

Violin 2

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.

"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.

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Theme

Fanfare ♩ = 96 **4** theme ♩ = 106

12 *f* *f*

17 *p*

22 *< f* *pp* *pp*

27 *mp sub.* *ppp*

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for the 'Theme' section, measures 12 through 27. It is written for Violin 2 in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The tempo is marked as ♩ = 106. The score begins with a 'Fanfare' section (measures 12-16) marked with a tempo of ♩ = 96 and a 4-measure rest. The main theme starts at measure 17. Dynamics include fortissimo (f), piano (p), mezzo-forte (mf), piano-piano (pp), mezzo-piano (mp), and piano-piano-piano (ppp). There are also accents (>) and breath marks (v) throughout the piece.

Variation 1

l'istesso tempo ♩ = 106

4 *p* *f*

9 *pp*

13 *ff* *pp sub.*

17 *rall.*

20 *mf* *p* *mf* *pp*

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for 'Variation 1', measures 4 through 20. It is written for Violin 2 in G major and 4/4 time, with a tempo of ♩ = 106. The variation consists of a single melodic line. Dynamics range from piano (p) to fortissimo (ff), including mezzo-piano (mf), piano-piano (pp), and piano-piano-piano (ppp). A 'rallentando' (rall.) marking is present at measure 17. The piece concludes with a fermata at the end of measure 20.

Variation 2

Alla marcia $\text{♩} = 120$

6

12

18

24

29 (short)

p

tr

tr

pp

Variation 3

Adagio non troppo $\text{♩} = 60$

9

16

23

30

p

ppp

p

rall. poco a poco

pppp

Variation 4

Andante ♩ = 160

6 *f*

12 *pp* *f*

18

24 *pp* *f*

30 *poco rall.* *ppp*

Variation 5

Adagietto ♩ = 48

4 *ppp*

8 *mp* *ppp*

11 *mp*

14 *ppp* *rall.* *mf* (short) *pppp*

p

Variation 6

Adagio $\text{♩} = 48$

(L'Istesso tempo)

Musical score for Variation 6, Violin 2, Adagio. The score consists of six staves of music in 6/8 time, starting with a key signature of two flats. The dynamics range from *mp* to *f*.

Staff 1: *mp*
 Staff 2: *f*, *mp*
 Staff 3: *pp*
 Staff 4: *mf*, *mp*, *p*, *pp*, *p*
 Staff 5: *f*, *mp*, *p*, *pp*

Variation 7

Andante moderato $\text{♩} = 60$

Musical score for Variation 7, Violin 2, Andante moderato. The score consists of four staves of music in 3/4 time, starting with a key signature of two flats. The dynamics range from *f* to *ff*.

Staff 1: *f*, *p*
 Staff 2: *mp*, *p*
 Staff 3: *ff*, *mf*, *p*
 Staff 4: *f*, *mf*, *mp*, *p*, *ff*

Variation 8

Eroica ♩ = 90

(♩ = ♩)

7

11

15

20

24

ff *p* *ppp*

Variation 9

Leisurely ♩ = 54

7

12

allarg.

mf *mp* *p* *pp*

Variation 10

Moderato ♩ = 108

The musical score for Violin 2, Variation 10, consists of six staves of music in 4/4 time. The tempo is Moderato with a quarter note equal to 108 beats per minute. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The score includes various dynamics and articulations:

- Measures 1-4: *f* (forte), with a crescendo leading to *p* (piano) in measure 4. Trills are marked with a '3' above them.
- Measures 5-8: *p* (piano).
- Measures 9-12: *< mf* (mezzo-forte), with a crescendo.
- Measures 13-16: *< f* (forte), with a crescendo leading to *pp* (pianissimo) in measure 16.
- Measures 17-20: *pp* (pianissimo), with the tempo marking *allarg.* (allargando) above the staff. The dynamic *mp sub.* (mezzo-piano, *subito*) is indicated below the staff in measure 19.
- Measures 21: *ppp* (pianississimo), with a final double bar line.