Dedicated to my niece Brianna Atwell

Bob Atwell

Variations on a Theme by Hovhaness

Op. 24

Transcribed for 2 Clarinets

Composer's notes

This piece was conceived as a kind of parallel to Bach's Chaconne from the Violin Partita #2. That work is structured as 32 variations on an 8 bar theme (or 64 variations on a 4 bar theme) with the last note of one variation usually overlapping the first note of the next. I decided to do 16 variations of a 16 bar theme with overlap of the last / first measure which in my case means that each variation except the last actually ends up as 15 measures.

My source for the original theme is the fourth movement of Alan Hovhaness' Symphony #22 ("City of Light") published by C. F. Peters Corporation.

Performers, please use the indicated articulations and even the dynamic markings as suggestions rather than edicts. I believe that the markings given provide a good interpretation but you are free to make your own choices. The tempo should remain fairly constant but you are free to use a different tempo for each variation if you so wish. Make whatever adjustments you want but try to keep it reasonable and within the 60 - 88 bpm range indicated.

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Variations on a Theme by Hovhaness Maestoso J = 72 (60 - 88)

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