

VARIATIONEN UND FUGE

über ein Thema von Händel für das Pianoforte

Komponiert 1861

Aria

Opus 24

Musical score for the Aria section, featuring two staves. The top staff is for the treble clef part, and the bottom staff is for the bass clef part. The key signature is one flat (B-flat). The time signature is common time (indicated by 'c'). The music consists of six measures. Measure 1: Treble staff has eighth-note pairs followed by sixteenth-note pairs. Bass staff has eighth-note pairs. Measure 2: Treble staff has eighth-note pairs followed by sixteenth-note pairs. Bass staff has eighth-note pairs. Measure 3: Treble staff has eighth-note pairs followed by sixteenth-note pairs. Bass staff has eighth-note pairs. Measure 4: Treble staff has eighth-note pairs followed by sixteenth-note pairs. Bass staff has eighth-note pairs. Measure 5: Treble staff has eighth-note pairs followed by sixteenth-note pairs. Bass staff has eighth-note pairs. Measure 6: Treble staff has eighth-note pairs followed by sixteenth-note pairs. Bass staff has eighth-note pairs.

Continuation of the musical score for the Aria section, featuring two staves. The top staff is for the treble clef part, and the bottom staff is for the bass clef part. The key signature is one flat (B-flat). The time signature is common time (indicated by 'c'). The music consists of five measures. Measure 1: Treble staff has eighth-note pairs followed by sixteenth-note pairs. Bass staff has eighth-note pairs. Measure 2: Treble staff has eighth-note pairs followed by sixteenth-note pairs. Bass staff has eighth-note pairs. Measure 3: Treble staff has eighth-note pairs followed by sixteenth-note pairs. Bass staff has eighth-note pairs. Measure 4: Treble staff has eighth-note pairs followed by sixteenth-note pairs. Bass staff has eighth-note pairs. Measure 5: Treble staff has eighth-note pairs followed by sixteenth-note pairs. Bass staff has eighth-note pairs.

Continuation of the musical score for the Aria section, featuring two staves. The top staff is for the treble clef part, and the bottom staff is for the bass clef part. The key signature is one flat (B-flat). The time signature is common time (indicated by 'c'). The music consists of three measures. Measure 1: Treble staff has eighth-note pairs followed by sixteenth-note pairs. Bass staff has eighth-note pairs. Measure 2: Treble staff has eighth-note pairs followed by sixteenth-note pairs. Bass staff has eighth-note pairs. Measure 3: Treble staff has eighth-note pairs followed by sixteenth-note pairs. Bass staff has eighth-note pairs.

Var. I

Musical score for Variation I, featuring two staves. The top staff is for the treble clef part, and the bottom staff is for the bass clef part. The key signature is one flat (B-flat). The time signature is common time (indicated by 'c'). The music consists of six measures. Measure 1: Treble staff has eighth-note pairs followed by sixteenth-note pairs. Bass staff has eighth-note pairs. Measure 2: Treble staff has eighth-note pairs followed by sixteenth-note pairs. Bass staff has eighth-note pairs. Measure 3: Treble staff has eighth-note pairs followed by sixteenth-note pairs. Bass staff has eighth-note pairs. Measure 4: Treble staff has eighth-note pairs followed by sixteenth-note pairs. Bass staff has eighth-note pairs. Measure 5: Treble staff has eighth-note pairs followed by sixteenth-note pairs. Bass staff has eighth-note pairs. Measure 6: Treble staff has eighth-note pairs followed by sixteenth-note pairs. Bass staff has eighth-note pairs.

Continuation of the musical score for Variation I, featuring two staves. The top staff is for the treble clef part, and the bottom staff is for the bass clef part. The key signature is one flat (B-flat). The time signature is common time (indicated by 'c'). The music consists of four measures. Measure 1: Treble staff has eighth-note pairs followed by sixteenth-note pairs. Bass staff has eighth-note pairs. Measure 2: Treble staff has eighth-note pairs followed by sixteenth-note pairs. Bass staff has eighth-note pairs. Measure 3: Treble staff has eighth-note pairs followed by sixteenth-note pairs. Bass staff has eighth-note pairs. Measure 4: Treble staff has eighth-note pairs followed by sixteenth-note pairs. Bass staff has eighth-note pairs.

Vorwort

Als Thema für seine Händel-Variationen benutzte Brahms eine Aria aus dem 2. Band der *Suites de pièces pour le clavecin* von Georg Friedrich Händel (J. Walsh, London 1733, dort mit fünf Variationen). Die mit *September 1861* datierte erste Niederschrift des Werks enthält die Widmung *Variationen für eine liebe Freundin*. Damit war Clara Schumann gemeint, zu deren Geburtstag (13. September) Brahms das Werk komponiert hatte und die es am 7. Dezember in Hamburg öffentlich uraufführte. Auch Brahms selbst spielte sein neues Werk noch im gleichen Winter in Konzerten. Wie so oft nahm er danach noch einige Änderungen an dem Werk vor, so dass die zweite Niederschrift, die Brahms im Frühjahr 1862 an Breitkopf & Härtel sandte, in mehreren Einzelheiten von der ersten Fassung abwich. Beide Autographen lassen durch eine Menge kleiner, teils mit Tinte, teils mit Bleistift eingetragener Korrekturen und Zusätze erkennen, wie Brahms nach und nach Veränderungen vorgenommen hat. Wesentliche Eingriffe gab es aber nur an sehr wenigen Stellen (siehe *Bemerkungen* am Ende des Bandes, zu Var. IX und zur Fuga T. 291–293 und 317–319). Die Variationen XV und XVI standen ursprünglich in umgekehrter Reihenfolge.

Grundlage unserer Ausgabe bildet die für Breitkopf & Härtel bestimmte, sehr sorgfältige zweite Niederschrift, dazu die Originalausgabe. Brahms hat offenbar noch beim Korrekturlesen einzelne Änderungen vorgenommen. Diese sind in unsere Ausgabe übernommen worden.

Die wenigen in den Quellen wohl versehentlich fehlenden Zeichen sind vom Herausgeber in Klammern gesetzt. Kursive Fingersatzziffern stammen von Brahms.

Duisburg, Frühjahr 1978
Sonja Gerlach

Preface

The theme adopted by Brahms in writing his Handel Variations was that of an aria from G. F. Handel's 2nd volume of *Suites de pièces pour le clavecin* (published by J. Walsh, London 1733 with five variations). The initial autograph of the work, dated *September 1861*, is furnished with the following words of dedication: *Variationen für eine liebe Freundin* (*Variations for a dear lady friend*). Alluded to was Clara Schumann, for whose birthday (13th September) Brahms had composed the work. It was also Clara Schumann who first performed the Variations publicly in Hamburg on December 7th. Brahms too, played his new composition in concerts given in the winter of the same year, and as was frequently the case, he made subsequent alterations to the musical text so that the second autograph sent to Breitkopf & Härtel in the spring of 1862 deviated in a number of details from the first version. Both autographs reveal a whole number of minor corrections and alterations, some entered in ink, others in pencil, this pointing to the composer having introduced changes by and by. Only a few points have, however, been subjected to any radical revision (see *Comments* at the end of this edition, on Var. IX and on Fuga, M. 291–293 and 317–319). The variations XV and XVI were originally positioned in the reverse order.

Our edition is based on the meticulously prepared autograph for Breitkopf & Härtel and the original edition for which Brahms evidently introduced a few alterations here and there when going through the proofs. These modifications have been incorporated in our edition.

The few signs presumed to have been omitted inadvertently in the sources have been supplemented by the editor and are placed in parentheses. Brahms' original fingering appears in italics.

Duisburg, spring 1978
Sonja Gerlach

Préface

Le thème utilisé par Brahms pour ses variations op. 24 était une aria du 2^{ème} volume des *Suites de pièces pour le clavecin* de Georg Friedrich Haendel (J. Walsh, Londres, 1733; avec cinq variations). Le premier manuscrit de l'œuvre, daté de septembre 1861, porte la dédicace *Variationen für eine liebe Freundin* (*Variations pour une amie chère*). Le compositeur dédiait son œuvre à Clara Schumann, pour l'anniversaire de laquelle (13 septembre) il l'avait écrite. Elle-même l'a exécutée pour la première fois, le 7 décembre à Hambourg. Brahms joua lui-même sa nouvelle composition, au cours du même hiver, dans divers récitals. Comme cela lui arrivait souvent, il a encore par la suite effectué quelques corrections, si bien que le deuxième manuscrit, envoyé par Brahms au printemps de 1862 à Breitkopf & Härtel, diffère en plusieurs points de la première version. Les nombreuses corrections et rajouts effectués tantôt à l'encre, tantôt au crayon sur les deux autographes sont témoins des modifications apportées peu à peu par Brahms. Il ne s'agit que dans de rares cas seulement de corrections décisives (voir les *Remarques* à la fin du volume concernant Var. IX ainsi que Fuga, M. 291 à 293 et 317 à 319). Les variations XV et XVI étaient à l'origine permuteées.

Notre édition se base sur le deuxième manuscrit destiné à Breitkopf & Härtel, et soigneusement revu et corrigé à cette fin par Brahms, ainsi que sur l'édition originale à laquelle le compositeur a manifestement apporté des corrections lors de la lecture des épreuves. Nous avons repris ces corrections dans notre édition.

Les signes omis probablement par erreur dans les sources ont été rajoutés entre parenthèses par l'éditeur. Les doigtés originaux de Brahms sont notés en italique.

Duisburg, printemps 1978
Sonja Gerlach