

Violin 1

for Jenn, Alisa, Kay and Sarah

John Webber

Suffragette Variations

based on Ethel Smyth's The March of the Women

webbermusic 202403

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

"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 Ethyl 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.

All movements to be played without pause, i.e. attacca.

All slurs are phrase marks, no bowing intended.

Violin 1

for Jenn, Alisa, Kay and Sarah
Suffragette Variations

based on Ethel Smyth's The March of the Women

John Webber

Theme

Fanfare ♩ = 96

4

theme ♩ = 106

f

11

f

16

p

21

mf

f

24

pp

pp

28

mp sub.

ppp

Variation 1

l'istesso tempo ♩ = 106

4

p

f

8

pp

12

ff

pp sub.

16

rall.

20

mf

p

mf

pp

Variation 2

Alla marcia ♩ = 120

mf

6

12

18

23

27 (short)

pp

Variation 3

Adagio non troppo ♩ = 60

p *ppp*

11

22

29 *rall. poco a poco*.....

pppp

Variation 4

Andante ♩ = 160

f

7

pp

13

f

19

pp

25

f

30

poco rall.

ppp

Variation 5

Adagietto ♩ = 48

p

mp

5

ppp

mp

10

ppp

mf

14

p

rall.

(short)

pppp

Variation 6

Adagio ♩ = 48

(L'Istesso tempo)

Musical score for Variation 6, measures 1-24. The piece is in G minor (one flat) and 6/8 time. The tempo is Adagio (♩ = 48). The score consists of six staves of music. Measure numbers 1, 5, 9, 13, 17, and 21 are indicated at the start of their respective staves. Dynamic markings include *mp*, *f*, *pp*, *mf*, *p*, and *pp*. The music features a variety of rhythmic patterns, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests. There are several key signature changes and time signature changes throughout the variation.

Variation 7

Andante moderato ♩ = 60

Musical score for Variation 7, measures 1-32. The piece is in G minor (one flat) and 3/8 time. The tempo is Andante moderato (♩ = 60). The score consists of four staves of music. Measure numbers 1, 13, 22, and 29 are indicated at the start of their respective staves. Dynamic markings include *mp*, *f*, *mp*, *ff*, *p*, *f*, *mf*, *mp*, *p*, and *ff*. The music features a variety of rhythmic patterns, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests. There are several key signature changes and time signature changes throughout the variation.

Variation 8

Eroica ♩ = 90

(♩ = ♩)

Musical score for Variation 8, Eroica, Violin 1 part. The score is in 4/4 time and begins with a dynamic marking of *ff*. The tempo is marked as ♩ = 90. The score consists of seven staves of music, with measure numbers 5, 9, 13, 17, 21, and 24 indicated at the start of their respective staves. The music features a variety of rhythmic patterns, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests. The dynamics range from *ff* to *ppp*. The piece concludes with a double bar line and a *ppp* marking.

Variation 9

Leisurely ♩ = 54

Musical score for Variation 9, Leisurely, Violin 1 part. The score is in 6/8 time and begins with a dynamic marking of *mf*. The tempo is marked as ♩ = 54. The score consists of one staff of music. The music features a variety of rhythmic patterns, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

canon for two violins

Musical score for Variation 9, Leisurely, Violin 1 part, continuation. The score is in 6/8 time and begins with a dynamic marking of *mf*. The score consists of one staff of music. The music features a variety of rhythmic patterns, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

10 *allarg.*

14 *mp* *p* *pp*

Variation 10

Moderato ♩ = 108

1 *f* *p*

5

9 *mf*

13 *f* *pp* *pp*

17 *allarg.* *mp sub.*

21 *ppp*