

BRIAN FENNELLY

Kythera Variations
for Violin and Piano

(2012)

AMERICAN COMPOSERS EDITION
American Composers Alliance
New York, NY

ABOUT THE COMPOSER

Brian Fennelly (born Kingston, NY 1937) studied at Yale with Mel Powell, Donald Martino, Allen Forte, Gunther Schuller, and George Perle (M.Mus '65, Ph.D. '68). From 1968 to 1997 he was Professor of Music in the Faculty of Arts and Science at New York University, where he is now Professor Emeritus. In addition to a Guggenheim fellowship, his awards include three fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, three composer grants from the Martha Baird Rockefeller Fund, two Koussevitsky Foundation commissions, and an award for lifetime achievement from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. Major works include *In Wildness is the Preservation of the World*, *Fantasy Variations*, and *A Thoreau Symphony*, all for orchestra; *Tropes and Echoes*, *Skyscapes I-IV*, *Evanescences* for instruments and electronic sound, two piano sonatas, three string quartets and three brass quintets. His music has been awarded prizes in such prestigious competitions as the Louisville Orchestra New Music Competition and the Goffredo Petrassi International Competition for orchestral music.

ABOUT THE MUSIC

Kythera Variations is a piece in six connected sections for violin and piano completed in 2012. Its title derives not from the island of Kythera off the coast of Greece, but from the Antikythera mechanism, an ancient analog computer designed to calculate astronomical positions recovered from the Antikythera wreck off the nearby island of Antikythera. Its construction has been dated to the early 1st century BC, yet technological artifacts approaching its complexity did not appear again until the 14th century A.D., when mechanical astronomical clocks began to be built in Western Europe.

The rather motoric and insistent nature of much of the music reflects the character of mechanical devices, and the variations tend to be varied musical concepts rather than thematically derived textures. The concept of the piece dates back to a composer residency at Copland House where several sketches were written; these were set aside until the final realization and revisions of summer 2012.

DURATION: circa 6 minutes

AMERICAN COMPOSERS EDITION

American Composers Alliance

New York, NY

www.composers.com

KYTHERA VARIATIONS

for Violin and Piano

Brian Fennelly

1. $\text{♩} = 66$ ($\text{♩} = 132$) As a Narrative

The first system of the musical score for 'Kythera Variations' is written for Violin and Piano in 3/2 time. The tempo is marked as 1. $\text{♩} = 66$ ($\text{♩} = 132$) As a Narrative. The system consists of three measures. The Violin part begins with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic, playing a series of eighth and sixteenth notes with various accidentals. The Piano part features a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic, with a long, sustained chord in the right hand and a single note in the left hand. The second system begins with a measure rest for the Violin, followed by a series of eighth and sixteenth notes. The Piano part continues with a long, sustained chord in the right hand and a single note in the left hand. The third system begins with a measure rest for the Violin, followed by a series of eighth and sixteenth notes. The Piano part continues with a long, sustained chord in the right hand and a single note in the left hand. The system concludes with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic marking.

11

mp

14

mp

18

mf

21

mp *mp* *pizz.* *mp* *mf* *mp* *p*

2. ♩ = 96 Songful

25

arco espress. *mp* *p* *mf* *mp*

28

mp *mp* *mp* *mp*

31

mf

mf

Sos. Ped.

34

mp

mp

mp

37

cresc.

mf

mf

40

Measures 40-42 of the Kythera Variations. The piece is in 3/4 time, which changes to 4/4 at measure 41. Measure 40 features a treble staff with a triplet of eighth notes and a piano (p) dynamic. The piano accompaniment in the grand staff includes chords and moving lines in both hands. Measure 41 continues the piano accompaniment with a forte (f) dynamic. Measure 42 shows the treble staff with a triplet of eighth notes and a piano (p) dynamic, while the piano accompaniment continues.

43

Measures 43-44 of the Kythera Variations. Measure 43 features a treble staff with a half note and a piano (p) dynamic. The piano accompaniment in the grand staff includes chords and moving lines in both hands. Measure 44 continues the piano accompaniment with a piano (p) dynamic. The treble staff has a half note and a piano (p) dynamic.

45

Measures 45-47 of the Kythera Variations. Measure 45 features a treble staff with a half note and a mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic. The piano accompaniment in the grand staff includes chords and moving lines in both hands. Measure 46 continues the piano accompaniment with a mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic. Measure 47 shows the treble staff with a half note and a piano (p) dynamic, while the piano accompaniment continues.

48 *accel. a* $\text{♩} = 216$ $\text{♩} = \text{♩}$

accel. a $\text{♩} = 216$ $\text{♩} = \text{♩}$

cresc. *mf*

52 3. $\text{♩} = 108$ Fleeting, floating

p *pp* *leggiero*

55

pp *p*

57

pizz. arco

pp *p*

59

p

61

pp

63

pp *mp* pizz. arco

65

pp pizz.

67

p *cresc.*

69

mp

mf

71

pizz.

arco

p

cresc.

p

cresc.

73

mf

mf

75 $4. \text{♩} = 120$ Incisive
(tempo rubato)

mp *p* *pp* *f*

78 *accented*

mf *f*

81 *espress.*

mp *sf* *ff* *mf*

86 *accented*

cresc. *f*

89 *rubato*
sul pont.

mp *p* *pp*

98 arco pizz.

f *mf*

100 arco

mf *f* *mf*

102

mp *mf*

104

mf

f

mf

5

5

106

pizz.

mf

mp

5

5

Ped.

108

arco

mf

mf

5

5

Ped.

110 *f* *pizz.* *arco* *mf*

f *mf*

Sos. Ped. _____

112 *move to.....* *sul pont.* *norm.* *dim.* *p*

molto dim. *mp*

Sos. Ped. _____

6. ♩ = 84 Peaceful

114 *p* *evenly* *p*

p *(hold down notes)*

Sos. Ped. _____ Sos. Ped. _____

117

poco

Ped.

119

mp

p

Ped.

121

mp

p

Ped.

124

mp *p* *mp*

Ped. *Ped.*

127

mp *sost.* *dim.* *poco*

mp

130

sul pont. *norm.* *ten.* *ten.*

pp *mp* *p* *ppp*

Sos. Ped.