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Grneta Variations

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*Grneta Variations*

for clarinet duo and piano  
(2010)

Score

*Grneta Variations* was composed for the Grneta Ensemble (Vasko Dukovski and Ismail Lumanovski, clarinets; Alexandra Joan, piano) who gave the premiere in 2010.

I had heard Vasko Dukovski and Ismail Lumanovski perform both classical pieces and the folk music of their Macedonian heritage – the latter involving much improvisation – and I wanted to write a composition that would allow expression of these various elements of their characters. I also knew that all three players were incredible musicians and virtuosos, and so as a composer I could enjoy writing very challenging music that they would relish exploring. The Grneta Ensemble’s particular skills and artistry presented a wonderful inspiration – after all, being able to write for two clarinets together is like writing for a “super-clarinet” that plays duets with itself.

The theme of Grneta Variations is in the character of a Jewish folk melody, but one with unexpected syncopations and phrase shifts. The variations that follow have a wide variety of moods and textures, exploring the possibilities of having two clarinets, and the wide variety of sonority and registers possible with those instruments. The tempo is generally lively, except for two slow sections – one a romantic version of the melody introduced in the piano, and the other a more mysterious and extended meditation. The coda of the piece begins with a murmuring figure that grows to a climactic short cadenza in the clarinets, and a quick, rather humorous return to the opening theme.

– Gerald Cohen

Dedicated to the Grneta Ensemble

# Grneta Variations

for clarinet duo and piano

Gerald Cohen

THEME

Fast, playful  $\text{♩}=120$  ( $\text{♩}=240$ )

Clarinet 1 in Bb

Clarinet 2 in Bb

Piano

*p*

*p*

*p*

7

*mp*

*mp*

*mp*

13

*p*

*p*

*p*

\*Score is at concert pitch; parts are transposed

VAR. 1  
Playful, slightly slower  $\text{♩} = 100$  ( $\text{♩} = 200$ )

19

Musical score for measures 19-23. The system includes three staves: two treble clefs and one grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The key signature is two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The time signature is 3/4. The first two staves feature melodic lines with triplets and slurs. The grand staff provides harmonic accompaniment. Dynamics include *mp* and *mf*. The tempo marking is 'Playful, slightly slower' with a metronome marking of quarter note = 100 (half note = 200).

24

Musical score for measures 24-27. The system includes three staves: two treble clefs and one grand staff. The key signature remains two flats. The time signature changes to 3/4, then 4/4, and back to 3/4. The first two staves continue with melodic lines and triplets. The grand staff accompaniment includes chords and moving lines. Dynamics include *mp* and *mf*.

28

Musical score for measures 28-31. The system includes three staves: two treble clefs and one grand staff. The key signature changes to one flat (B-flat). The time signature changes to 3/4, then 3/2, then 4/4, and back to 3/2. The first two staves feature melodic lines with triplets. The grand staff accompaniment includes chords and moving lines. Dynamics include *mf*.

31

34

VAR. 2

Same tempo ♩=100 (♩=200)

*Voice with triplet figure is always main melody in this variation*

37

Same tempo ♩=100 (♩=200)

*Voice with triplet figure is always main melody in this variation*

40

Musical score for measures 40-42. The score is in three systems. The first system contains measures 40, 41, and 42. The key signature is one flat (B-flat). The time signature changes from 3/4 to 4/4 to 3/2. Dynamics include *p* and *pp*. The music features triplets and a tremolo in the right hand of the first system, and a tremolo in the right hand of the second system.

43

Musical score for measures 43-45. The score is in three systems. The first system contains measures 43, 44, and 45. The key signature is one flat. The time signature changes from 3/2 to 4/4 to 3/4. Dynamics include *p*. The music features triplets and a tremolo in the right hand of the first system, and a tremolo in the right hand of the second system.

46

Musical score for measures 46-48. The score is in three systems. The first system contains measures 46, 47, and 48. The key signature is one flat. The time signature changes from 3/4 to 4/4 to 3/4. Dynamics include *p*. The music features triplets and a tremolo in the right hand of the first system, and a tremolo in the right hand of the second system.

Ped.

49

Musical score for measures 49-51. The score is in 3/4 time with a key signature of one flat. It features a piano and a grand staff. The piano part has a melodic line with triplets and a fermata. The grand staff has a bass line with a triplet and a right-hand line with a triplet and a fermata. Dynamics include *cresc.* and *f*. Fingerings 3 and 5 are indicated.

52

Musical score for measures 52-53. The score is in 3/4 time with a key signature of one flat. It features a piano and a grand staff. The piano part has a melodic line with triplets and a fermata. The grand staff has a bass line with a triplet and a right-hand line with a triplet and a fermata. Dynamics include *cresc.*, *f*, and *f*. Fingerings 3 and 5 are indicated.

54

Musical score for measures 54-55. The score is in 3/4 time with a key signature of one flat. It features a piano and a grand staff. The piano part has a melodic line with triplets and a fermata. The grand staff has a bass line with a triplet and a right-hand line with a triplet and a fermata. Dynamics include *subito p*, *subito pp*, and *p*. Fingerings 3 and 5 are indicated.



56

*p* 3 3 *poco cresc.*

*poco cresc.*

*p* 3 3 *poco cresc.*

*poco cresc.*

59

3 *subito pp*

3 3 *subito p*

*p* *ff*

Ped.

VAR. 3

62 Fast, brusque, a bit slower ♩ = 168

*p* *pp* *p*

*p* *pp* *p*

Fast, brusque, a bit slower ♩ = 168

*ff* *ff*

67

*pp* *ff* *pp* *ff* *ff* *mp*

72

*p* gently *p* gently *ff* *mp* *p* *ff* *8va-*

77

VAR. 4  
Proclamatory ♩ = 138

*ff* *f* *ff* *f* *ff* *f* *8vb-*

80

Musical score for measures 80-81. The system consists of four staves. The top two staves are for the right hand, and the bottom two are for the left hand. The music is in 3/4 time and features a complex rhythmic pattern with sixteenth notes and slurs. A dynamic marking of *f* is present in the first measure of the left hand.

82

Musical score for measures 82-84. The system consists of four staves. The top two staves are for the right hand, and the bottom two are for the left hand. The music continues with complex rhythmic patterns. A dynamic marking of *f* is present in the first measure of the left hand. A *8va* marking is present above the right hand staff in the second measure.

85

Musical score for measures 85-89. The system consists of four staves. The top two staves are for the right hand, and the bottom two are for the left hand. The music continues with complex rhythmic patterns. A dynamic marking of *f* is present in the first measure of the left hand. The system concludes with a double bar line.

90

6 6 6

*p*

*f*

*p*

6

93

*f*

*f*

*mf*

6

5

97 *accel.*

*mf*

*mf*

*accel.*

*mf*

$\text{♩} = 176$

$\text{♩} = 176$

101 *A tempo* ♩ = 138 *accel.* ♩ = 176

*mf* *A tempo* ♩ = 138 *accel.* ♩ = 176

104 **VAR. 5**  
*Quite fast, leggiero* ♩ = 176

*ff* *p*

*ff* *p*

*Quite fast, leggiero* ♩ = 176

109

115

Musical score for measures 115-120. The score is in 4/4 time and features a piano accompaniment with a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes, with some rests. The piano accompaniment includes chords and moving lines in both hands.

121

Musical score for measures 121-126. The score is in 4/4 time and features a piano accompaniment with a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes, with some rests. The piano accompaniment includes chords and moving lines in both hands.

127

Musical score for measures 127-132. The score is in 4/4 time and features a piano accompaniment with a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes, with some rests. The piano accompaniment includes chords and moving lines in both hands. The word *cresc.* is written above the final measure of the piano part.

133

*f* *p* *p* (like an echo of previous variation)

*f* *p* *p* (like an echo of previous variation)

*f* *p*

*ped.* (let blur with pedal; hold pedal through m. 149)

138

*sempre legato; pedal sempre*

142

*sempre legato; pedal sempre*

146 *rit. molto*

*rit. molto*

VAR. 6  
Andante ♩ = 76

150

*p cantabile*

*ped. ped. ped. simile*

156

*mp*

*mp*



162 A little more motion ♩ = 88

*p cresc.*

*p cresc.*

*p cresc.*

*leg.*

A little more motion ♩ = 88

167

*mf* *subito mp cresc.*

*mf* *mp cresc.*

*subito mp cresc.*

*leg.* *leg.* *leg.* *leg. (i.e. sustain all notes entire measure)* *leg.*

173 A tempo ♩ = 76

*f* *dim.* *mp*

*f* *dim.* *mp*

*rit.* *rit.* *A tempo ♩ = 76*

*f* *dim.* *mp*

*leg.* *leg.* *leg.* *leg.* *leg. simile*

178

*rit. molto*  
*pp*

*rit. molto*  
*pp*

VAR. 7

Quiet, quick, somewhat mysterious ♩ = 132

183

Quiet, quick, somewhat mysterious ♩ = 132  
*(r.h. always C natural)*

*p* *(separated but not too short)*

*p*

*(half-pedal sempre)*  
*ped.* \*

188

*p* *(separated but not too short)*

*(r.h. softer than l.h.)*

*ped.* \*

192

*p*

196

*cresc.* *f* *subito p*

*cresc.* *f* *subito p*

*pizz.*

200

*p*

VAR. 8

Energetically swirling  $\text{♩} = 108$

203

Measures 203-204. The score consists of three systems. The first system (measures 203-204) features a treble clef staff with a 9-measure slur and a dynamic marking of *f*. The second system (measures 203-204) features a treble clef staff with a 9-measure slur and a dynamic marking of *f*. The third system (measures 203-204) features a grand staff with a dynamic marking of *f* and a 9-measure slur.

204

Measures 204-205. The score consists of three systems. The first system (measures 204-205) features a treble clef staff with a 9-measure slur and a dynamic marking of *f*. The second system (measures 204-205) features a treble clef staff with a 9-measure slur and a dynamic marking of *f*. The third system (measures 204-205) features a grand staff with a dynamic marking of *f* and a 9-measure slur.

205

Measures 205-206. The score consists of three systems. The first system (measures 205-206) features a treble clef staff with a 9-measure slur and a dynamic marking of *f*. The second system (measures 205-206) features a treble clef staff with a 9-measure slur and a dynamic marking of *f*. The third system (measures 205-206) features a grand staff with a dynamic marking of *f* and a 9-measure slur.

206

9

207

*mp* 6 6

*mp* 6 6

*mp* 6 6

*mp* 6 6

Reo. \* Reo. \*

209

*p* *cresc.*

*p* *cresc.*

*p* 7 7 *cresc.* 7 7

7 7 7 7

Reo. (let blur with pedal)

210

Musical score for measures 210-211. The score is in 5/4 time and B-flat major. It features a piano accompaniment with a steady eighth-note bass line and a melody in the right hand. The melody includes slurs and accents. Dynamics include *f* (forte) and *8va* (octave). A large slur encompasses the piano accompaniment across both measures.

211

Musical score for measures 211-212. The score is in 5/4 time and B-flat major. It features a piano accompaniment with a steady eighth-note bass line and a melody in the right hand. The melody includes slurs and accents. Dynamics include *f* (forte) and *8va* (octave). A large slur encompasses the piano accompaniment across both measures.

\*

VAR. 9  
Fast, leggiero ♩ = 176 (♩. = 117)

212

Musical score for measures 212-213. The score is in 5/4 time and B-flat major. It features a piano accompaniment with a steady eighth-note bass line and a melody in the right hand. The melody includes slurs and accents. Dynamics include *p* (piano) and *f* (forte). A large slur encompasses the piano accompaniment across both measures.

215

*p* *leggiero* 5 5

220

*p* *cresc.*

225

*mf* *subito p*

229

*p*

*cresc.* 7

*cresc.* 7

(piano more prominent than clarinets in mm.233-5)

*cresc.*

(roll l.h. chords if necessary)

234

*mf*

*subito p*

*mf*

*subito p*

*mf*

*subito p*

238

*cresc.* 7

*cresc.* 7

(piano more prominent than clarinets in mm.240-2)

*cresc.*



242

*f marcato*

*f marcato*

246

251

*ff*

*ff marcato*

*ff*

*sfz*

*sfz*

*sfz*

*sfz*

VAR. 10  
Quite slowly, intimate, sad ♩ = 50

256

*sfz* *mp* *p*

*sfz* *mp*

Quite slowly, intimate, sad ♩ = 50

*sfz* *subito pp* *pp*

*ped.* *ped.* *ped.*

NOTE: Begin tremolo figure immediately after beat, *pp*, while holding *ff* chords with the pedal; then gradually lift pedal to clear the chords, and leave only the tremolo.

263

*p*

*ppp*

*ped.* *ped.*

VAR. 11  
With more motion, with rubato ♩ = 66

269

*p* Clarinets: The melody passes back and forth between the two clarinets on the sustained notes

With more motion, with rubato ♩ = 66

*ped.* \*

272

Musical score for measures 272-273. The system consists of three staves: two treble clefs and one grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The first two staves have a 7/4 time signature, which changes to 4/4 in the second measure. The grand staff has a 7/4 time signature, which changes to 4/4 in the second measure. The music features melodic lines with slurs and a bass line with a slur.

274

Musical score for measures 274-276. The system consists of three staves: two treble clefs and one grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The first two staves have a 7/4 time signature, which changes to 2/4 in the second measure and 4/4 in the third measure. The grand staff has a 7/4 time signature, which changes to 2/4 in the second measure and 4/4 in the third measure. The music features melodic lines with slurs and a bass line with a slur. A "Ped." marking is present at the end of the system.

277

Mysterious (♩ = ♩) ♩. = 44

Mysterious (♩ = ♩) ♩. = 44

Musical score for measures 277-279. The system consists of three staves: two treble clefs and one grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The first two staves have a 9/8 time signature. The grand staff has a 9/8 time signature. The music features melodic lines with slurs and a bass line with a slur. A "p" marking is present in the first measure of the second system. A "ppp" marking is present in the first measure of the third system. A "Ped. (let blur with pedal)" marking is present at the end of the system.

279

musical score for measures 279-280. The score is in 6/8 time and consists of four staves. The top staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). It contains a melodic line with a long slur over measures 279 and 280, and a *cresc.* marking above measure 280. The second staff has a treble clef and contains a rhythmic accompaniment with a slur over measures 279 and 280, and a *cresc.* marking below measure 280. The third and fourth staves are a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) with a continuous accompaniment pattern, also marked with *cresc.* below measure 280.

281

musical score for measures 281-282. The score is in 6/8 time and consists of four staves. The top staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). It contains a melodic line with a long slur over measures 281 and 282. The second staff has a treble clef and contains a rhythmic accompaniment with a slur over measures 281 and 282. The third and fourth staves are a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) with a continuous accompaniment pattern.

283

musical score for measures 283-284. The score is in 6/8 time and consists of four staves. The top staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). It contains a melodic line with a long slur over measures 283 and 284. The second staff has a treble clef and contains a rhythmic accompaniment with a slur over measures 283 and 284. The third and fourth staves are a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) with a continuous accompaniment pattern.

284

*rit. molto* ( $\text{♩} = 20$ ) Gently  $\text{♩} = 56$

*mf* *p*

*rit. molto* ( $\text{♩} = 20$ ) Gently  $\text{♩} = 56$

*mf* *p*

288

Begin rather slowly, ( $\text{♩} = 80$ )  
with gradual accel. to....

*p*

Begin rather slowly, ( $\text{♩} = 80$ )  
with gradual accel. to....

*p*

(roll l.h. chords if necessary)

294

Moderately Fast  $\text{♩} = 120$

*p* *cresc.* Moderately Fast  $\text{♩} = 120$

298  $\text{♩} = \text{♩} (\text{♩} = 80)$

*cresc.*

*cresc.*

$\text{♩} = \text{♩} (\text{♩} = 80)$

300

*cresc.*

*cresc.*

302

*f*

*f*

*f*

VAR. 12

Fast ♩ = 132

304

subito *p*  
*leggiero*

subito *p*  
*leggiero*  
Fast ♩ = 132

subito *p*

308

*p*

313

*poco cresc.*

*poco cresc.*

Reo \* Reo

318

*mp cresc.*

*mp cresc.*

*mp cresc.*

\* *Ped. simile*

323

*f*

*f*

*f*

327

*f*

*f*

*f*



VAR. 13

332 Very fast, vigorous  $\text{♩} = 144$

Musical score for measures 332-338. The piece is in B-flat major and features a complex, multi-measure rest structure. The first system consists of two staves: a treble staff with a multi-measure rest for 12 measures and a bass staff with a melodic line starting on a B-flat. The second system consists of a grand staff (treble and bass) with a multi-measure rest for 12 measures in the treble and a melodic line in the bass starting on a B-flat. The tempo is 'Very fast, vigorous' with a quarter note equal to 144 beats. The key signature has two flats (B-flat major).

339

Musical score for measures 339-345. The piece continues in B-flat major. The first system consists of two staves: a treble staff with a melodic line starting on a B-flat and a bass staff with a multi-measure rest for 12 measures. The second system consists of a grand staff with a melodic line in the treble starting on a B-flat and a bass line with a multi-measure rest for 12 measures. The tempo remains 'Very fast, vigorous'. The key signature has two flats (B-flat major).

346

Musical score for measures 346-352. The piece continues in B-flat major. The first system consists of two staves: a treble staff with a melodic line starting on a B-flat and a bass staff with a multi-measure rest for 12 measures. The second system consists of a grand staff with a melodic line in the treble starting on a B-flat and a bass line with a multi-measure rest for 12 measures. The tempo remains 'Very fast, vigorous'. The key signature has two flats (B-flat major).

354

mf

cresc.

Detailed description: This system contains measures 354 through 360. It features three staves: a single treble staff at the top, a single bass staff in the middle, and a grand staff (treble and bass) at the bottom. The key signature has two flats. The top staff begins with a *mf* dynamic. The middle staff also begins with *mf*. The bottom grand staff begins with *cresc.* and contains a steady eighth-note accompaniment.

361

cresc.

cresc.

mf cresc.

Detailed description: This system contains measures 361 through 365. It features three staves: a single treble staff at the top, a single bass staff in the middle, and a grand staff (treble and bass) at the bottom. The key signature has two flats. The top staff begins with *cresc.* and features a melodic line with many accidentals. The middle staff begins with *cresc.* and features a similar melodic line. The bottom grand staff begins with *mf cresc.* and features a steady eighth-note accompaniment.

366

ff

sfz

ff

sfz subito pp

ff

sfz subito pp

Ado.

Detailed description: This system contains measures 366 through 372. It features three staves: a single treble staff at the top, a single bass staff in the middle, and a grand staff (treble and bass) at the bottom. The key signature has two flats. The top staff begins with *ff* and features a melodic line with many accidentals. The middle staff begins with *ff* and features a similar melodic line. The bottom grand staff begins with *ff* and features a steady eighth-note accompaniment. In measure 371, there is a dynamic shift to *sfz* and *sfz subito pp*. The system concludes with the marking *Ado.*

VAR. 14 and CODA  
Fast, whispering ♩. = 108

372

*ppp*

*ppp* *sempre legato*

*leg.*

378

*ppp*

383

*leg.*

*leg.*

*(With pedal throughout passage)*

387

*pp*

391

*pp*

395

*poco cresc.*

399

*(poco cresc.)*

*poco cresc.*

*(poco cresc.)*

403

Same tempo ♩ = ♩ = 108

*mp*

*mp*

*pp*

Same tempo ♩ = ♩ = 108

Same tempo ♩ = ♩ = 108

*mp*

*pp*

*(With pedal throughout passage)*

407

*mp espress.*

6

6

6

6

6

6

6

6

3

3

3

3

3

3

411

pp

415

cresc.

cresc.

cresc.

419

Faster ♩ = 120

f

f

Faster ♩ = 120

f

*And.* (let blur with pedal)

422

naturals throughout this passage  
(concert pitch) in clarinets

425

428

*ff*

*sfz*

Start slowly, freely ♩ = 66  
*accel. molto*

Fast (tempo as at m. 406) ♩ = 108

432

*ff*

*f*

Start slowly, freely ♩ = 66  
*accel. molto*

Fast (tempo as at m. 406) ♩ = 108

436

*f*

440

*dim.*

*mf*



444 *rit. molto* ( $\text{♩} = 44$ )

*p* *rit. molto* ( $\text{♩} = 44$ )

Rather slowly, playfully  $\text{♩} = 96$

448 *rit.* *a tempo* *rit.* *a tempo*

*p* *rit.* *a tempo* *rit.* *a tempo*

Rather slowly, playfully  $\text{♩} = 96$

*p* *rit.* *a tempo* *rit.* *a tempo*

454 *rit.* Very fast, vigorous  $\text{♩} = 144$

*ff* *rit.* Very fast, vigorous  $\text{♩} = 144$

*ff* *rit.* Very fast, vigorous  $\text{♩} = 144$

461

**G.P.**

**G.P.**