

for Jenn, Alisa, Kay and Sarah

John Webber

Suffragette Variations

based on Ethel Smyth's The March of the Women

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On the 70th birthday of Kay Alexander for her CMFF quartet
Jenn, Alisa, Kay and Sarah.

17

allarg.

mp sub.

arco

arco

mp sub.

mp sub.

mp sub.

"The March of the Women" is a song composed by Ethel Smyth in 1910. It became the official anthem of the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU) and more widely the anthem of the women's suffrage movement.

A famous rendering of the song took place in 1912, at Holloway Prison, where many women activists were imprisoned. The conductor Thomas Beecham visited Ethel Smyth in prison and reported that he found the activists in the courtyard "...marching round it and singing lustily their war-chant while the composer, beaming approbation from an overlooking upper window, beat time in almost Bacchic frenzy with a toothbrush."

The march was also used during a large demonstration of American suffragists rallying in Washington, D.C., on May 9, 1914. The Congressional Union for Woman Suffrage sent delegates to march up the Capitol building stairs and present a petition to the U.S. Congress. The delegates were accompanied by chorus of more than a thousand singers.

21

ppp

ppp

ppp

ppp

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Theme

5

9

13

Fanfare $\text{♩} = 96$

10 theme $\text{♩} = 106$

14

Variation 10

Moderato ♩ = 108

25

ppp

ppp

ppp

ppp

Variation 9

Leisurely ♩ = 54

Violin 1 *mf*

Violin 2 *mf*

Viola *mf*

Violoncello *mf*

canon for two violins

6

30

ppp

ppp

ppp

ppp

Variation 1

l'istesso tempo ♩ = 106

Violin 1 *p* *f*

Violin 2 *p* *f*

Viola *p* *f*

Violoncello *p* *f*

4

8

pp

pp

pp

pp

12

ff

pp sub.

ff

pp sub.

ff

pp sub.

ff

pp sub.

16

13

17

21

Variation 8

Eroica ♩ = 90
(♩ = ♩)

Violin 1 *ff* *p*

Violin 2 *ff* *p*

Viola *ff*

Violoncello *ff*

5

9

p

20 **rall.**

mf *p* *mf* *pp*

mf *p* *mf* *pp*

mf *mp* *p* *mf* *pp*

mf *mp* *mf* *pp*

Variation 2

Alla marcia ♩ = 120

Violin 1 *mf*

Violin 2 *p*

Viola *p*

Violoncello *p*

6

tr

12

17

21

10

20

28

Musical score for measures 18-21. The score is in 6/8 time and features four staves. Dynamics include *mp*, *p*, *pp*, and *f*. Performance instructions include *pizz.* and *arco*.

Musical score for measures 22-25. The score is in 6/8 time and features four staves. Dynamics include *mp*, *p*, and *pp*.

Variation 7

Andante moderato ♩ = 60

Musical score for Variation 7. The score is in 3/8 time and features four staves (Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, and Violoncello). Dynamics include *mp* and *f*.

Musical score for measures 26-29. The score is in 6/8 time and features four staves. Dynamics include *pp*. A "(short)" marking is present at the end of the section.

Variation 3

Adagio non troppo ♩ = 60

Musical score for Variation 3. The score is in 2/4 time and features four staves (Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, and Violoncello). Dynamics include *p*, *ppp*, and *pizz.*

Musical score for measures 8-11. The score is in 2/4 time and features four staves. Dynamics include *pp* and *mp*. Performance instructions include *arco* and *pizz.*

Musical score for measures 16-22. The system consists of four staves: two treble clefs and two bass clefs. The key signature has one flat. Measure 16 starts with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The bass line includes an *arco* marking and a *pp* dynamic. The music features melodic lines in the upper staves and a more rhythmic bass line.

Musical score for measures 23-29. The system consists of four staves. The tempo marking *rall. poco a poco* is present. The bass line starts with a *pizz.* marking and a *mp* dynamic, then transitions to *arco*. The music shows a gradual deceleration.

Musical score for measures 30-35. The system consists of four staves. The music concludes with a *pppp* dynamic marking across all staves. The bass line has a *pp* dynamic in the middle of the system.

Musical score for measures 5-11. The system consists of four staves. The key signature has one flat. The music features a variety of dynamics including *f*, *mp*, and *pp*. The bass line includes *pizz.* markings. The system concludes with a *pp* dynamic.

Musical score for measures 10-16. The system consists of four staves. The music features a variety of dynamics including *f*, *mp*, and *pp*. The bass line includes an *arco* marking. The system concludes with a *pp* dynamic.

Musical score for measures 14-19. The system consists of four staves. The music features a variety of dynamics including *mf*. The bass line includes an *arco* marking. The system concludes with a *mf* dynamic.

12

mf *p*

16 *rall.* (short)

pppp

Variation 6

Adagio ♩ = 48
(L'Istesso tempo)

mp *mp* *mp* *mp*

pizz. *arco*

Variation 4

Andante ♩ = 160

f *f* *f* *f*

6

pp

12

pp *f* *f* *f*

18

pp

24

pp f

30

poco rall.....

ppp

Variation 5

Adagietto ♩ = 48

Violin 1 p

Violin 2 ppp

Viola ppp

Violoncello ppp

4

mp ppp

mp ppp

mp ppp

mp ppp

8

mp ppp

mp ppp

mp ppp

mp ppp