

# Theme and Variations on Shenandoah

For B $\flat$  Clarinet, Percussion, and Piano

Gayle Kowalchyk and E. L. Lancaster

Commissioned by Music Teachers National Association  
for the 2020 National Conference in Chicago, Illinois

## About the Music

"Shenandoah" is an American folk song from the early 19th century. Its exact origin is uncertain, but many believe that it was first sung by French sailors traveling down the Missouri River. By the end of the century, it had become popular as a sea shanty (work song) for sailors. The melody has been arranged for various combinations of vocalists and instrumentalists.

In these variations for B-flat clarinet, percussion, and piano, the haunting theme begins in the clarinet. The piano follows with all three instruments coming together in a lush setting. Each variation that follows was inspired by a famous piece.

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Theme . . . . .	2
Variation 1: Inspired by Paul Desmond's <i>Take Five</i> . . . . .	4
Variation 2: Inspired by Johann Pachelbel's <i>Canon in D</i> . . . . .	8
Variation 3: Inspired by Frédéric Chopin's " <i>Minute</i> " <i>Waltz, Op. 64, No. 1</i> . . . . .	12
Variation 4: Inspired by Sergei Rachmaninoff's <i>Piano Concerto No. 2, Op. 18</i> (first movement). . . . .	16
Variation 5: Inspired by Scott Joplin's <i>The Entertainer</i> . . . . .	20



Alfred Music  
P.O. Box 10003  
Van Nuys, CA 91410-0003  
alfred.com

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# Theme and Variations on Shenandoah

List of Percussion:  
 Drumset (including Bass Drum, Crash Cymbal,  
 Hi-Hat, Snare Drum, Suspended Cymbal)  
 Slide Whistle  
 Triangle

American Folk Song  
 Arr. Gayle Kowalchyk and E. L. Lancaster

## THEME

Moderately slow with expression, freely (♩ = ca. 72)

B♭ Clarinet

*p*

Suspended Cymbal,  
Triangle

Percussion

Piano

*mp*

5

*a tempo*

*rit.*

*mf*

*a tempo*

5

*a tempo*

*rit.*

2 5 3

1 2

5 2 1 2

5 2 1 2

VARIATION 1: Inspired by Paul Desmond's *Take Five*

Moderately fast (♩ = 152)

B♭ Clar.

Drumset

Perc.

Pno.

Hi-Hat w/stick

cross-stick

clap:

*mp* *cresc. poco a poco*

*mp*

*mf*

*mp* *cresc. poco a poco*

5

5

*mf*

*f*

*f*

*mf*

*f*

5 2 1 .

4 2 1 .

2

VARIATION 2: Inspired by Johann Pachelbel's *Canon in D*

Moderately (♩ = 76)

B♭ Clar.

Perc.

Suspended Cymbal,  
Triangle

Pno.

*mp*

Tri.

*mp*

*mp*

*simile*

**VARIATION 5: Inspired by Scott Joplin's *The Entertainer***

Not fast (♩ = 144)

B♭ Clar. *mp*

Drumset, Slide Whistle

Perc. Slide Whistle

Pno. *f*

RH 4

LH 2

RH 4

LH 2 2 2 3

5 2 1

δva -1

5

H.H. w/stick

Perc. *f*

Pno. *p*

3 1

4 2 1

5 3 1

1

1 3 1 3

*mf*

*mp*