

Peter McKenzie Armstrong

12 Variations
in
S–Mode

for piano solo

1971

Edition Ottaviano Petrucci

NOTE

This student work, written at Yale in 1971 for Alexander Goehr's seminar, is my first experiment with synthetic modes. I built a heptatonic scale having two augmented 2nds, keyboard symmetry, and a leading tone at the "wrong" end. Respelled here for convenience:

C C# D# E G G# A (C).

I decided to use as well, separately or in combination, its pentatonic complement,

A# B D F Gb.

Variations offered a likely compositional way to proceed, and Beethoven's 32 in C-Minor, which I was playing at the time, inspired a dare to make my theme short.

– PA

for Ellen

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Intro. (♩. = 40)

The Intro section is in 3/4 time with a tempo of quarter note = 40. It consists of 8 measures. The first measure is marked *f* (forte). The second measure is marked *dim.* (diminuendo). The third measure is marked *pp* (pianissimo). The piece ends with a double bar line.

9 Theme (♩. = 56)

The Theme section is in 3/4 time with a tempo of quarter note = 56. It consists of 4 measures. The first measure is marked *p* (piano). The piece ends with a double bar line.

This system continues the Theme section. It consists of 4 measures. The piece ends with a double bar line.

17 Var. 1 (♩. = 72)

Var. 1 is in 3/4 time with a tempo of quarter note = 72. It consists of 4 measures. The first measure is marked *mp* (mezzo-piano). The piece ends with a double bar line.

This system continues Variation 1. It consists of 4 measures. The piece ends with a double bar line. The instruction "no pause" is written above the final measure.

25 **Var. 2** (♩ = 63)

mf

staccato sim.

29

LH LH

33 **Var. 3** (♩ = 52)

p

41 **Var. 4** (♩ = 144)

f

49 **Var. 5** (♩ = 120)

pp

53 **Var. 6**

57 $\text{♩} = 84$

61 **Var. 7** $\text{♩} = 46$ *8va*

69 **Var. 8** $\text{♩} = 92$

73 **Var. 9** $\text{♩} = 50$

77



staccato sim.

p

81



Var. 10 ($\text{♩} = 50$)

mf

85



(staccato ...)

mp

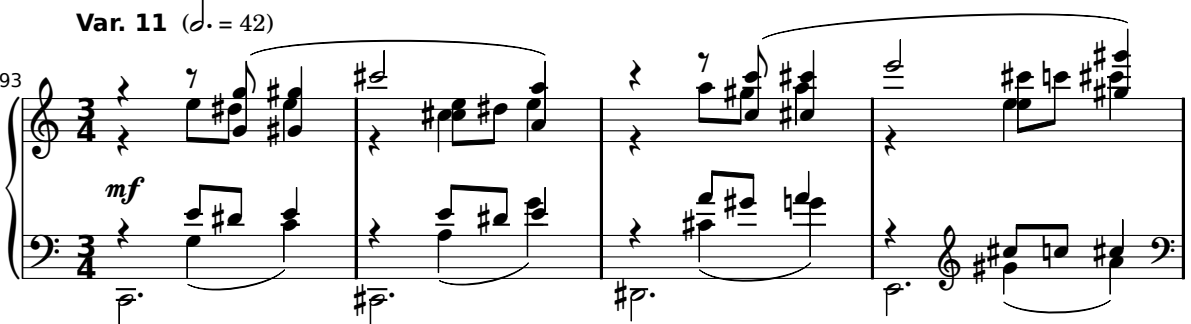
89



rit.

Var. 11 ($\text{♩} = 42$)

93



mf

97

Var. 12 (♩ = 152)

8va-----

101

8va-----

105

109

113