

Peter McKenzie Armstrong

12 Variations
in
S–Mode

for piano solo

Opus 1

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

12 Variations in S-Mode

piano solo

Peter McKenzie Armstrong
Opus 1 (1971)

Intro. (♩ = 40)

Musical score for the Intro section, measures 1-8. The piece is in 3/4 time with a tempo of quarter note = 40. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#). The score is written for piano solo. The first measure is marked *f* (forte). The second measure is marked *dim.* (diminuendo). The final measure is marked *pp* (pianissimo). The music consists of chords and arpeggiated figures in both hands.

9 Theme (♩ = 56)

Musical score for the Theme section, measures 9-12. The tempo is quarter note = 56. The music is marked *p* (piano). The melody in the right hand is a simple, lyrical line, while the left hand provides a steady accompaniment of chords.

Musical score for measures 13-16. The melody continues with some grace notes and slurs. The accompaniment remains consistent with the previous section.

17 Var. 1 (♩ = 72)

Musical score for Variation 1, measures 17-20. The tempo is quarter note = 72. The music is marked *mp* (mezzo-piano). This variation features more complex rhythmic patterns, including triplets in both hands.

Musical score for measures 21-24. The variation continues with intricate melodic and harmonic development. The final measure is marked "no pause".

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**

ff

5

57 ($\text{♩} = 84$)

3

5

5

61 **Var. 7** ($\text{♩} = 46$)

p

8va

69 **Var. 8** ($\text{♩} = 92$)

mf

sim.

73 **Var. 9** ($\text{♩} = 50$)

p

77

staccato sim.

p

81

Var. 10 (♩.. = 50)
mf

85

(*staccato...*)

mp

89

rit.

Var. 11 (♩ = 42)

93

mf

97

Var. 12 (♩ = 152)

8va-----

101

pp

8va-----

105

molto rit.

Coda (♩ = 208)

f *furioso*

109

(♩ = 208)

113

ff

sfz