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Title

Burning Bush Variations

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Author

Grant, Krystal J.

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Burning Bush Variations

for piano

composed by
Krystal J. Grant



Program Note

Burning Bush Variations is a set of variations on the spiritual "Go Down, Moses." Spirituals were made known throughout the United States at the beginning of the 20th century through performances, recordings, and published songbooks. To this composer, however, the song came through oral tradition as did her first hearing of the story of the man listening to God speak through a bush aflame but not consumed. The piece consists of the seven variations, which may be performed in any order:

Candor, a canonic refrain with a chordal verse

Plashes, brightly lilting in 5/4 meter

Justice Seekers, solemn fragmentation with echoes of a protest song

Tango, the habanera rhythmic pattern as learned from an Argentine dance

Siciliano, a rhythmic pattern from Sicily as learned from J. S. Bach's suites

Self-Portrait, free improvisation

Ether, the refrain abstracted and glistening; the verse fragmented and whispering

Previous Performances

All previous performances were by the composer.

2015

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Brooklyn, NY

Freiman Stoltzfus Gallery, Lancaster, PA

Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN

2016

Cornelia Street Cafe, New York, NY

The Trust Performing Arts Center, Lancaster, PA

Mountain Brook Community Church, Birmingham, AL

2017

First Presbyterian Church, Lancaster, PA

Music by Women Festival, Mississippi University for Women, Columbus, MS

Women Composers Festival of Hartford, Hartford, CT

Candor

from Burning Bush Variations

Krystal J. Grant

♩ = 100

Musical notation for measures 1-6. The piece is in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The music is marked *mf*. The right hand features a melodic line with quarter and eighth notes, while the left hand provides a rhythmic accompaniment with quarter notes and chords.

without pedal

Musical notation for measures 7-12. The music is marked *mp*. The right hand continues with a melodic line, and the left hand features a more active accompaniment with chords and eighth notes. A fermata is placed over the final note of measure 12.

with occasional light pedal

Musical notation for measures 13-19. The music is marked *f* in measure 13 and *sub.p* in measure 15. The right hand has a melodic line with some rests, and the left hand features a steady accompaniment of chords. A fermata is placed over the final note of measure 19.

without pedal

Musical notation for measures 20-24. The music is marked *mf*. The right hand has a melodic line with a fermata over the final note of measure 24. The left hand provides a rhythmic accompaniment with quarter notes and chords.

Plashes

from Burning Bush Variations

Krystal J. Grant

♩ = 148

measures 1-5. Treble clef, bass clef, 5/4 time signature. Dynamics: *mp*. Includes the instruction "with light pedal throughout".

measures 6-10. Treble clef, bass clef, 5/4 time signature.

measures 11-15. Treble clef, bass clef, 5/4 time signature. Dynamics: *p*. Includes a first ending bracket over measures 11-14.

measures 16-19. Treble clef, bass clef, 5/4 time signature. Dynamics: *pp* and *f*. Includes a tempo change to ♩ = ♩.

measures 20-24. Treble clef, bass clef, 5/4 time signature. Dynamics: *sub.p* and *ff*. Includes the instruction "poco rit." and a fermata over measure 24.

a tempo
8

25

sub. *mp*

Musical score for measures 25-30. The score is in 5/4 time and B-flat major. It features a piano accompaniment with a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The right hand plays chords and arpeggiated figures, while the left hand plays a steady eighth-note bass line. A dynamic marking of *sub. mp* is present. A repeat sign with a first ending bracket and a fermata over the final measure is shown above the staff.

8

31

f

Musical score for measures 31-34. The score continues in 5/4 time and B-flat major. The right hand features more complex chordal textures and arpeggios. The left hand continues with a melodic bass line. A dynamic marking of *f* is present. A repeat sign with a first ending bracket and a fermata over the final measure is shown above the staff.

8

35

sub. mp

Musical score for measures 35-38. The score continues in 5/4 time and B-flat major. The right hand features more complex chordal textures and arpeggios. The left hand continues with a melodic bass line. A dynamic marking of *sub. mp* is present. A repeat sign with a first ending bracket and a fermata over the final measure is shown above the staff.

Justice Seekers

from Burning Bush Variations

Krystal J. Grant

♩ = 92

p

pedal with every bass note

5

mf

10

♩ = ♩ *let decay* , *let decay* ,

pp

una corda

18

♩ = ♩ *let decay* , 8

pp *ff*

tre corde

8

24

28

31

let decay

let decay completely

ppp

una corda

Self-Portrait

from Burning Bush Variations

Krystal J. Grant

improvised throughout

Chorus

G_{MI} $A_{MI}7(b5)/C$ G_{MI}/D $E_{bMA}7$ $B_{bMA}7/F$ $C_{MI}7/G$

free improv (N.C.)



6 $E_{bMA}7$ $C_{MI}9$ $A_{b9}(\#11)$ $G9$ $F\#07$ G_{MI}

free improv (N.C.)



Verse

11 D $C_{MI}7$ $D7(b9)$ $E_{bMA}9$ $G_{MI}7/D$ $F\#07/C$ G_{MI}/Bb $G7/B$



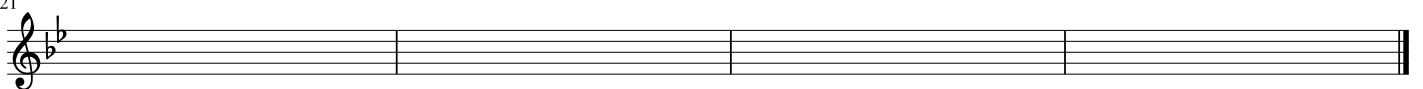
16 $C_{MI}7$ $B_{bMA}9(\#5)$ $A_{bMA}9$ $G_{MI}7$ $F\#07$ G_{MI}

free improv (N.C.)



Tag

21 $E_{bMA}7$ $C_{MI}9$ $A_{b9}(\#11)$ $G(add9)$



Tango

from Burning Bush Variations

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♩ = 116

Musical notation for measures 1-6. The piece is in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The music is marked *mf* and includes the instruction *without pedal*. The right hand features a melody with triplet eighth notes, while the left hand provides a bass line with eighth notes and triplet eighth notes.

Musical notation for measures 7-13. The right hand continues the melodic line with eighth notes and quarter notes. The left hand features a steady eighth-note bass line. The music concludes with a *p* (piano) dynamic marking.

Musical notation for measures 14-17. This section is characterized by triplet eighth notes in both hands. The right hand has a melodic triplet line, and the left hand has a rhythmic triplet accompaniment. The instruction *with light pedal* is present.

Musical notation for measures 18-21. Measures 18-20 continue the triplet eighth-note pattern. Measure 21 features a melodic phrase in the right hand and a triplet eighth-note accompaniment in the left hand, marked *mp*.

Musical notation for measures 22-27. Measures 22-23 feature triplet eighth notes in both hands. Measures 24-27 show a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The instruction *without pedal* is present.

Musical notation for measures 28-33. Measures 28-32 feature a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand, marked *p* and *poco a poco rit.* Measure 33 is a final chord. The instruction *with light pedal* is present.

Siciliano

from Burning Bush Variations

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♩. = 54

The first system of music consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef and the lower staff is in bass clef. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 6/8. The music begins with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. The upper staff features a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, while the lower staff provides a steady accompaniment of quarter notes.

without pedal throughout

The second system of music starts at measure 8. The upper staff continues the melodic line, and the lower staff features a more active accompaniment with eighth-note patterns. The dynamic is mezzo-forte (*mf*).

The third system of music starts at measure 14. The upper staff has a melodic line with some rests, and the lower staff has a more complex accompaniment with sixteenth-note patterns. The dynamic is mezzo-forte (*mf*).

The fourth system of music starts at measure 20. The upper staff features a melodic line with some rests, and the lower staff has a steady accompaniment of quarter notes. The dynamic is piano (*p*).

24

mp poco a poco cresc.

29

f

33

mf

39

p

Ether

from Burning Bush Variations

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♩ = 96 *freely accel.*

p *mf*

with thick pedal

freely rit. *even 8ths* 8

mf

even 16ths *freely accel.*

mp

freely rit. 8 *even 16ths*

mp

poco rit. 8 *even 16ths*

pp *sub. mf*

(♩ = 96)

8

14

f

mp

with light pedal

18

22

mp *pp* *mp* *pp* *mp* *pp*

8

26

mp *pp*

8

29

32

mp

36

even 16ths

p *mf*

with thick pedal

freely accel.

40

42

even 8ths *8* *even 16ths*

mp

45

poco rit. *8* *freely accel.*

p

48

freely rit. *molto rit.*

pp