

COMPOSER'S NOTE

These variations are based on the familiar European melody given many names: *O du fröhliche*, *O Sanctissima*, and *The Sicilian [Mariners] Hymn*.

Among diverse ethnic heritages and languages, the melodic halves (or fragments) are at times repeated to match a given sung text. In “Variations to the Sicilian Hymn” (Benjamin Carr, ed. Owen), an example of early printed organ music from America, the tune is treated directly and without repeats. In these new variants, the performer may choose to omit repeat signs where marked. Registrational suggestions are intended to encourage the creative use of an instrument, to best highlight a diversity of tonal color and the musical phrases. Inspired by the compositional flavor of Robert Hebble and Leo Sowerby, “Variations on *O du fröhliche*” provides listenable, fun-to-play perspectives among a modern-day polyphonic treatment.

—Nicholas Schmelter

For Tyler Kivel

Variations on “O du fröhliche”

(Sicilian Mariners)

Nicholas Schmelter

Theme

Mans: Foundations 8', 4', 2' (coupled)

Ped: Foundations 8', 4', Chimes

Joyfully, with a swing

The musical score is written for a three-part organ setting. The top staff is in treble clef, key of D major (one sharp), and 4/4 time. It begins with a forte (*f*) dynamic and a 'Joyfully, with a swing' instruction. The melody consists of eighth-note chords, with each measure starting with an accent (^). The bottom staff is in bass clef, key of D major, and 4/4 time. It begins with a forte (*f*) dynamic and a 'quasi campane' instruction. The accompaniment consists of half-note chords, with each measure starting with an accent (^). A large diagonal watermark reading 'Copying is illegal' and 'Review copy' is overlaid on the page.

Variation 1

Gt: Foundations 8', 2', Ch. to Gt.
Ch: Foundations 8', 2' ($1\frac{3}{5}'$ or $1\frac{1}{3}'$)
Sw: Flute 8', 4'
Ped: Reed 8'

Leisurely

Gt. *mf*

Sw. *mp*

f

3

The musical score for Variation 1, measures 3-4, is presented in a three-staff format. The top staff (Gt.) is in treble clef, the middle staff (Sw.) is in bass clef, and the bottom staff (Ped.) is in bass clef. The time signature is 4/4, and the key signature has one sharp (F#). The Gt. staff begins with a melodic line in measure 3, which is slurred into measure 4. The Sw. staff provides a rhythmic accompaniment with eighth and sixteenth notes. The Ped. staff has a bass line with a slur over measures 3 and 4. A large diagonal watermark 'Copying is illegal' and 'Review copy' is overlaid on the page.

Variation 2

Gt: Foundations 8', Ch. to Gt.
Ch: Foundations 8' (Tremulant *ad lib.*)
Sw: Reed 8'
Ped: Flute 4'

RusticallySw. *mp*

First system of music (measures 1-3). The score is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It features three staves: a grand staff (treble and bass clef) and a single bass staff. The grand staff has a treble clef with a key signature of one sharp and a 4/4 time signature. The bass staff has a bass clef with a key signature of one sharp and a 4/4 time signature. The music is marked *mp* (mezzo-piano). The grand staff contains a melody in the treble clef and a bass line in the bass clef. The single bass staff contains a bass line. The music is marked *mf* (mezzo-forte) in the grand staff.

Second system of music (measures 4-6). The score is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It features three staves: a grand staff (treble and bass clef) and a single bass staff. The grand staff has a treble clef with a key signature of one sharp and a 4/4 time signature. The bass staff has a bass clef with a key signature of one sharp and a 4/4 time signature. The music is marked *mf* (mezzo-forte) in the grand staff. The first measure of the system is marked with a '4' above the treble clef. The music continues with a melody in the treble clef and a bass line in the bass clef.

Variation 6

Mans: tutti

Ped: tutti

Broadly and majestically, exulting

First system of musical notation for Variation 6, measures 1-4. The score is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It features a grand staff with treble and bass clefs. The right hand plays chords with accents, while the left hand plays a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. A forte (*ff*) dynamic marking is present in the first measure.

Second system of musical notation for Variation 6, measures 5-8. The score continues with the same grand staff and key signature. The right hand plays chords, and the left hand continues the rhythmic pattern. The system concludes with a double bar line.