

HAYDN

Six Easy Variations in C Major (Hob. XVII/5; 1790)

Haydn's best-known variations are those in ensemble works, such as the variations on "Gott erhalte Franz den Kaiser" in the so-called "Emperor" Quartet, and the slow movement of the Symphony No. 94 ("Surprise"). We include these variations as an example of how the technique developed between Sweelinck's time (see

No. 1 above) and Mozart's D-minor Quartet (No. 30, below). It is especially worthwhile to examine the differences, in the individual variations, between what is varied and what isn't; though these pieces are small, Haydn's variation technique is often subtle and interesting.

Andante

The first system of musical notation is for the first variation, marked 'Andante'. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The time signature is 2/4. The melody in the treble staff begins with a quarter note G4, followed by eighth notes A4-B4-C5, and continues with a series of eighth and sixteenth notes. The bass staff provides a simple accompaniment of quarter notes: C4, G3, C4, G3, C4, G3, C4, G3.

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The second system of musical notation continues the first variation. It consists of two staves. The treble staff features a more complex melody with sixteenth-note runs and slurs. The bass staff continues with a simple accompaniment of quarter notes: C4, G3, C4, G3, C4, G3, C4, G3.

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The third system of musical notation continues the first variation. It consists of two staves. The treble staff features a more complex melody with sixteenth-note runs and slurs. The bass staff continues with a simple accompaniment of quarter notes: C4, G3, C4, G3, C4, G3, C4, G3.

Variation I

The first system of musical notation for Variation I consists of two staves. The treble staff begins with a quarter note G4, followed by eighth notes A4-B4-C5, and continues with a series of eighth and sixteenth notes. The bass staff provides a simple accompaniment of quarter notes: C4, G3, C4, G3, C4, G3, C4, G3.

6

The second system of musical notation for Variation I consists of two staves. The treble staff features a more complex melody with sixteenth-note runs and slurs. The bass staff continues with a simple accompaniment of quarter notes: C4, G3, C4, G3, C4, G3, C4, G3.