und für.
Da wollen wir all' loben dich
Je allzeit immer und ewiglich.

Text: Friedrich Spee 1622
Melody: Köln 1638, Augsburg 1666

The text is by Friedrich von Spee (February 25, 1591 - August 7, 1635). According to Wikipedia he was a German Jesuit and poet who was instructed to prepare women convicted of witchcraft for their execution by burning. He is most noted as an opponent of trials for witchcraft. Spee was the first person in his time who spoke strongly and with arguments against torture in general. He may be considered the first who ever gave good arguments why torture is not a way of obtaining truth from someone undergoing painful questioning. The poem is a vision of Christ descending from the sky in glory to save suffering humanity.

VARIATIONS on an MEDIEVAL THEME

for orchestra

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Introduction, Moderato

Flutes

Oboes

Clarinets in Bb

Bassoons

Horns in F

Trumpets in Bb

Trombones

Tuba

Timpani

Violins I

Violins II

Violas

Cellos

Double Bass

pp

p

p

12

Flts. I
II
III

Obs. I
II
III

Clts. I
II
III

Bsns. I
II
III

Hns.

Trpts.

Trbns. I
II

III

Tuba

Timp.

12

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vle.

Vc.

D.B.

Theme, poco piu mosso

22

Flts. I II

III

Obs.

Clts. I II

III

Bsns. I II

III

Hns.

Trpts.

Trbns.

Tuba

Timp.

Vlins. I

Vlins. II

Vle.

Vc.

D.B.

Variation I, Strepitoso

63

I

Flts. II

III

I

Obs. II

III

Clts.

Bsns.

I

Hns.

III

IV

I

Trpts.

II

III

I

Trbns.

II

III

Tuba

Timp.

63

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vle.

Vc.

D.B.

104

I *ff*

Flts. II *ff*

III *ff*

I *ff*

Obs. II *ff*

III *ff*

Clts. I *ff*

II *ff*

III *ff*

Bsns.

a2

I *f*

II *f*

III *f*

IV *f*

I *f*

II *f*

III *f*

Trpts. I *f*

II *f*

III *f*

Trbns. I 1. *f*

II 2. *f*

III *f*

Tuba *f*

Timp.

104

Vlns. I *f*

II *f*

Vle. *f*

Vc. *f*

D.B. *f*

Variation II, meno

128

Flts. I

1. solo

p

pp

p

Obs.

Clts.

Bsns. I

1. solo

pp

p

Hns. I

a2

ff

pp

Hns. III

a2

ff

pp

Trpts.

Trbns.

Tuba

pp

pp

Timp.

Vlins. I

128

pp

ppp

Vlins. II

ppp

Vle.

solo viola

p

Vc.

D.B.

140

Flts. I

1. solo
ppp

Obs.

Clts.

Bsns. I

1. solo
ppp

Hns.

Trpts.

Trbns.

Tuba

Timp.

Vlms. I

140

ppp

Vlms. II

Vle.

solo viola
p

Vc.

D.B.

pizz.
p

150

Flts. I

1. *pp*

Obs. I
II

pp

I

1. *pp*

Clts.

II

2. *pp*

Bsns. I

1. *pp*

Hns.

Trpts.

Trbns.

Tuba

pp *pp*

Timp.

Vlns. I

150 *pp*

Vlns. II

pp

Vle.

Vc.

D.B.

205

Flts.

Obs.

Clts. I

Bsns. I

Hns.

Trpts.

Trbns. I II

Trbns. III

Tuba

Timp.

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vle.

Vc.

D.B.

1. solo

p

1. solo

p

ff

p

Flts.

Obs.

Clts. I

Bsns. I

Hns.

Trpts.

Trbns.

Tuba

Timp.

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vle.

Vc.

D.B.

Flts.

Obs.

Clts. I

Bsns. I

Hns.

Trpts.

Trbns.

Tuba

Timp.

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vle.

Vc.

D.B.

243

Flts.

I

Obs. II

III

Clts. I

Bsns. I

Hns.

Trpts.

Trbns.

Tuba

Timp.

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vle.

Vc.

D.B.

f

f

pp

ff

p

mf

f

p

pp

f

pp

253

Flts.

I

f *mf*

Obs. II

mf

III

Clts.

Bsns.

I II

Hns.

mp

III

mp 3.

I II

Trpts.

mf

III

mf

Trbns.

Tuba

Timp.

253

Vlins. I

mf *mp* *p*

Vlins. II

mf *mp* *p*

Vle.

Vc.

D.B.

Variation IV, L'Istesso tempo (♩. = ♩)

262

Flts. I II *pp*

Obs. I 1. solo *mf*

Clts. I *pp* 1. solo *mf*

Bsns. I II *pp*

Hns. I 1. *p*

III 3. *p*

Trpts.

Trbns.

Tuba *pp*

Timp. *pp*

Vlns. I 262 *pp* solo 1st. violin *mp*

Vlns. II *pp* solo 2nd. violin *mp*

Vle. pizz. *pp* solo viola arco *mp*

Vc. pizz. *pp* pizz. *pp*

D.B. pizz. *pp* arco *pp*

Variation V, Presto

284

Flts.

Obs. I

Clts.

Bsns.

Hns. I

Hns.

Trpts.

Trbns.

Tuba

Timp.

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vle.

Vc.

D.B.

291

Flts. I
II
III

Obs.

Clts. I
II
III

Bsns.

pp

3

1.

Hns. I
II
III

Trpts.

Trbns. I
II
III

Tuba

pp

3

Timp.

291

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vle.

Vc.

D.B.

p

p

p

298

Flts. I
II

Obs. I
II
III

Clts. I
II

Bsns. I
II
III

Hns. I
II
III

Trpts.

Trbns. I
II
III

Tuba

Timp.

1. & 2.

p

1. & 2.

p

1. & 2.

p

1. & 2.

p

298

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vle.

Vc.

D.B.

p

mf

mf

312 \flat 8

Flts. I
II
III

Obs.

Clts.

Bsns.

I

Hns.

Trpts.

Trbns. I
II
III

Tuba

Timp.

1. solo

p

312

Vlms. I

Vlms. II

Vle.

Vc.

D.B.

p

p

p

319

Flts. I
II
III

Obs.

Clts. I
II
III

Bsns.

Hns. I
II

Hns. III

Trpts.

Trbns. I
II
III

Tuba

Timp.

319

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vle.

Vc.

D.B.

Variation VI, Allegretto

326

Flts. I

1. solo

mf

1. solo

Hns. I

Hns. III

Trpts.

Trbns. I II III

Tuba

Timp.

326

Vlns. I

pp

Vlns. II

pp

Vle.

pizz.

pp

Vc.

D.B.

333 **1. solo**

Flts. I **1. solo**

Obs.

Clts. I **1. solo**
p

Bsns. I **1. solo**
p

Hns. I II

III **a3**

Trpts.

Trbns. I II III
pp

Tuba

Timp.

Vlms. I 333

Vlms. II

Vle. **arco**
p

Vc. *p*

D.B.

341

I
Flts. *mp*

II
Flts. *mp*

Obs.

Clts.

Bsns.

Hns.

Trpts.

Trbns. I
II
III *pp*

Tuba

Timp.

341

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vle.

Vc.

D.B.

347

I

Flts.

II

Obs.

Clts.

Bsns.

Hns.

Trpts.

Trbns. I
II
III

Tuba

Timp.

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vle.

Vc.

D.B.

347

347

Variation VII, L'Istesso tempo

352

1. solo

Flts.

p

Obs.

1. solo

p

Clts.

1. solo

p

Bsns.

1. solo

p

Hns.

3.

pp

Trpts.

pp

Trbns.

pp

Tuba

Timp.

Vlns. I

352

Vlns. II

Vle.

Vc.

D.B.

364

Flts. I

1.

pp

Obs. I

1.

pp

Clts. I

1.

pp

Bsns. I

1.

pp

Hns. I II

pp

Hns. III

3.

pp

Trpts. I II III

pp

Trbns. I II III

pp

Tuba

Timp.

364

Vlns. I

p

Vlns. II

p

Vle.

p

Vc.

p

D.B.

Finale, poco meno

377 1.

The score is divided into two systems. The first system includes Flutes I, II, and III; Oboes I, II, and III; Clarinets I; Bassoons I; Horns I, II, III, and IV; Trumpets; Trombones I, II, and III; Tuba; and Timpani. The second system includes Violins I and II; Viola; Violoncello; and Double Bass. The music is in 3/8 time and features various dynamics such as *p*, *pp*, and *ppp*. The woodwinds and strings play melodic lines, while the brass instruments provide harmonic support. The score is marked with first endings and includes dynamic markings like *p*, *pp*, and *ppp*.

393

I

mf

Flts. II

mf

III

I

Obs. II

III

I

f

Clts. II

f

III

I

f

Bsns. II

f

III

Hns.

Trpts. I
II
III

f

Trbns. I
II
III

f

Tuba

f

Timp.

Vlns. I

393

f

Vlns. II

f

Vle.

f

Vc.

f

D.B.

f

398

I

ff

Flts. II

ff

Picc.

ff

I

ff

Obs. II

ff

III

ff

I

ff

Clts. II

ff

III

ff

I

ff

Bsns. II

ff

III

ff

Hns. I II

ff

III IV

ff

Trpts. I II III

Trbns. I II III

Tuba

ff

Timp.

Vlns. I

398

ff

Vlns. II

ff

Vle.

ff

Vc.

ff

D.B.

400

I

Flts. II

Picc.

I

Obs. II

III

I

Clts. II

III

I

Bsns. II

III

I

II

III

IV

Hns.

Trpts. I II III

Trbns. I II III

Tuba

Timp.

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vle.

Vc.

D.B.

This page of a musical score contains measures 402, 403, and 404. The score is arranged in a system with multiple staves for different instruments. The woodwind section includes Flutes (I, II), Piccolo, Oboes (I, II, III), Clarinets (I, II), Bassoons (I, II, III), and Horns (I, II, III, IV). The brass section includes Trumpets (I, II, III), Trombones (I, II, III), and Tuba. The percussion section includes Timpani. The string section includes Violins (I, II), Viola, Violoncello, and Double Bass. The score features complex melodic lines for the woodwinds and strings, with various articulations and dynamics. A *ff* (fortissimo) dynamic marking is present in the Timpani part at the end of measure 404. The page number 45 is centered at the bottom.

404

1.

2.

Flts. I

Flts. II

Obs. I

Obs. II

Obs. III

Clts. I

Clts. II

Clts. III

Bsns. I

Bsns. II

Bsns. III

Hns. I

Hns. II

Hns. III

Hns. IV

Trpts. I

Trpts. II

Trpts. III

Trbns. I

Trbns. II

Trbns. III

Tuba

Timp.

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vle.

Vc.

D.B.

mf

f

406 *poco rall.*

Flts. I, II, III *mf* *p*

Obs. I, II, III *mf*

Clts. I, II, III *mf* *pp*

Bsns. I, II, III *mf* *pp*

Hns.

Trpts.

Trbns. I, II, III *p*

Tuba

406

Vlns. I *pp* (open strings) niente

Vlns. II *pp* (open strings) niente

Vle. *mp* solo viola tutti violas pizz. *pp*

Vc. pizz. *pp*

D.B. pizz. *pp*