

Variations on a Theme by Haydn

Johannes Brahms

arranged by
Robert D. McCashin

1 Full Score

8 Violin 1

8 Violin 2

5 Viola

5 Cello

5 Bass

Extra Part - P3036241

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Program Notes

Johannes Brahms was a pianist turned composer. He was born Hamburg, Germany, in 1833 and is a well-known composer of the Romantic period. His *Variations on a Theme by Haydn* are based on a theme not by Haydn at all. The theme was actually taken from the second movement of a “field-partita,” possibly written by his prized student Pleyel. It is now commonly known as the *Saint Anthony Chorale*.

The theme was brought to Brahms’ attention by his friend K.F. Pohl, a Haydn scholar and archivist at the famed Gesellschaft der Musikfreunde in Vienna. Brahms first composed the variations for two pianos, but almost immediately thereafter orchestrated it for full orchestra. Multiple sources point out that it was the first set of variations ever composed for the orchestral medium. The full orchestra work contains the St. Anthony theme in a form for winds very close to the original field-partita, with only string pizzicato added, plus eight variations and a coda repeat of the theme. A most unique feature is that the theme has two five-bar segments, as opposed to the standard four-bar “classical” thematic model. The *Variations* were completed and first performed in 1873, premiered by the Vienna Philharmonic with Brahms himself conducting. The success of this work encouraged Brahms to write numerous major orchestral works, including his four symphonies.

The arranger has included the opening theme, a carefully selected set of the variations, and Brahms’ repetition of the full-blown coda. It is undoubtedly an unpretentious, cheerful, even joyful work, and would be a great addition to any concert program!

About the Arranger

Robert D. McCashin, DMA, is Professor Emeritus and former Director of Orchestras and Professor of Conducting at James Madison University. He recently retired from academe after a 43-year career of conducting and applied string teaching at the college/university level. He was awarded JMU’s Distinguished Teacher Award for the College of Visual and Performing Arts in 2015. For the past 24 years, Dr. McCashin has been Music Director for the JMU Symphony, Chamber Orchestra and Opera Orchestras, and taught all relevant orchestral conducting and academic courses within the MM and DMA curricular core, as well as applied studio strings.

Dr. McCashin, a violinist, has been a successful writer and arranger of educational publications, having now published nearly 80 works for the Grade I through V educational performance levels. His original works and arrangements are published through Wingert-Jones, FJH Music and Tempo Press. He has been a regular guest conductor for a variety of orchestral ensembles, including Regional and All-State Orchestras across the US as well as Regional professional orchestras. He has been invited to present more than 30 conducting workshops and seminars for national and state level teacher conferences throughout the U.S.

Dr. McCashin is Founder, Past President and former National Board member for the College Orchestra Directors Association.

Duration ca. 6:45

Variations on a Theme by Haydn

Theme, I, III, VI, and Coda

Johannes Brahms

arranged by Robert D. McCashin

Andante ♩ = 56 - 60

Violin 1

Violin 2

Viola

Cello

Bass

p

pizz.

2 3 4 5

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Variations on a Theme by Haydn

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Cello

Bass

6 7 8 9 10

This musical score page contains measures 6 through 10 of a piece titled 'Variations on a Theme by Haydn'. The score is arranged for a string quartet, with parts for Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), Cello, and Bass. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats), and the time signature is 12/8. The dynamics are marked 'f' (forte) at the beginning of each measure. The notation includes various musical symbols such as eighth notes, quarter notes, half notes, and rests, with some notes beamed together. The Viola, Cello, and Bass parts feature some chromatic alterations indicated by sharps, naturals, and flats in parentheses. The measures are numbered 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 at the bottom of the page.

Variations on a Theme by Haydn

Vln. 1
 Vln. 2
 Vla.
 Cello
 Bass

p *pp* *p* *pp* *p* *pp* *p* *pp*

arco
 (pizz.)

11 12 13 14 15 16 17

The musical score is for a piece titled "Variations on a Theme by Haydn". It features five staves: Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), Cello, and Bass. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 3/8. The score spans measures 11 to 17. Violins 1 and 2 play a melodic line with dynamics *p* and *pp*. Viola and Cello play arco, while Bass plays pizzicato. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, accents, and dynamic markings.

19

4

Variations on a Theme by Haydn

Score for Variations on a Theme by Haydn, measures 24 to 30.

Vln. 1

Measures 24-26: (V) *dim. smorz.*

Measures 27-30: 1. *dim. smorz.* 2.

Vln. 2

Measures 24-26: (V) *dim. smorz.*

Measures 27-30: *dim. smorz.*

Vla.

Measures 24-26: (V) *dim. smorz.*

Measures 27-30: *dim. smorz.*

Cello

Measures 24-26: (V) *dim. smorz.*

Measures 27-30: *dim. smorz.*

Bass

Measures 24-26: *dim. smorz.*

Measures 27-30: *dim. smorz.*

Measures 24 25 26 27 28 29 30

31 Poco più animato ♩ = 72 - 74

6

Variations on a Theme by Haydn

Violins 1 and 2, Viola, Cello, and Bass, measures 37-42. The score is in B-flat major (two flats) and 4/4 time. Measures 37-40 show a rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes with triplets. Measures 41-42 feature a forte (*f*) dynamic and a melodic line in the upper staves. A rehearsal mark '40' is present above measure 40.

Variations on a Theme by Haydn

Violins 1 and 2, Viola, Cello, and Bass

Measures 43-48

Violins 1 and 2: Treble clef, key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). Violin 1 has a first ending bracket over measures 43-44. Violin 2 has a first ending bracket over measures 43-44. Both violins have a second ending bracket over measures 45-48. Dynamics: *p* (piano) at measure 45, *f* (forte) at measure 48. Articulation: *V* (accents) at measures 45, 46, 47, and 48. Trills: Trills are marked at measures 45 and 46 for both violins. Slurs: Slurs are present over measures 43-44 and 45-48 for both violins. Triplets: Triplets are marked at measures 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, and 48 for both violins. First ending: First ending bracket over measures 43-44. Second ending: Second ending bracket over measures 45-48.

Viola: Bass clef, key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). Dynamics: *p* (piano) at measure 45, *f* (forte) at measure 48. Articulation: *V* (accents) at measures 45, 46, 47, and 48. Trills: Trills are marked at measures 45 and 46. Slurs: Slurs are present over measures 43-44 and 45-48. Triplets: Triplets are marked at measures 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, and 48.

Cello: Bass clef, key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). Dynamics: *p* (piano) at measure 45, *f* (forte) at measure 48. Articulation: *V* (accents) at measures 45, 46, 47, and 48. Trills: Trills are marked at measures 45 and 46. Slurs: Slurs are present over measures 43-44 and 45-48. Triplets: Triplets are marked at measures 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, and 48.

Bass: Bass clef, key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). Dynamics: *p* (piano) at measure 45, *f* (forte) at measure 48. Articulation: *V* (accents) at measures 45, 46, 47, and 48. Trills: Trills are marked at measures 45 and 46. Slurs: Slurs are present over measures 43-44 and 45-48. Triplets: Triplets are marked at measures 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, and 48.

Variations on a Theme by Haydn

49

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Cello

Bass

49 50 51 52 53

Variations on a Theme by Haydn

Vln. 1
 Vln. 2
 Vla.
 Cello
 Bass

54 55 56 57 58 59

Variations on a Theme by Haydn

60 **Con moto** ♩ = 80 - 82

60 61 62 63 64

Vln. 1 *mf*

Vln. 2 *mp*

Vla. *mf* *mp*

Cello *p*

Bass *p*

Variations on a Theme by Haydn

1. 2.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Cello

Bass

65 66 67 68 69 70

Variations on a Theme by Haydn

71

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Cello

Bass

mf

mp

71 72 73 74 75

Detailed description of the musical score: The score is for five instruments: Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Cello, and Bass. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). The time signature is 3/4. Measure 71 is marked with a box containing the number 71. Violin 1 has a repeat sign at the start of the measure. Violin 2, Viola, Cello, and Bass all have a 'V' marking above the first note of measure 71. The dynamics are marked as *mf* for Violin 2 and *mp* for Cello and Bass. The score continues for measures 72, 73, 74, and 75.

Variations on a Theme by Haydn

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Cello

Bass

76 77 78 79 80

Variations on a Theme by Haydn

81 Vivace ♩ = 88 - 90

81 82 83 84 85

p

Vln. 1

p

Vln. 2

pizz.

arco

V

Vla.

p

pizz.

arco

V

Cello

p

Bass

p

V

V

Variations on a Theme by Haydn

1. 2.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

pizz arco

Vla.

Cello

Bass

86 87 88 89 90 91

Variations on a Theme by Haydn

92

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Cello

Bass

92 93 94 95 96

f

Detailed description of the musical score: The score is for a string quartet. Measures 92-96 are shown. The key signature is B-flat major. The time signature is 4/4. The dynamic is forte (f). The Violin 1 part starts with a half note B-flat, followed by eighth notes. The Violin 2 part starts with a half note B-flat, followed by eighth notes. The Viola part starts with a half note B-flat, followed by eighth notes. The Cello part starts with a half note B-flat, followed by eighth notes. The Bass part starts with a half note B-flat, followed by eighth notes. In measure 95, the Viola part has a key signature change to B-flat major. The Cello and Bass parts have a key signature change to B-flat major. The Violin 1 and Violin 2 parts have a key signature change to B-flat major.

Variations on a Theme by Haydn

100

Vln. 1
 Vln. 2
 Vla.
 Cello
 Bass

97 98 99 100 101

ff

Variations on a Theme by Haydn

104

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Cello

Bass

102 103 104 105 106

Variations on a Theme by Haydn

poco rall.

1. 2.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Cello

Bass

107 108 109 110 111

The musical score is for a string quartet, featuring Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Cello, and Bass. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). The tempo marking 'poco rall.' is indicated at the top right. The score spans measures 107 to 111. Measures 107-109 contain a complex melodic line in the violins, with the Viola and Cello providing harmonic support. Measures 110-111 show a repeat of the previous material, with a first ending (1.) and a second ending (2.) leading to a final cadence. The notation includes various musical symbols such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings.

Variations on a Theme by Haydn

112 Broadly; Meno mosso ♩ = 80 - 82

Vln. 1
 Vln. 2
 Vla.
 Cello
 Bass

(ff)
 (ff)
 (ff)
 (ff)
 (ff)

112 113 114 115 116 117

The musical score for Variation 112 is written for a string quartet. It begins in measure 112 with a key signature of two flats (B-flat major). The tempo is 'Broadly; Meno mosso' with a metronome marking of 80-82 beats per minute. The dynamic is marked 'ff' (fortissimo). The Violin 1 and Viola parts play a steady eighth-note accompaniment. The Violin 2, Cello, and Bass parts play a more active melody with slurs and accents. The score spans measures 112 to 117.

Variations on a Theme by Haydn

119

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Cello

Bass

118

119

120

121

122

123

Variations on a Theme by Haydn

Vln. 1
 Vln. 2
 Vla.
 Cello
 Bass

dim. (V) (V)
 dim. (V) (V)
 dim. V V
 dim. V
 dim. 6 6 6 6 6 legato
 dim. 6 6 6 6 6 legato
 124 125 126 127 128 129

Variations on a Theme by Haydn

molto rit. **132** in full tempo ♩ = 92 - 96

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Cello

Bass

130 131 **ff** 132 133 134 135

p *ff* *p* *ff* *p* *ff* *div.*

Variations on a Theme by Haydn

Score for Variations on a Theme by Haydn, measures 136 to 141.

Instrument parts shown:

- Vln. 1
- Vln. 2
- Vla.
- Cello
- Bass

Measure numbers: 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141. Total duration: 6'46.3".

Key signature: B-flat major (two flats).

Time signature: 3/4.

Measure 139 includes the instruction "div." (divisi).