

An Original Composition:

*Variations*, for bass clarinet and piano

Master's Thesis

Presented to

The Faculty of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences  
Brandeis University  
Department of Music  
Eric Chasalow, Advisor

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by  
Eric Chow

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## ABSTRACT

Variations, for bass clarinet and piano

A thesis presented to the Department of Music

Graduate School of Arts and Sciences  
Brandeis University  
Waltham, Massachusetts

By Eric Chow

I approached the writing of *Variations* in a more focused and directed manner than many of my previous works, by structuring the piece as a theme and variations. Some of the variations adhere more closely to the original theme by stating the theme in relatively unaltered ways, while others are looser interpretations, based upon verticalized harmonies from the theme's melody. I do not usually use more traditional or straightforward forms in my pieces; it was my hope that by attempting to do so, that the listener's perception of the piece would benefit from it.

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# Variations

Eric Chow

Lazily, ♩ = ca. 45

Bass Clarinet

Piano

*p* < > *p* < > *p* < >

3

3

Detailed description: This system contains the first three measures of the piece. The Bass Clarinet part is in the bass clef with a 4/4 time signature. It features a melodic line with a triplet of eighth notes in the third measure. The Piano accompaniment is in grand staff (treble and bass clefs) with a 4/4 time signature. It consists of a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the right hand and rests in the left hand. Dynamics include piano (*p*) and crescendos/decrescendos.

B. Cl.

Pno.

*p* *f*

4

3

Detailed description: This system contains measures 4 through 6. The Bass Clarinet part continues the melodic line, featuring a triplet of eighth notes in measure 5 and a dynamic shift from piano (*p*) to forte (*f*) in measure 6. The Piano accompaniment remains in grand staff with a 5/4 time signature. It features a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the right hand and rests in the left hand. Dynamics include piano (*p*) and forte (*f*).

B. Cl.

Pno.

7 Slightly faster, ♩ = ca. 60-64

*p* *f* *p* < *f* 3

3

3

Detailed description: This system contains measures 7 through 10. The tempo is marked 'Slightly faster' with a quarter note equal to approximately 60-64 beats per minute. The Bass Clarinet part features a melodic line with a triplet of eighth notes in measure 8 and a dynamic shift from piano (*p*) to forte (*f*) in measure 9. The Piano accompaniment is in grand staff with a 3/4 time signature. It features a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the right hand and rests in the left hand. Dynamics include piano (*p*) and forte (*f*).

11

B. Cl.

Pno.

*mp* *f* *p* *mf*

*mf* *f* *mf* *f* *mf*

15

B. Cl.

Pno.

Intensely, ♩. = c. 120

*p* *pp*

*p* *pp*

*Led. ad lib.*

19

Pno.

*fp*

22

Pno.

*f* *p* *f* *mf* *f*

25

B. Cl.

Pno.

*p* *mf*

28

B. Cl.

Pno.

*p* *f*

*f* *p* *f*

31

B. Cl.

Pno.

*mf* *f*

*mf* *f*

34

B. Cl.

*p*

*pp*

Pno.

6/16 6/16 12/16

37

B. Cl.

*f*

*pp*

Pno.

6/16 6/16 12/16 12/16

41

B. Cl.

*mf*

*f*

Pno.

2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2

45

B. Cl.

*f* *p*

Pno.

*p* *f* *p*

49

B. Cl.

*f* *p* *f*

Pno.

*f* *p*

53

B. Cl.

*p*

Pno.

*f* *p*

57

*mp* *p* *p* *mf*

*8va*

Moderately,  $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 76-80$

*loco*



Pno.

62

*f* *p* *mf*

Detailed description: This system shows the piano accompaniment for measures 62 through 67. The music is written in a grand staff with treble and bass clefs. It features complex chordal textures and arpeggiated figures. Dynamic markings include *f* (forte), *p* (piano), and *mf* (mezzo-forte). The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#).

B. Cl.

Pno.

68

*p* *f*

*f* *p* *f*

Detailed description: This system covers measures 68 to 72. The B. Cl. part (Bass Clarinet) enters in measure 68 with a melodic line that includes a crescendo from *p* to *f*. The piano accompaniment features triplets and arpeggiated chords. Dynamic markings include *f*, *p*, and *f*. The time signature changes from 4/4 to 3/4 in measure 70.

B. Cl.

Pno.

73

*p*

*p*

Detailed description: This system covers measures 73 to 77. The B. Cl. part continues with a melodic line in 3/4 time, marked *p* (piano). The piano accompaniment features a triplet in measure 73 and sustained chords in measures 74-75. Dynamic markings include *p* and *p*. The time signature changes from 3/4 to 4/4 in measure 76.

B. Cl.

Pno.

78

*f*

*f*

Detailed description: This system covers measures 78 to 82. The B. Cl. part features a melodic line with triplets, marked *f* (forte). The piano accompaniment features complex chordal textures and arpeggiated figures, also marked *f*. The time signature changes from 4/4 to 3/4 in measure 79, then to 2/4 in measure 80, and back to 4/4 in measure 81.

83

B. Cl.

*p*

Pno.

*p* *f*

92

B. Cl.

*pp* *mf* > *p*

Pno.

*mf*

100

B. Cl.

*p*

Pno.

*p*



123

B. Cl.

*pp* *p* *p* *ppp*

Pno.

*pp*