

Violoncello

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 $\text{♩} = 96$

10 theme $\text{♩} = 106$

15

19

23

27

l'istesso tempo $\text{♩} = 106$

Variation 1

4

8

12

16

20

Variation 2

Alla marcia ♩ = 120

5 *p*

10

15

21

25 (short) *pp*

Variation 3

Adagio non troppo ♩ = 60

8 *mp* *p* *pizz.* *arco* *pp* *mp* *pizz.*

15 *arco* *pp*

22 *pizz.* *mp*

29 *rall. poco a poco* *arco* *pppp*

Variation 4

Andante ♩ = 160

7 *f*

13 *pp*

19 *f*

26 *pp*

31 *poco rall.* *ppp*

Variation 5

Adagietto ♩ = 48

6 *ppp* *mp* *ppp*

11 *ppp* *mf*

15 *p* *rall.* (short) *pppp*

Variation 6

Adagio $\text{♩} = 48$

(L'Istesso tempo)

pizz.

mp arco

5 pizz. f mp pp

10

15 mf mp p pp

20 arco mp f mp ppp 2

Variation 7

Andante moderato $\text{♩} = 60$

2 f

10 p 3 p

20 ff mf p

28 f mf mp p ff

Variation 8

Eroica ♩ = 90

(♩ = ♩)

8

ff *p*

12

16

20

24

ppp

Variation 9

Leisurely ♩ = 54

7

12

18

mf *mp* *p* *pp*

3

allarg.

Variation 10

Moderato ♩ = 108

f *pizz.* *p*

5 *arco* *pizz.* *arco*

9 *arco* *< mf*

13 *< f* *pizz.* *pp*

17 *arco* *allarg.* *mp sub.*

21 *ppp*