

Concert Variations on The Star-Spangled Banner

Dudley Buck

*arranged by Paul De Bra for
accordion quintet (1, 2, 3, 4, bass)*

The British song, composed by John Stafford Smith and named “To Anacreon in Heaven” became popular in the United States and was reused using the lyrics of the poem “Defence of Fort McHenry” by Francis Scott Key” and became the national anthem of the USA (in 1931).

The American composer and organist Dudley Buck (1839-1909) created the Concert Variations on the Star-Spangled Banner (opus 23) for organ. (It was later also orchestrated.)

The arrangement for accordion quintet is a nice demonstration that an accordion ensemble is in fact “better” than an organ (because each of the voices can have its own dynamics). This composition is a bit long, but some variations can be omitted if desired, to better suit the intended audience.

Professor P made a recording available.

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Concert Variations on The Star-Spangled Banner

Theme Andante ♩ = ca. 90

Dudley Buck
arr. Paul De Bra

(or without tremolo) when not legato then portato

This section shows the first system of the musical score. It consists of five staves: Acc. 1, Acc. 2, Acc. 3, Acc. 4, and Bass. The key signature is one flat, and the time signature is common time (indicated by a '4'). The Accordion parts (Acc. 1 through Acc. 4) play eighth-note patterns with dynamic markings 'mp' and 'p'. The Bass part is silent. A performance instruction '(or without tremolo) when not legato then portato' is placed above the Acc. 1 staff.

9

This section shows the second system of the musical score. It consists of five staves: I, II, III, IV, and B. The key signature is one flat, and the time signature is common time. The parts play eighth-note patterns with dynamics 'mf', 'mp', and 'mp'. The Bass part is silent.

16

This section shows the third system of the musical score. It consists of five staves: I, II, III, IV, and B. The key signature is one flat, and the time signature is common time. The parts play eighth-note patterns with dynamics 'f', 'mp', 'mf', 'mf', and 'mf'. The Bass part is silent.

The Star-Spangled Banner

poco rit. ad lib

25

ff mp
p p

Var. I

a tempo 33

mf mp
p mp
mp

38

1. 2.

The Star-Spangled Banner

3

43

I
II
III
IV
B

49

I
II
III
IV
B

54

2nd time rall.

1. 2.

I
II
III
IV
B

4 Var. II Poco vivace

The Star-Spangled Banner

The musical score consists of three staves (I, II, III) for the first section (measures 60-63) and five staves (I, II, III, IV, B) for the second section (measures 64-68). The key signature is one flat, and the time signature is common time.

Section I (Measures 60-63):

- Staff I:** Starts with a quarter note followed by eighth-note patterns. Measure 60: 3/8, 3/8. Measures 61-63: 3/8, 3/8, 3/8.
- Staff II:** Starts with a quarter note followed by eighth-note patterns. Measure 60: 3/8, 3/8. Measures 61-63: 3/8, 3/8, 3/8.
- Staff III:** Starts with a quarter note followed by eighth-note patterns. Measure 60: 3/8, 3/8. Measures 61-63: 3/8, 3/8, 3/8.
- Section II (Measures 64-68):**
- Staff I:** Starts with a dotted half note followed by eighth-note patterns. Measure 64: 3/8, 3/8, 3/8. Measures 65-68: 3/8, 3/8, 3/8, 3/8.
- Staff II:** Starts with a quarter note followed by eighth-note patterns. Measure 64: 3/8, 3/8. Measures 65-68: 3/8, 3/8, 3/8, 3/8.
- Staff III:** Starts with a quarter note followed by eighth-note patterns. Measure 64: 3/8, 3/8. Measures 65-68: 3/8, 3/8, 3/8, 3/8.
- Staff IV:** Starts with a quarter note followed by eighth-note patterns. Measure 64: 3/8, 3/8. Measures 65-68: 3/8, 3/8, 3/8, 3/8.
- Staff B:** Starts with a quarter note followed by eighth-note patterns. Measure 64: 3/8, 3/8. Measures 65-68: 3/8, 3/8, 3/8, 3/8.

The Star-Spangled Banner

5

73

77

81

The Star-Spangled Banner

85

1. 2. poco rit.

Var. III Allegro non troppo You may choose which 2 voices other than the bass play this part (depending on skill levels).

91

mp

this part normally tacet

mp

this part normally tacet

mp

mp

f

make sure the notes all sound **on time!**

94

The Star-Spangled Banner

7

98

1. 2.

I
II
III
IV
B

f
mf
mf
mf

no longer tacet
no longer tacet

mf

101

I
II
III
IV
B

104

I
II
III
IV
B

The Star-Spangled Banner

108

111

114

1.

2. *rall.*

The Star-Spangled Banner

10

138

I

II

III

IV

B

8

146

I

II

III

IV

B

8

Fughetta. Allegro assai $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 120$

154

I

II

III

IV

B

f

mf

The Star-Spangled Banner

11

162

I
II
III
IV
B

169

I
II
III
IV
B

175

I
II
III
IV
B

Play notes in parentheses when 4rd voice uses small accordions.

The Star-Spangled Banner

181

I
II
III
IV
B

187

I
II
III
IV
B

194

I
II
III
IV
B

The Star-Spangled Banner

13

201

rall.

208 **Tempo I**

217

The Star-Spangled Banner

225

I II III IV B

234

I II III IV B

rall.

molto accel.

241

I II III IV B

rall.

PDB 15/4/22