

Mozart was famous for improvising at the piano. This might explain his apparent fondness for writing sets of piano variations, where a familiar tune is presented and then elaborated in a number of ways. The theme of this set of 12 variations is a French folk song known to American children as “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star.” The variations presented in this arrangement show three different transformations of the original theme, while still allowing that theme to be clearly heard.

Variations on “Ah! vous dirai-je, maman”

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756–1791)
K. 300e (265)

Arr. Margaret Goldston

THEME

Allegretto

Musical notation for the Theme, marked *mf*. The piece is in 4/4 time. The right hand (RH) features a melody with notes marked with fingerings 1, 4, and 5. The left hand (LH) provides a simple accompaniment with notes marked with a 5. The instruction *LH legato* is written below the left hand.

5

Musical notation for Variation 5. The right hand (RH) features a more complex melody with slurs and notes marked with fingerings 1, 2, 1, and 3. The left hand (LH) provides a simple accompaniment with notes marked with a 1.

9 VAR. I

Musical notation for Variation 9, marked *mp*. The right hand (RH) features a complex, rapid melody with many slurs and notes marked with fingerings 4, 2, 2, 1, 4, 2, 1, 2, 1, 3, 1, 2, 5, and 2. The left hand (LH) provides a simple accompaniment with notes marked with a 5 and a 2.

13

Musical score for measures 13-16. The right hand features a melodic line with slurs and fingerings (1, 5, 2, 5, 2, 5, 1). The left hand has a bass line with fingerings 2 and 3.

17 VAR. II
both hands 8va -----

Musical score for measures 17-20, marked "VAR. II" and "both hands 8va". The right hand has fingerings 1 and 4. The left hand has a fingering 5. The piece is marked "p".