

USE OF VARIATION TECHNIQUE FROM HAYDN THROUGH
RACHMANINOFF

by

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University of Maryland, College Park, in partial fulfillment
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Advisory Committee:

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ABSTRACT

Title of Dissertation: Use of Variation Technique
from Haydn through Rachmaninoff

Young-Ji Kim, Doctor of Musical Arts, 2012

Dissertation directed by Professor Bradford Gowen
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According to *The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians*, variation is “a form founded on repetition, and as such an outgrowth of a fundamental musical and rhetorical principle, in which a discrete theme is repeated several or many times with various modifications.”¹

This dissertation shows how selected composers treated variation technique differently.

Mozart’s *Nine Variations in D major*, K. 573 is one of Mozart’s later variations. Beethoven’s *Variations and Fugue for Piano in E flat major*, Op. 35 is a set of fifteen variations ending with a fugue finale, a departure from earlier variation forms. Schubert created the first example of fantasy variation in the slow movement of the *Wanderer*

¹ Elaine Sisman. "Variations." *Grove Music Online. Oxford Music Online*. Oxford University Press, accessed November 9, 2012, <http://www.oxfordmusiconline.com/subscriber/article/grove/music/29050>.

Fantasy D. 760 (1822). The *Piano Concerto in C minor*, K. 491 by Mozart has the form of a theme with variations in the third movement, an Allegro. The *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini*, Op.43 by Sergei Rachmaninoff is written for solo piano and symphony orchestra, closely resembling a piano concerto. The *Serious Variations*, Op. 54 by Mendelssohn has a wide range of pianistic textures and figures and virtuoso treatment of the theme. The *Symphonic Etudes*, Op. 13 is a set of etudes for solo piano by Robert Schumann. It began in 1834 as a theme and sixteen variations, plus a further variation on an entirely different theme. The *Andante with Variations in F minor*, Hob. 17/6 by Haydn is a set of double variations; the first theme is in F minor and the second theme in F major. Beethoven's *32 Variations in C minor*, WoO 80 has a chaconne form which is an unusual compositional style in the classic era. The work starts with the eight-bar theme that features contrary motion and growing harmonic tension.

The pieces discussed above were presented in three recitals on April 23, 2008, February 7, 2009, and October 22, 2012. Compact disc recordings of these recitals are available in the Michelle Smith Performing Arts Library of the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center at the University of Maryland.

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Doctor of Musical Arts Recital
Dissertation Recital 1

Young-Ji Kim --- Piano

April 23, 2008

8:00 PM

Gildenhorn Recital Hall

Teacher: Professor Bradford Gowen

9 Variations on a Minuet by Duport, K. 573

-----Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

15 Variations and a Fugue on an Original Theme, Op. 35, "Eroica Variations"

-----Ludwig van Beethoven

INTERMISSION

Fantasy in C major, Op. 15, "Wanderer Fantasia" ----- Franz Schubert

Allegro con fuoco ma non troppo

Adagio

Presto

Allegro

Doctor of Musical Arts Recital
Dissertation Recital 2

Young-Ji Kim --- Piano
Ilya Sinaisky --- Second Piano

February 17, 2009
8:00 PM

Gildenhorn RecitalHall
Teacher: Professor Bradford Gowen

Piano Concerto in C minor, K. 491 ----- Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
Allegro
Larghetto
Allegretto

INTERMISSION

Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini, Op. 43 ----- Sergei Rachmaninoff

Doctor of Musical Arts Recital
Dissertation Recital 3

Young-Ji Kim --- Piano

October 22, 2012
8:00 PM

Ulrich Recital Hall

Teacher: Professor Bradford Gowen

32 Variations in c minor, WoO 80 -----Ludwig van Beethoven

Symphonic Etudes, Op. 13 -----Robert Schumann

INTERMISSION

Andante with Variations in F minor, Hob. 17/6 -----Franz Joseph Haydn

Serious Variations, Op. 54 -----Felix Mendelssohn

Recital 1 CD – Track Listings

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

[1]-[11] 9 Variations on a Minuet by Duport, K. 573

Ludwig van Beethoven

[12]-[29] 15 Variations and a Fugue on an Original Theme, Op. 35,
“Eroica Variations”

Franz Schubert

Fantasy in C major, Op. 15, “Wanderer Fantasia”

[30] Allegro con fuoco ma non troppo

[31] Adagio

[32] Presto

[33] Allegro

Recital 2 CD -- Track Listings

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Piano Concerto in C minor, K. 491

[1] Allegro

[2] Larghetto

[3] Allegretto

Sergei Rachmaninoff

[4]-[7] Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini, Op. 43

Recital 3 CD – Track Listings

Ludwig van Beethoven

[1] 32 Variations in C minor, WoO 80

Robert Schumann

[2] Symphonic Etudes, Op. 13

Franz Joseph Haydn

[3] Andante with Variations in F minor, Hob. 17/6

Felix Mendelssohn

[4] Serious Variations, Op. 54

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