

# WONDERLAND VARIATIONS

Richard Meyer (ASCAP)

## INSTRUMENTATION

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| Conductor Score | 1 |
| Violin I        | 8 |
| Violin II       | 8 |
| Viola           | 5 |
| Cello           | 5 |
| String Bass     | 5 |

## NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

You and your students will love putting together these charming variations based on Lewis Carroll's classic book. A simple and graceful theme, entitled "Alice," is followed by four colorful variations depicting the delightfully odd characters that inhabit Wonderland. Each variation is a stylistic workshop for your students who will learn a myriad of techniques as they bring to life the Cheshire-Cat, a Mad Tea Party, a Caterpillar, and the King and Queen of Hearts.

*(Continued)*



### NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR (CONT.)

Unlike most variations, which are based on the harmonic structure of the theme, the variations in this piece are derived solely from the first nine notes of the theme.

In **Variation I**, the “Cheshire-Cat” appears (and disappears) gradually. The shape of his famous smile is outlined by the first violins in measures 50, 58, etc.

**Variation II**, “A Mad Tea Party,” is essentially wild, crazy cartoon music with fun special effects. In measure 85, a dissonant version of “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star” is heard—a nod to the Mad Hatter, who sings at Carroll’s tea party:

*“Twinkle, twinkle, little bat!  
How I wonder what you’re at!  
Up above the world you fly,  
Like a tea-tray in the sky.”*

**Variation III**, “Advice from a Caterpillar,” depicts the mysterious blue creature stoically sitting atop a mushroom. Puffs of smoke from his hookah are heard in the first violins in measures 96, 98, etc.

In **Variation IV**, the demented “King and Queen of Hearts” are represented by a majestic, English-style march. Cries of “*Off with her head!*” are heard throughout (measures 128, 129, 137, etc.). As this variation reaches an emotional peak (m. 166), Alice wakes up from her dream, and her theme is briefly revisited, bringing the piece to a close.

# Wonderland Variations

3

CONDUCTOR SCORE

Duration - 5:45

Richard Meyer (ASCAP)

**Allegretto grazioso** (♩ = 96)

"Alice"

Violins

Viola

Cello

String Bass

Vlms.

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Violins I and II: Treble clef, 2/4 time, key of D major. Violins I has a *p* *leggiero* marking. Viola: Bass clef, 2/4 time, key of D major. Cello: Bass clef, 2/4 time, key of D major, *pizz.* and *p* markings. String Bass: Bass clef, 2/4 time, key of D major, *pizz.* and *p* markings. Measures 1-6 are shown with measure numbers 1 through 6 below the staff.

Violins I and II: Treble clef, 2/4 time, key of D major. Viola: Bass clef, 2/4 time, key of D major. Cello: Bass clef, 2/4 time, key of D major. String Bass: Bass clef, 2/4 time, key of D major. Measures 7-12 are shown with measure numbers 7 through 12 below the staff.

16

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

*p*

*mp*

*non divisi arco*

*p*

13 14 15 16 17 18

24

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

*div.*

*mp*

*cresc.*

*f*

*p*

*cresc.*

*f*

*p*

*cresc.*

*f*

*p*

*cresc.*

*f*

*pizz.*

*p*

*pizz.*

19 20 21 22 23 24

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

25 26 27 28 29 30

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

31 32 33 34 35 36 37

38 **Tempo di valse** (♩ = 108)  
"Cheshire-Cat"

42

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

arco

*p*

38 39 40 41 42 43

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

*mp*

*mf*

*mp*

*mp*

*pizz.*

*mp*

44 45 46 47 48 49

51

Vlns. I *mf*

Vlns. II *mp*

Vla. *div.* *p*

Cello *div.* *p*

Str. Bass *p*

50 51 52 53 54

59

Vlns. I *mp* *mf* *f*

Vlns. II *mf* (V) *f*

Vla. *mf* *f*

Cello *mf* *f*

Str. Bass *arco* *mf* *f*

55 56 57 58 59

Score for measures 60 to 65, featuring Violins (Vlns.), Viola (Vla.), Cello, and String Bass (Str. Bass).

Measures 60-65 show a melodic line in the Violins and Viola, with the Cello and String Bass providing harmonic support. The score includes dynamic markings such as *dim.* (diminuendo) and *p* (piano).

Measures 60 61 62 63 *dim.* 64 65

Score for measures 66 to 70, featuring Violins (Vlns.), Viola (Vla.), Cello, and String Bass (Str. Bass).

Measures 66-70 show a continuation of the melodic line in the Violins and Viola, with the Cello and String Bass providing harmonic support. The score includes dynamic markings such as *p* (piano), *pp* (pianissimo), and *pizz.* (pizzicato).

Measures 66 67 68 69 *p* 70



**Allegro scherzando** (♩ = 138)

*"A Mad Tea Party"*

71

Vlns.

Musical score for measures 71-74. The score is for five parts: Vlns. I, Vlns. II, Vla., Cello, and Str. Bass. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The tempo is Allegro scherzando (♩ = 138). The score includes dynamic markings such as *f*, *ff*, *p*, and *pp*, as well as articulation markings like *arco* and *pizz.*. A large red watermark "Preview Only Requires Purchase" is overlaid diagonally across the page.

Vlns.

Musical score for measures 75-77. The score is for five parts: Vlns. I, Vlns. II, Vla., Cello, and Str. Bass. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The tempo is Allegro scherzando (♩ = 138). The score includes dynamic markings such as *f*, *ff*, *p*, and *pp*, as well as articulation markings like *arco* and *pizz.*. A large red watermark "Preview Only Requires Purchase" is overlaid diagonally across the page.

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

78 79 80

**Vlns.**  
I  
II

**Vla.**

**Cello**

**Str. Bass**

*f*

*f*

*f*

*f*

*f*

gliss. to end of fingerboard  
on E string.

81 82 83

**Vlns.**  
I  
II

**Vla.**

**Cello**

**Str. Bass**

*ff*

*ff*

*ff*

*ff*

*ff*

Vlns. I  
 Vlns. II  
 Vla.  
 Cello  
 Str. Bass

pizz. 85 arco  
 p *ff*  
 pizz. arco  
 p *ff*  
 pizz. arco  
 p *ff*  
 gliss. *ff*  
 pizz. *f*  
 pizz. *f*

84 85 86 87

Vlns. I  
 Vlns. II  
 Vla.  
 Cello  
 Str. Bass

arco  
 f arco  
*ff*  
*ff*  
*ff*  
*ffp*  
*ff*

88 89 90 91

**Andante misterioso** (♩ = 96)*"Advice from a Caterpillar"*

**molto rit.**

**95**

**Vlns.**

**Vla.**

**Cello**

**Str. Bass**

*p*

*non div.*

*div.*

*p*

*pizz.*

92 93 94 95 96 97 98

**99**

**Vlns.**

**Vla.**

**Cello**

**Str. Bass**

*mp*

*arco*

*p*

99 100 101 102 103 104

Vlns. I  
 Vlns. II  
 Vla.  
 Cello  
 Str. Bass

105 106 *p* 107 108 109 110 *mp* 111

Vlns. I  
 Vlns. II  
 Vla.  
 Cello  
 Str. Bass

112 113 *f* 114 *mp* 115 116

119

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

117 118 119 120 121 122

*mf*

*mp*

*p*

*p*

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

123 124 125 126 127

*p*

*p*

*pizz.*

*arco*

128 **Alla marcia** (♩ = 100)  
"King and Queen of Hearts"

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

128 129 130 131

*ff* *mf* *mf* *mf* *pizz.*

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

132 133 134 135

137

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

*f*

*marc.*

*f*

*arco*

136 137 138

Violins I

Violins II

Viola

Cello

String Bass

Measures 139-143



146

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

*mp*

*mp*

*mp*

*mp*

*pizz.*

144 145 146 147 148

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

*mp*

*f*

*f*

*f*

*f*

*arco*

*f*

*ff*

*mf*

*ff*

*fp*

*ff*

*ffp*

*ffp*

149 150 151 152

154

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

*f*

153 154 155 156 157

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

*cresc. e rall.*

*cresc. e rall.*

*cresc. e rall.*

*div.*

*cresc. e rall.*

*cresc. e rall.*

158 159 160 161 162

**163 Maestoso** (♩ = 88)

**Vlns.** I *ff marc.*

**Vlns.** II *ff marc.*

**Vla.** *ff marc.*

**Cello** *ff* (V) *marc.*

**Str. Bass** *ff* (V) *marc.*

*rit.* *div.*

163 164 165 166

**167 Allegretto grazioso** (♩ = 88)

**Vlns.** I *f* *p* *leggero*

**Vlns.** II *f* *p*

**Vla.** *f* *p*

**Cello** *pizz.* *f* *p*

**Str. Bass** *f* *p* *pizz.*

167 168 169 170 171 172 173

Score for measures 174 to 180. The score is for five parts: Vlns. I, Vlns. II, Vla., Cello, and Str. Bass. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The time signature is 4/4. The score includes various musical notations such as eighth notes, quarter notes, and rests. A large red watermark "Preview Only Requires Purchase" is overlaid on the score.

Measures 174 to 180. The score is for five parts: Vlns. I, Vlns. II, Vla., Cello, and Str. Bass. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The time signature is 4/4. The score includes various musical notations such as eighth notes, quarter notes, and rests. A large red watermark "Preview Only Requires Purchase" is overlaid on the score.

Score for measures 181 to 189. The score is for five parts: Vlns. I, Vlns. II, Vla., Cello, and Str. Bass. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The time signature is 4/4. The score includes various musical notations such as eighth notes, quarter notes, and rests. A large red watermark "Preview Only Requires Purchase" is overlaid on the score.

Measures 181 to 189. The score is for five parts: Vlns. I, Vlns. II, Vla., Cello, and Str. Bass. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The time signature is 4/4. The score includes various musical notations such as eighth notes, quarter notes, and rests. A large red watermark "Preview Only Requires Purchase" is overlaid on the score.