

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 $\text{♩} = 56 - 60$

The musical score consists of five staves, each representing a different instrument: Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Cello, and Bass. The music is in 2/4 time and is written in common bass clef. The key signature is one flat. The score includes dynamic markings such as p (piano) and pizz. (pizzicato). Measure numbers 2, 3, 4, and 5 are indicated below the staves.

Violin 1: Starts with a eighth-note followed by sixteenth-note pairs. Measures 2-5 show eighth-note patterns with grace notes.

Violin 2: Measures 2-5 show eighth-note patterns with grace notes.

Viola: Measures 2-5 show eighth-note patterns with grace notes.

Cello: Measures 2-5 show eighth-note patterns with grace notes.

Bass: Measures 2-5 show eighth-note patterns with grace notes.

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Variations on a Theme by Haydn

Musical score for Variations on a Theme by Haydn, featuring five staves:

- Vln. 1**: Violin 1, Treble clef, dynamic **f**. Measures 6-10.
- Vln. 2**: Violin 2, Treble clef, dynamic **f**. Measures 6-10.
- Vla.**: Viola, Bass clef, dynamic **f**. Measures 6-10. Key signature changes from B-flat major to A major at measure 8.
- Cello**: Cello, Bass clef, dynamic **f**. Measures 6-10. Key signature changes from B-flat major to A major at measure 8.
- Bass**: Bass, Bass clef, dynamic **f**. Measures 6-10. Key signature changes from B-flat major to A major at measure 8.

Measure numbers 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 are indicated below the staves.

Variations on a Theme by Haydn

Musical score for Variations on a Theme by Haydn, featuring five staves (Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Cello, Bass) and measures 11 through 17.

Vln. 1: Starts with eighth-note pairs (p). Measures 14-17 show sixteenth-note patterns with dynamic markings **p**, **pp**, **p**, **pp**.

Vln. 2: Starts with eighth-note pairs (p). Measures 14-17 show sixteenth-note patterns with dynamic markings **v**, **pp**, **v**, **pp**.

Vla.: Measure 11: eighth-note pairs (p). Measures 12-13: sustained notes. Measure 14: eighth-note pairs. Measures 15-17: sixteenth-note patterns with dynamic markings **v**, **pp**, **v**, **pp**. Includes instruction "arco" above the first measure.

Cello: Measure 11: eighth-note pairs (p). Measures 12-13: sustained notes. Measure 14: eighth-note pairs. Measures 15-17: sixteenth-note patterns with dynamic markings **v**, **pp**, **v**, **pp**. Includes instruction "arco" above the first measure and "(pizz.)" below the bass staff.

Bass: Measures 11-13: eighth-note pairs (p). Measures 14-17: eighth-note pairs with dynamic markings **p**, **pp**.

Variations on a Theme by Haydn

19

Vln. 1

f

f

v

Vln. 2

Vla.

Cello

arco

f

18

19

20

21

22

23

Variations on a Theme by Haydn

(V)

(V)

dim. smorz.

1. | 2.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Cello

Bass

24 25 26 27 28 29 30

dim. smorz.

Variations on a Theme by Haydn

31 Poco più animato ♩ = 72 - 74

Score for Variations on a Theme by Haydn, Variation 31:

- Vln. 1:** Starts with **p**. Measures 32-35 show melodic patterns with dynamics **mf**, **p**, and **3**. Measure 36 ends with **mf**.
- Vln. 2:** Starts with **p**. Measures 32-35 show melodic patterns with dynamics **mf**, **p**, and **3**. Measure 36 ends with **mf**.
- Vla.:** Starts with **p**. Measures 32-35 show melodic patterns with dynamics **3**, **3**, **3**, and **3**. Measure 36 ends with **mf**.
- Cello:** Starts with **p**. Measures 32-35 show melodic patterns with dynamics **3**, **3**, **3**, and **3**. Measure 36 ends with **mf**.
- Bass:** Starts with **p**. An **arco** instruction is present in measure 32.

Measure numbers: 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36

Variations on a Theme by Haydn

40

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Cello

Bass

37 38 39 40 41 42

Variations on a Theme by Haydn

Musical score for Variations on a Theme by Haydn, featuring parts for Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Cello, and Bass. The score spans measures 43 to 48.

Vln. 1: Treble clef, key signature of B-flat major (two flats). Measures 43-48 show eighth-note patterns with grace notes and slurs. Dynamics include **p**, **f**, and **3**. Performance instruction **V** appears in measure 45.

Vln. 2: Treble clef, key signature of B-flat major (two flats). Measures 43-48 show eighth-note patterns with grace notes and slurs. Dynamics include **p**, **f**, and **3**. Performance instruction **V** appears in measure 45.

Vla.: Bass clef, key signature of B-flat major (two flats). Measures 43-48 show eighth-note patterns with grace notes and slurs. Dynamics include **p**, **f**, and **3**. Performance instruction **V** appears in measure 45.

Cello: Bass clef, key signature of B-flat major (two flats). Measures 43-48 show eighth-note patterns with grace notes and slurs. Dynamics include **p**, **f**, and **3**. Performance instruction **V** appears in measure 45.

Bass: Bass clef, key signature of B-flat major (two flats). Measures 43-48 show eighth-note patterns with grace notes and slurs. Dynamics include **p**, **f**, and **3**. Performance instruction **V** appears in measure 45.

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

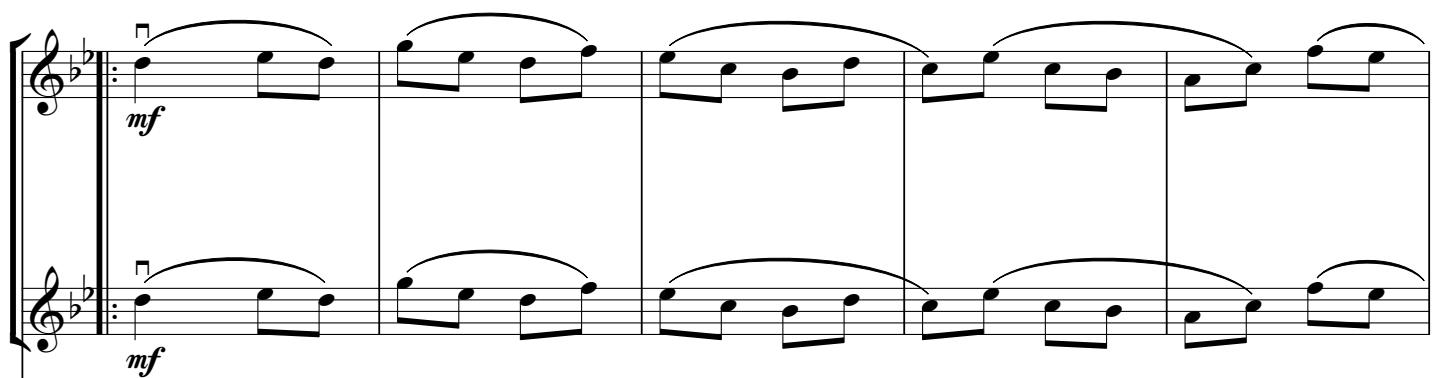
Bass

54 55 56 57 58 59

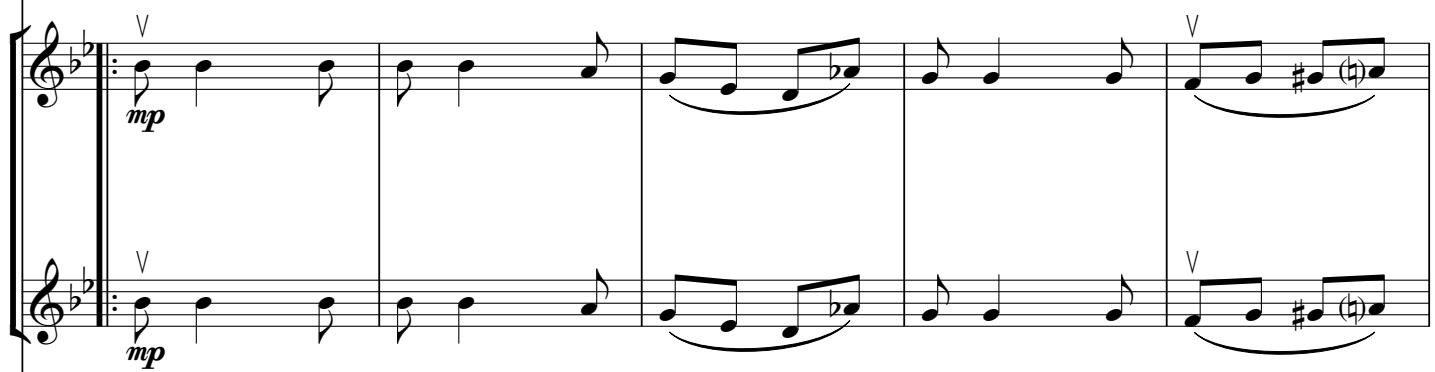
Variations on a Theme by Haydn

60 Con moto ♩ = 80 - 82

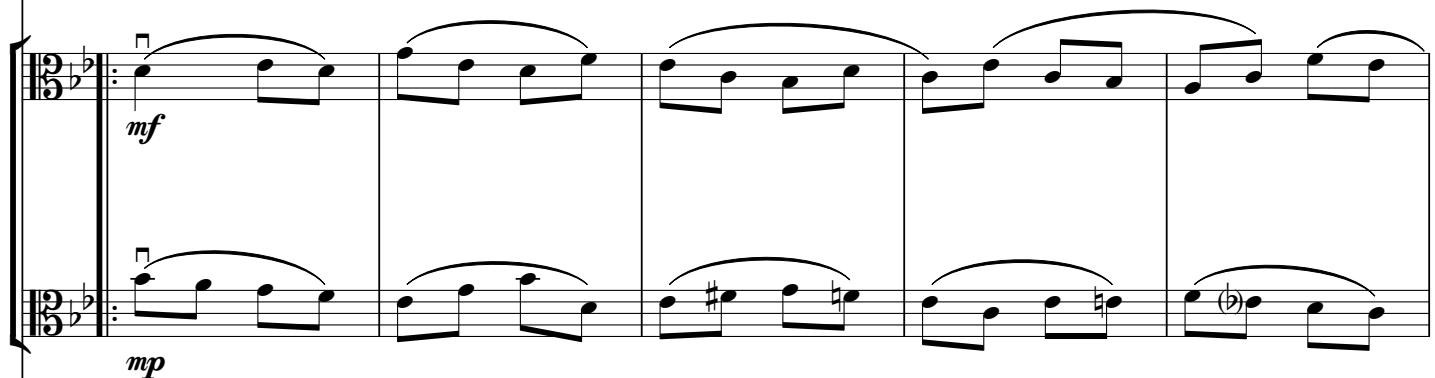
Vln. 1



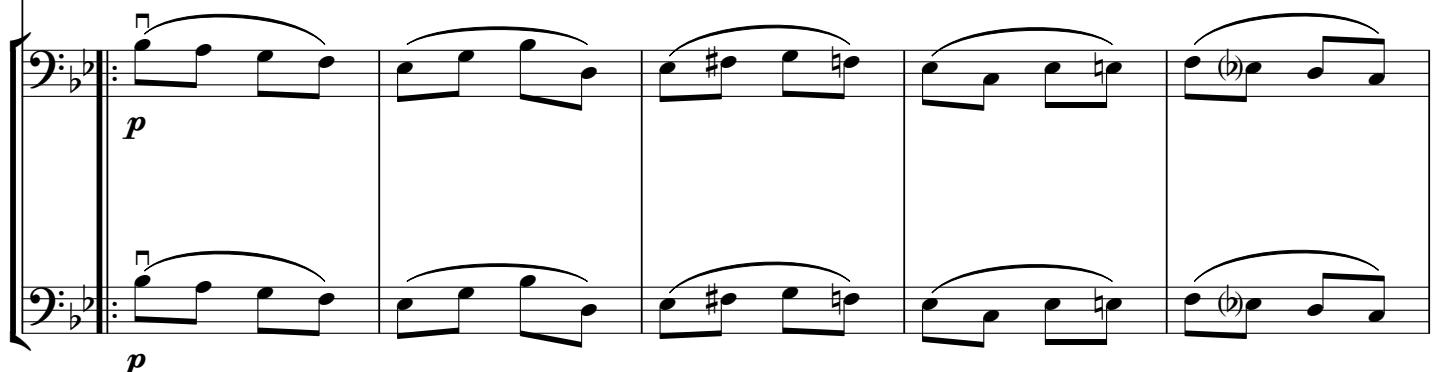
Vln. 2



Vla.



Cello



60

61

62

63

64

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

This musical score page displays five staves of music for string instruments, labeled Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Cello, and Bass. The key signature is one flat, and the time signature is common time. Measure 71 begins with Vln. 1 playing eighth-note pairs. Measures 72 and 73 show Vln. 1 with sixteenth-note patterns. Measures 74 and 75 feature sustained notes with grace notes above them. Vln. 2 enters in measure 72 with eighth-note pairs, marked *mf*. Vla., Cello, and Bass provide harmonic support throughout the section. Measure 75 concludes with a dynamic marking of *mp*.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Cello

Bass

71 *mp* 72 73 74 75

Variations on a Theme by Haydn

Musical score for Variations on a Theme by Haydn, showing staves for Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Cello, and Bass from measures 76 to 80.

The score consists of five staves, each with a key signature of one flat (F#) and a time signature of common time (indicated by a 'C'). The staves are separated by vertical bar lines. Measures 76 through 80 are shown.

- Vln. 1:** Starts with a sixteenth-note pattern. In measure 77, it has a sixteenth-note burst followed by eighth-note pairs. In measure 78, it has eighth-note pairs followed by a sixteenth-note burst. In measure 79, it has eighth-note pairs followed by a sixteenth-note burst. In measure 80, it has eighth-note pairs followed by a sixteenth-note burst.
- Vln. 2:** Starts with eighth-note pairs. In measure 77, it has eighth-note pairs followed by a sixteenth-note burst. In measure 78, it has eighth-note pairs followed by a sixteenth-note burst. In measure 79, it has eighth-note pairs followed by a sixteenth-note burst. In measure 80, it has eighth-note pairs followed by a sixteenth-note burst.
- Vla.:** Starts with eighth-note pairs. In measure 77, it has eighth-note pairs followed by a sixteenth-note burst. In measure 78, it has eighth-note pairs followed by a sixteenth-note burst. In measure 79, it has eighth-note pairs followed by a sixteenth-note burst. In measure 80, it has eighth-note pairs followed by a sixteenth-note burst.
- Cello:** Starts with eighth-note pairs. In measure 77, it has eighth-note pairs followed by a sixteenth-note burst. In measure 78, it has eighth-note pairs followed by a sixteenth-note burst. In measure 79, it has eighth-note pairs followed by a sixteenth-note burst. In measure 80, it has eighth-note pairs followed by a sixteenth-note burst.
- Bass:** Starts with eighth-note pairs. In measure 77, it has eighth-note pairs followed by a sixteenth-note burst. In measure 78, it has eighth-note pairs followed by a sixteenth-note burst. In measure 79, it has eighth-note pairs followed by a sixteenth-note burst. In measure 80, it has eighth-note pairs followed by a sixteenth-note burst.

Measure numbers 76, 77, 78, 79, and 80 are indicated at the bottom of each staff.

Variations on a Theme by Haydn

81 Vivace ♩ = 88 - 90

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Cello

81

82

83

84

85

Variations on a Theme by Haydn

1. | 2.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Cello

Bass

86 87 88 89 90 91

Variations on a Theme by Haydn

92

Vln. 1

Musical score for Variation 92, featuring two staves for Violin 1. The key signature is one flat, and the time signature is common time. The dynamic is **f**. The first staff begins with a single note followed by a sixteenth-note pattern. The second staff begins with a single note followed by a eighth-note pattern.

Vln. 2

Musical score for Variation 92, featuring two staves for Violin 2. The key signature is one flat, and the time signature is common time. The dynamic is **f**. Both staves show eighth-note patterns.

Vla.

Musical score for Variation 92, featuring two staves for Cello. The key signature is one flat, and the time signature is common time. The dynamic is **f**. Both staves show eighth-note patterns.

Cello

Musical score for Variation 92, featuring two staves for Bass. The key signature is one flat, and the time signature is common time. The dynamic is **f**. The first staff shows eighth-note patterns, while the second staff shows sixteenth-note patterns.

92

93

94

95

96

Variations on a Theme by Haydn

100

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Cello

Bass

97

98

99

100

101

Variations on a Theme by Haydn

104

Vln. 1

Musical score for Variation 104, page 104. The score consists of two staves for Violin 1 and Violin 2. The key signature is one flat, and the time signature is common time. The violins play eighth-note patterns with various slurs and grace notes.

Vln. 2

Continuation of the musical score for Variation 104, page 104. It includes parts for Violin 2 and Viola (Vla.). The violins continue their eighth-note patterns, and the viola provides harmonic support with sustained notes and eighth-note chords.

Vla.

Continuation of the musical score for Variation 104, page 104. It includes parts for Viola and Cello. The viola continues its eighth-note patterns, and the cello provides harmonic support with sustained notes and eighth-note chords.

Cello

Continuation of the musical score for Variation 104, page 104. It includes parts for Cello and Bass. The cello and bass provide harmonic support with sustained notes and eighth-note chords.

102

103

104

105

106

Variations on a Theme by Haydn

poco rall.

Musical score for strings (Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Cello, Bass) showing measures 107 through 111. The score is in common time, key signature is one flat. Measure 107: Vln. 1 and Vln. 2 play eighth-note patterns with grace notes. Vla., Cello, and Bass provide harmonic support. Measure 108: Similar patterns continue. Measure 109: Vln. 1 and Vln. 2 play eighth-note patterns with grace notes. Vla., Cello, and Bass provide harmonic support. Measure 110: Vln. 1 and Vln. 2 play eighth-note patterns with grace notes. Vla., Cello, and Bass provide harmonic support. Measure 111: Vln. 1 and Vln. 2 play eighth-note patterns with grace notes. Vla., Cello, and Bass provide harmonic support. Measure 112: Vln. 1 and Vln. 2 play eighth-note patterns with grace notes. Vla., Cello, and Bass provide harmonic support.

107 108 109 110 111

Variations on a Theme by Haydn

112 Broadly; *Meno mosso* $\text{♩} = 80 - 82$

Vln. 1

Violin 1 part of the musical score. The score consists of five systems of music, each with two staves. Measure 112 starts with a dynamic of *(ff)*. Measures 113-117 show eighth-note patterns. Measure 117 ends with a dynamic of *(ff)*.

Vln. 2

Violin 2 part of the musical score. Measures 112-117 show sixteenth-note patterns with grace marks (V) above the notes.

Vla.

Viola part of the musical score. Measures 112-117 show eighth-note patterns.

Cello

Cello part of the musical score. Measures 112-117 show sixteenth-note patterns with grace marks (V) above the notes.

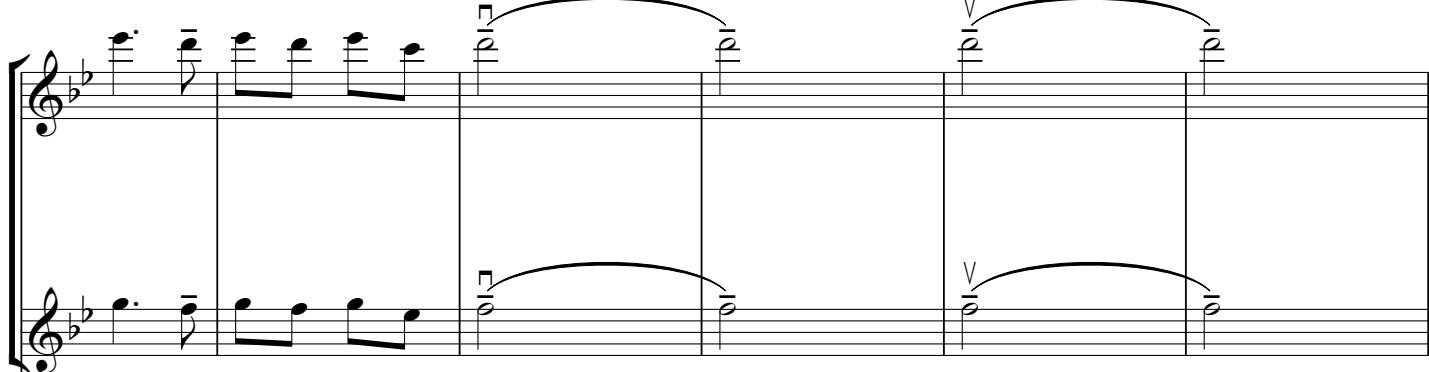
Bass

112 113 114 115 116 117

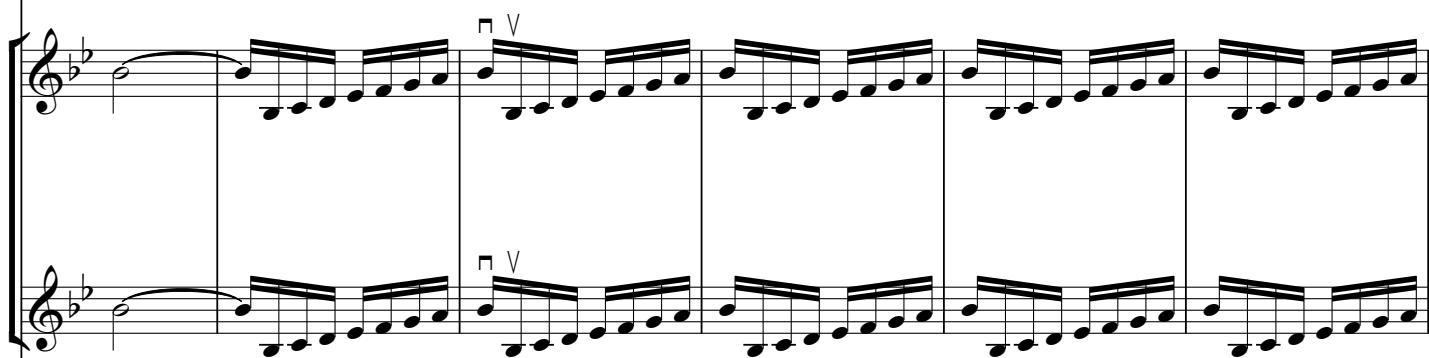
Variations on a Theme by Haydn

119

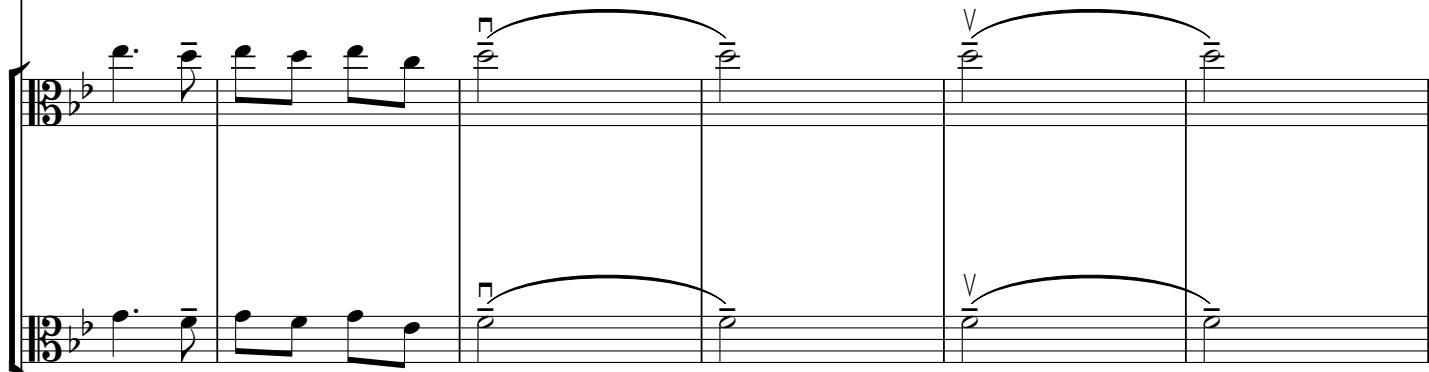
Vln. 1



Vln. 2



Vla.



Cello



Bass

118 119 120 121 122 123

Variations on a Theme by Haydn

dim.

(V)

Vln. 1

dim.

(V)

(V)

dim.

Vln. 2

dim.

Vla.

dim.

6

6

6

6

6

legato

Cello

dim.

6

6

6

6

6

legato

Bass

Variations on a Theme by Haydn

molto rit.

132 in full tempo $\text{♩} = 92 - 96$

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Cello

Bass

130 131 **ff**
132 133 134 135

Variations on a Theme by Haydn