

Stephen Potter

Variations on 'Happy Birthday to You'

2018

This work was written to be part of the 2019 celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Open University as well as being a piece suitable for the Open University Orchestra's Schools Concerts. It was first performed at the OU Orchestra's Schools' Concert on the 8th November 2019 and was the opening item in the general public Autumn concert on 15th November 2019.

The intention was to showcase the sections of the orchestra in a compact work using variations on a tune well know to all. The OU Orcheatra's conductor, Catherine Rose, suggested that the variations should be dances and Stephen then thought these could mainly be the dances used in TV show *Strictly Come Dancing*.

The first variation is a Waltz for stings, the second a horn section Rumba and the third a sultry wind section Tango.

The fourth variation, a Quickstep for brass instruments, also marked the second significant 50th birthday of 2019 - that of the first transmission of *Monty Python's Flying Circus*. It thus is modelled on that programme's theme tune - Sousa's *Liberty Bell* march.

The Finale, a Pavane (which does not feature in *Strictly*) is a homage to Brahms and his *Variations on a theme of Haydn*. The first half is modelled on the finale in Brahms variations using a ground base, which in this case is a canon on the opening line of 'Happy Birthday to You'. Eventually a brass fanfare (the OU's 1970s TV theme tune) interjects leading to the return of the original theme. The audience can be invited to sing along with this if desired.

A string quartet/string orchestra version of this work can be used if only smaller forces are available.

Variations on a Theme by Mildred J. Hill

Theme

Stephen Potter

Brightly $\text{♩} = 100$

Flute 1
Flute 2
Oboe 1
Oboe 2
Clarinet in Bb 1
Clarinet in Bb 2
Bassoon 1
Bassoon 2
Horn in F 1
Horn in F 2
Horn in F 3
Horn in F 4
Trumpet in Bb 1
Trumpet in Bb 2
Trombone 1
Trombone 2
Bass Trombone
Tuba
Timpani
Percussion 1
Percussion 2
Violin I
Violin II
Viola
Violoncello
Contrabass

Brightly $\text{♩} = 100$

Brightly $\text{♩} = 100$

Variation 1:Waltz

♩ = 160 10 15 20 25

Flute 1
Flute 2
Oboe 1
Oboe 2
Clarinet in Bb 1
Clarinet in Bb 2
Bassoon 1
Bassoon 2
Horn in F 1
Horn in F 2
Horn in F 3
Horn in F 4
Trumpet in Bb 1
Trumpet in Bb 2
Trombone 1
Trombone 2
Bass Trombone
Tuba
Timpani
Percussion 1
Percussion 2

♩ = 160

Violin I
Violin II
Viola
Violoncello
Contrabass

30 35 40 45 50

Fl. 1
Fl. 2
Ob. 1
Ob. 2
Cl. 1
Cl. 2
Bsn. 1
Bsn. 2
Hn. 1
Hn. 2
Hn. 3
Hn. 4
Tpt. 1
Tpt. 2
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Perc. 1
Perc. 2
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

arco
arco
f
mf
p
mf
f
mf
p
mf
f
mf
p
mf
f
mf
mp
mf
f

Variation 2: Rumba

♩ = 110

55 60 65

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Ob. 1

Ob. 2

Cl. 1

Cl. 2

Horn 2: play if only 2 horns or support needed

Bsn. 1

Horn 4: play if only 2 horns or support needed

Bsn. 2

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Hn. 3

Hn. 4

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

B. Tbn.

Tba.

♩ = 110

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

♩ = 110

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

This page contains the musical score for measures 70 through 75 of a symphony. The score is arranged in a standard orchestral layout with the following parts from top to bottom:

- Fl. 1 and Fl. 2 (Flutes)
- Ob. 1 and Ob. 2 (Oboes)
- Cl. 1 and Cl. 2 (Clarinets)
- Bsn. 1 and Bsn. 2 (Bassoons)
- Hn. 1, Hn. 2, Hn. 3, and Hn. 4 (Horns)
- Tpt. 1 and Tpt. 2 (Trumpets)
- Tbn. 1 and Tbn. 2 (Trombones)
- B. Tbn. (Baritone Trombone)
- Tba. (Tuba)
- Timp. (Timpani)
- Perc. 1 and Perc. 2 (Percussion)
- Vln. I and Vln. II (Violins)
- Vla. (Viola)
- Vc. (Violoncello)
- Cb. (Contrabass)

The music is in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings. Dynamic markings include *mf* (mezzo-forte) and *f* (forte). The score concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots at the end of measure 75.

Variation 3: Tango

♩ = 66

80 85 90

Fl. 1
Fl. 2
Ob. 1
Ob. 2
Cl. 1
Cl. 2
Bsn. 1
Bsn. 2
Hn. 1
Hn. 2
Hn. 3
Hn. 4
Tpt. 1
Tpt. 2
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
B. Tbn.
Tba.

mf *mp* *f* *mf*

♩ = 66

Timp.

Perc. 1
Perc. 2

Castanets
Cymbals

f *mf*

♩ = 66

Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

95 100

Fl. 1
Fl. 2
Ob. 1
Ob. 2
Cl. 1
Cl. 2
Bsn. 1
Bsn. 2
Hn. 1
Hn. 2
Hn. 3
Hn. 4
Tpt. 1
Tpt. 2
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Perc. 1
Perc. 2
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

mf *f* *mf* *f* *mf* *f* *mf* *f* *mf* *f*

105

110

This musical score page covers measures 105 to 110. The instruments listed on the left are:

- Fl. 1 & 2
- Ob. 1 & 2
- Cl. 1 & 2
- Bsn. 1 & 2
- Hn. 1, 2, 3, 4
- Tpt. 1 & 2
- Tbn. 1 & 2
- B. Tbn.
- Tba.
- Timp.
- Perc. 1 & 2
- Vln. I & II
- Vla.
- Vc.
- Cb.

The score features various dynamics: *mf* (mezzo-forte), *mp* (mezzo-piano), *p* (piano), *cresc.* (crescendo), and *ff* (fortissimo). A triple accent (*ff 3*) is used in the flute and oboe parts. The percussion parts show a dynamic shift from *p* to *f* starting at measure 110. The string parts are mostly silent in this section.

Variation 4: Quickstep

Stile di Pitone ♩ = 120

115 120 125 130

Fl. 1
Fl. 2
Ob. 1
Ob. 2
Cl. 1
Cl. 2
Bsn. 1
Bsn. 2
Hn. 1
Hn. 2
Hn. 3
Hn. 4
Tpt. 1
Tpt. 2
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Perc. 1
Perc. 2
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

Stile di Pitone ♩ = 120

135 140 145

Fl. 1, Fl. 2, Ob. 1, Ob. 2, Cl. 1, Cl. 2, Bsn. 1, Bsn. 2, Hn. 1, Hn. 2, Hn. 3, Hn. 4, Tpt. 1, Tpt. 2, Tbn. 1, Tbn. 2, B. Tbn., Tba., Timp., Perc. 1, Perc. 2, Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., Vc., Cb.

This page of a musical score covers measures 135 to 145. The instrumentation includes woodwinds (Flutes 1 and 2, Oboes 1 and 2, Clarinets 1 and 2, Bassoons 1 and 2, Horns 1-4, Trumpets 1 and 2, Trombones 1 and 2, Baritone Trombone, and Tuba), percussion (Tympani, Percussion 1, Percussion 2), and strings (Violins I and II, Viola, Violoncello, and Contrabass). Measures 135-139 are mostly rests for most instruments. At measure 140, the Trumpets and Trombones enter with a rhythmic pattern, starting with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The Tuba and Bass Trombone also enter at measure 140 with a similar pattern. Percussion 1 and 2 enter at measure 140 with a rhythmic pattern, starting with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. The Percussion 2 part includes a specific instruction: "Tubular Bells" with a musical notation for a tubular bell sound, and "to Bass Drum" indicating the sound source. Dynamics for the trumpet and trombone parts fluctuate between *mf* and *f* throughout the passage. The score concludes at measure 145.

150

155

160

165

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Ob. 1

Ob. 2

Cl. 1

Cl. 2

Bsn. 1

Bsn. 2

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Hn. 3

Hn. 4

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

B. Tbn.

Tba.

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

Bass drum

Tubular Bell

f *mp* *mf* *p*

Finale: Pavane

Stately $\text{♩} = 120$ 170 175 180 185

Fl. 1 *mp*

Fl. 2

Ob. 1 *mp*

Ob. 2 *mp*

Cl. 1 *mp*

Cl. 2 *mp*

Bsn. 1 *mp*

Bsn. 2 *mp*

Hn. 1 *mp*

Hn. 2 *mp*

Hn. 3 *mp*

Hn. 4 *mp*

Tpt. 1 *mp*

Tpt. 2 *mp*

Tbn. 1 *mf*

Tbn. 2

B. Tbn. *mp*

Tba.

Timp. *mp*

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Vln. I *mp* *mf*

Vln. II *mp* *mf*

Vla. *mp* *mf*

Vc. *mp* *mf*

Cb. *mp* *pizz* *mf*

This page of a musical score contains the following elements:

- Instrumentation:** Flute 1 & 2, Oboe 1 & 2, Clarinet 1 & 2, Bassoon 1 & 2, Horn 1-4, Trumpet 1 & 2, Trombone 1 & 2, Baritone Trombone, Tuba, Timpani, Percussion 1 & 2, Violin I & II, Viola, Violoncello, and Contrabass.
- Measure Numbers:** 190, 195, and 200 are clearly marked at the top of the score.
- Dynamic Markings:** *mf* (mezzo-forte) is used in the Flute, Oboe, Clarinet 2, Bassoon, Horn 1-4, Trumpet 1-2, and Violin I & II parts. *mp* (mezzo-piano) is used in the Trombone 1-2, Baritone Trombone, and Tuba parts. *arco* is marked for the Contrabass.
- Musical Features:** The score includes various rhythmic patterns, including sixteenth-note runs in the Flute and Violin I parts, and triplet markings in the Clarinet 2 and Bassoon parts. The woodwinds and strings play sustained chords and moving lines.

205

210

Musical score for a symphony orchestra, measures 205-210. The score includes parts for Flutes (Fl. 1, Fl. 2), Oboes (Ob. 1, Ob. 2), Clarinets (Cl. 1, Cl. 2), Bassoons (Bsn. 1, Bsn. 2), Horns (Hn. 1, Hn. 2, Hn. 3, Hn. 4), Trumpets (Tpt. 1, Tpt. 2), Trombones (Tbn. 1, Tbn. 2, B. Tbn.), Tuba (Tba.), Timpani (Timp.), Percussion (Perc. 1, Perc. 2), Violins (Vln. I, Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), and Cello (Cb.).

Dynamic markings include *f*, *p*, *mp*, and *mf*. Performance instructions include "Tubular Bell" and "Cymbals".

215 220 225 230

Fl. 1 *f* *tr*

Fl. 2 *f* *tr*

Ob. 1 *f* *tr*

Ob. 2 *f* *tr*

Cl. 1 *f* *tr*

Cl. 2 *f* *tr*

Bsn. 1 *f* *tr*

Bsn. 2 *f* *tr*

Hn. 1 *f*

Hn. 2 *f*

Hn. 3 *f*

Hn. 4 *f* *tr*

Tpt. 1 *f* *tr*

Tpt. 2 *f* *tr*

Tbn. 1 *f*

Tbn. 2 *f*

B. Tbn. *f*

Tba. *f*

Timp. *f*

Perc. 1 Bass Drum *f* Cymbals *f*

Perc. 2 *f*

Vln. I *f* *tr*

Vln. II *f* *tr*

Vla. *f*

Vc. *f*

Cb. *f*

This page of a musical score, numbered 17, contains measures 235 and 240. The score is written for a full symphony orchestra. The instruments listed on the left are: Fl. 1 & 2, Ob. 1 & 2, Cl. 1 & 2, Bsn. 1 & 2, Hn. 1, 2, 3, & 4, Tpt. 1 & 2, Tbn. 1 & 2, B. Tbn., Tba., Timp., Perc. 1 & 2, Vln. I & II, Vla., Vc., and Cb. The score features various musical notations including notes, rests, and dynamic markings such as *ff* (fortissimo) and *f* (forte). Measure 235 includes a triplet of eighth notes in the first flute part. Measure 240 shows a complex texture with many instruments playing simultaneously, including a prominent timpani roll and a strong brass section. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4.