

Gerald Cohen

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

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THEME

Fast, playful ♩=120 (♩=240)

Clarinet 1 in Bb

Clarinet 2 in Bb

Piano

7

13

*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. The key signature is two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The time signature is 3/4. The first two staves feature a melody with eighth-note patterns and triplets, marked with *mp* and *mf*. The grand staff provides harmonic accompaniment with chords and bass lines. The tempo is marked '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 melody continues with eighth-note patterns and triplets, marked with *mp* and *mf*. The grand staff accompaniment includes chords and bass lines.

28

Musical score for measures 28-31. 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 3/2, 4/4, and back to 3/2. The melody continues with eighth-note patterns and triplets, marked with *mf*. The grand staff accompaniment includes chords and bass lines.

31

Musical score for measures 31-33. It features four staves: two vocal staves and two piano staves. The music is in 3/8 and 4/4 time signatures. It includes triplet figures and a forte (*f*) dynamic marking.

34

Musical score for measures 34-36. It features four staves: two vocal staves and two piano staves. The music is in 3/8 and 3/4 time signatures. It includes triplet figures and a forte (*f*) dynamic marking.

VAR. 2

Same tempo ♩=100 (♩=200)

Voice with triplet figure is always main melody in this variation

37

Musical score for measures 37-39. It features four staves: two vocal staves and two piano staves. The music is in 3/8 and 4/4 time signatures. It includes triplet figures, a subito piano (*p*) dynamic marking, and a piano (*pp*) dynamic marking.

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 piano part.

43

Musical score for measures 43-45. The score is in three systems. 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 piano part.

46

Musical score for measures 46-48. The score is in three systems. 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 piano part.

Ped.

49

Musical score for measures 49-51. The system consists of four staves. The top staff is a single treble clef staff. The second and third staves are a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The bottom staff is a single bass clef staff. Measure 49 features a triplet of eighth notes in the top staff and a triplet of eighth notes in the second staff. Measure 50 features a triplet of eighth notes in the top staff and a quintuplet of eighth notes in the second staff. Measure 51 features a triplet of eighth notes in the top staff and a triplet of eighth notes in the second staff. The bottom staff has a continuous eighth-note accompaniment. Dynamics include *cresc.* in measures 50 and 51.

52

Musical score for measures 52-53. The system consists of four staves. The top staff is a single treble clef staff. The second and third staves are a grand staff. The bottom staff is a single bass clef staff. Measure 52 features a triplet of eighth notes in the top staff and a triplet of eighth notes in the second staff. Measure 53 features a triplet of eighth notes in the top staff and a triplet of eighth notes in the second staff. The bottom staff has a continuous eighth-note accompaniment. Dynamics include *cresc.* in measure 52 and *f* in measure 53.

54

Musical score for measures 54-55. The system consists of four staves. The top staff is a single treble clef staff. The second and third staves are a grand staff. The bottom staff is a single bass clef staff. Measure 54 features a triplet of eighth notes in the top staff and a triplet of eighth notes in the second staff. Measure 55 features a triplet of eighth notes in the top staff and a triplet of eighth notes in the second staff. The bottom staff has a continuous eighth-note accompaniment. Dynamics include *subito p* in measure 54 and *subito pp* in measure 55.

56

p 3 3 *poco cresc.* 3 3 3 3 *poco cresc.* 3 3

59

subito pp *subito p* *p* *ff* *ff* *Rec.*

VAR. 3

62 Fast, brusque, a bit slower ♩ = 168

p *pp* *p* *pp* *pp* *pp* *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* *Proclamatory* ♩ = 138 *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 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 left hand. A *8va* marking is visible above the right hand staff in measure 83.

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 left hand. The time signature changes from 3/4 to 2/4 and back to 3/4.

90

6 6 6

p

f *p*

6

93

f

f

mf

6

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
ff *p*

109

115

Musical score for measures 115-120. The system consists of four staves: two for the vocal line (treble clef) and two for the piano accompaniment (grand staff). The key signature is one flat (B-flat). The music features a vocal melody with various rhythmic values and rests, and a piano accompaniment with a steady eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a more active bass line in the left hand.

121

Musical score for measures 121-126. The system consists of four staves: two for the vocal line (treble clef) and two for the piano accompaniment (grand staff). The key signature is one flat (B-flat). The music features a vocal melody with various rhythmic values and rests, and a piano accompaniment with a steady eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a more active bass line in the left hand. The time signature changes from 4/4 to 3/4 and back to 4/4.

127

Musical score for measures 127-132. The system consists of four staves: two for the vocal line (treble clef) and two for the piano accompaniment (grand staff). The key signature is one flat (B-flat). The music features a vocal melody with various rhythmic values and rests, and a piano accompaniment with a steady eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a more active bass line in the left hand. The time signature changes from 4/4 to 3/4 and back to 4/4. The word "cresc." is written below the vocal line and the piano accompaniment in the final measures.

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

Andante ♩ = 76

p cantabile

And. *And.* *And. simile*

156

mp

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 *rit.* *dim.* *mp* A tempo ♩ = 76

f *dim.* *mp*

rit. A tempo ♩ = 76

f *dim.* *mp*

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

178 *rit. molto*
pp
pp
rit. molto
pp

VAR. 7

Quiet, quick, somewhat mysterious ♩ = 132

183

Quiet, quick, somewhat mysterious ♩ = 132
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

pizz.

VAR. 8

Energetically swirling $\text{♩} = 108$

203

Measures 203-204. The score is in 2/4 time with a key signature of three flats. It features a piano part with a 9-measure slur and a forte (*f*) dynamic. The right hand has a melodic line with a 9-measure slur and a forte (*f*) dynamic. The left hand has a rhythmic accompaniment with a forte (*f*) dynamic.

204

Measures 204-205. The score continues from the previous system. It features a piano part with a 9-measure slur and a forte (*f*) dynamic. The right hand has a melodic line with a 9-measure slur and a forte (*f*) dynamic. The left hand has a rhythmic accompaniment with a forte (*f*) dynamic.

205

Measures 205-206. The score continues from the previous system. It features a piano part with a 9-measure slur and a forte (*f*) dynamic. The right hand has a melodic line with a 9-measure slur and a forte (*f*) dynamic. The left hand has a rhythmic accompaniment with a forte (*f*) dynamic.

206

Musical score for measures 206-207 and the first two measures of system 209. The score is in 4/4 time with a key signature of three flats. Measure 206 features a 9-measure slur in the right hand. Measure 207 features six-measure slurs in both hands. The first two measures of system 209 feature six-measure slurs in both hands.

207

Musical score for measures 207-208 and the last two measures of system 209. Measure 207 features six-measure slurs in both hands with a *mp* dynamic. Measure 208 features six-measure slurs in both hands. The last two measures of system 209 feature six-measure slurs in both hands. The word *Leg.* is written below the first and third measures, with an asterisk below the second and fourth measures.

209

Musical score for measures 209-210 and the last two measures of system 209. Measure 209 features a *p* dynamic with a *cresc.* marking in the right hand. Measure 210 features a *p* dynamic with a *cresc.* marking in the right hand. The last two measures of system 209 feature seven-measure slurs in both hands with a *p* dynamic in the left hand and a *cresc.* marking in the right hand. The word *Leg.* is written below the first measure, followed by the instruction *(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 piano part includes a 7th fingering and a forte (*f*) dynamic. The melody includes accents and a forte (*f*) dynamic.

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 piano part includes a 9th fingering and a *8va* marking. The melody includes accents and a forte (*f*) dynamic. A double asterisk (*) is placed below the first staff.

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 piano part includes a 7th fingering and a piano (*p*) dynamic. The melody includes accents and a piano (*p*) dynamic. The tempo marking is 'Fast, leggiero ♩ = 176 (♩ = 117)'. The score includes a double bar line and a change in the piano part's rhythm.

215

p *leggiero* 5 5

220

p *cresc.*

225

mf *subito p*

229

p

cresc. 7

cresc. 7

cresc.

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

(roll l.h. chords if necessary)

234

mf

subito p

mf

subito p

mf

subito p

238

cresc. 7

cresc. 7

cresc.

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

242

f marcato

7

7

This system contains measures 242 through 245. It features a piano and violin part. The piano part has a melodic line with a fermata over the first measure and a seven-measure rest in the second measure. The violin part has a rhythmic accompaniment. The tempo is marked *f marcato*. The key signature has two flats, and the time signature changes from 2/4 to 3/4 and back to 2/4.

246

This system contains measures 246 through 250. The piano part continues with a steady eighth-note accompaniment. The violin part has a melodic line with some slurs. The tempo remains *f marcato*. The time signature changes from 2/4 to 3/4 and back to 2/4.

251

ff

ff marcato

ff

sfz

sfz

sfz

sfz

This system contains measures 251 through 255. The piano part has a very loud *ff* dynamic. The violin part has a melodic line with some slurs. The tempo is *ff marcato*. The time signature changes from 2/4 to 3/4 and back to 2/4. There are *sfz* markings in the piano part.

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

p

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 ties, and a bass line with a slur and tie.

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 ties, and a bass line with a slur and tie. 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 ties, and a bass line with a slur and tie. A "p" marking is present in the first measure of the grand staff. A "ppp" marking is present in the first measure of the grand staff. 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 two staves are for a vocal line, and the bottom two are for a piano accompaniment. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The vocal line features a long melisma with a *cresc.* marking. The piano accompaniment includes a complex rhythmic pattern in the right hand and a more regular bass line in the left hand, with a *cresc.* marking.

281

musical score for measures 281-282. The score is in 6/8 time and consists of four staves. The top two staves are for a vocal line, and the bottom two are for a piano accompaniment. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The vocal line continues with a melisma, featuring a *cresc.* marking. The piano accompaniment maintains its complex rhythmic texture, with a *cresc.* marking.

283

musical score for measures 283-284. The score is in 6/8 time and consists of four staves. The top two staves are for a vocal line, and the bottom two are for a piano accompaniment. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The vocal line concludes with a melisma, featuring a *cresc.* marking. The piano accompaniment continues with its characteristic rhythmic patterns, ending with a *cresc.* marking.

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

mf

cresc.

361

cresc.

cresc.

mf cresc.

366

ff

sffz

ff

sffz subito pp

ff

sffz subito pp

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

This system contains measures 387 through 390. It features a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The piano part consists of a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the bass clef and a more active line in the treble clef. The vocal line has rests for the first three measures and enters in the fourth measure with a series of eighth notes, marked *pp*.

391

pp

pp

This system contains measures 391 through 394. The piano accompaniment continues with its characteristic eighth-note patterns. The vocal line has rests for the first two measures, then enters in the third measure with eighth notes, and continues in the fourth measure. Both the vocal and piano parts are marked *pp*.

395

poco cresc.

poco cresc.

This system contains measures 395 through 398. The piano accompaniment remains consistent. The vocal line has rests for the first two measures, then enters in the third measure with eighth notes, and continues in the fourth measure. Both the vocal and piano parts are marked *poco cresc.*

411

pp

415

cresc.

pp

419

Faster ♩ = 120

f

Faster ♩ = 120

f

Ped. (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

ff

f

436

ff

ff

f

440

dim.

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.