

Responding Variations

for oboe and viola

Kevin McCarter

Program Note

The theme of *Responding Variations* is played by the viola alone. The theme feels open-ended, as if it concludes with a question. The variations offer a series of responses, each with its own perspective and character. The first variation begins as a response from the oboe, with the viola joining after the first phrase. The variations draw on details of rhythm or melody from the theme, developing new figures from them. The last two variations add an element of reprise. The next to last variation recalls some of the second variation and expands on it. The concluding variation recalls phrases from the theme and the oboe's initial response to it.

Performance time: about 6 minutes

Responding Variations

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Andante ($\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 76$)

Oboe

Viola

lyrically

mf

6

lyrically

11

A

pp $\xrightarrow{\text{mp}}$

mp $\xrightarrow{\text{pp}}$

18

mp

22

mf

cresc.

mf

Responding Variations

25

28 **B** (*discovering fresh energy*)

31

34 (*joyful*)

cresc.

cresc.

37 *f*

f

The musical score consists of five staves of piano music. Staff 1 (treble) starts at measure 25 with a 4/4 time signature, featuring eighth-note patterns. Staff 2 (bass) begins at measure 28 with a 4/4 time signature, transitioning to 3/4 time at measure 31. Measures 34 and 37 both begin with dynamic markings *f*. Measure 34 includes performance instructions: '(joyful)' above the treble staff and 'cresc.' twice below the bass staff. Measure 37 also includes 'cresc.' below the bass staff. Measure 28 includes a dynamic marking *mp* and *mf*.

40

43

C
(steadfast and strong)

47

51

55

Responding Variations

59 D (*gentle and kind*)

64 arco

68

72 E (*peaceful, hopeful*)

77

84

mp

p

F
(delighted, playful)

pp
pizz.
mp

p

G
(gathering energy)

pp
p
mp
arco
p
mp

mf
(joyful)
mf

Musical score for "Responding Variations" featuring five staves of music. The score consists of two systems of measures.

Measure 106: The top staff begins with a sixteenth-note pattern. The bottom staff has eighth-note patterns. Measure 107 starts with a sixteenth-note pattern followed by eighth-note patterns.

Measure 109: The first half starts with eighth-note patterns, followed by a dynamic *cresc.* The second half begins with a dynamic *f*. The third half starts with eighth-note patterns, followed by a dynamic *cresc.* The fourth half begins with a dynamic *f*.

Measure 112: The first half features eighth-note patterns. The second half begins with eighth-note patterns followed by sixteenth-note patterns.

Measure 115: The first half features eighth-note patterns. The second half begins with eighth-note patterns followed by sixteenth-note patterns.

Measure 118: The first half features eighth-note patterns. The second half begins with eighth-note patterns followed by sixteenth-note patterns.

121

H

mp

cantabile

mp cantabile

125

pizz.

arco

129

133

137

p

p