Letter Variations

for piano

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Performance notes

Any number of variations may be played, in any order. Most variations will respond well to moderate amounts of rubato, or a gently swinging performance. Most will also benefit from a gentle slowing down at the end, followed by a small pause before the next variation begins (in variations with a fermata on the last bar and/or empty bar(s) at the end, the pause is mandatory). Still others may be arranged in a sequence that flows smoothly without interruptions between individual variations.

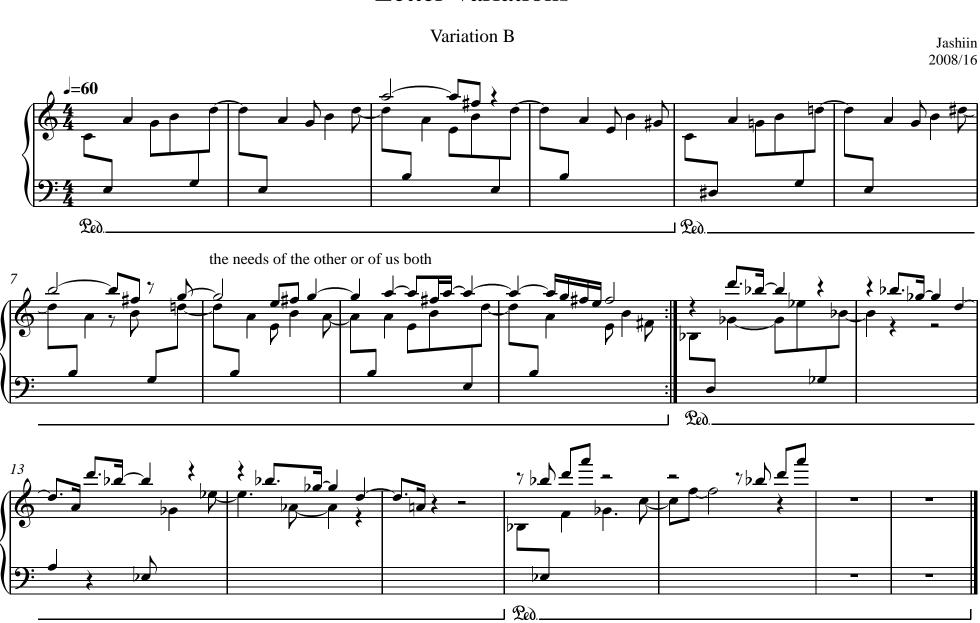
Dynamics and tempi are approximate and may be ignored wholly or in part. This is particularly true for longer performances where more than a few variations are played. In those cases, changes in texture and mood between individual variations can make it difficult to create a coherent sequence of them, unless the performer adjusts the dynamics and/or the tempi. The more variations are selected for a performance, the more changes will be required.

Small fragments of text accompanying the variations must not be read aloud or understood, in any context, as titles of individual variations.

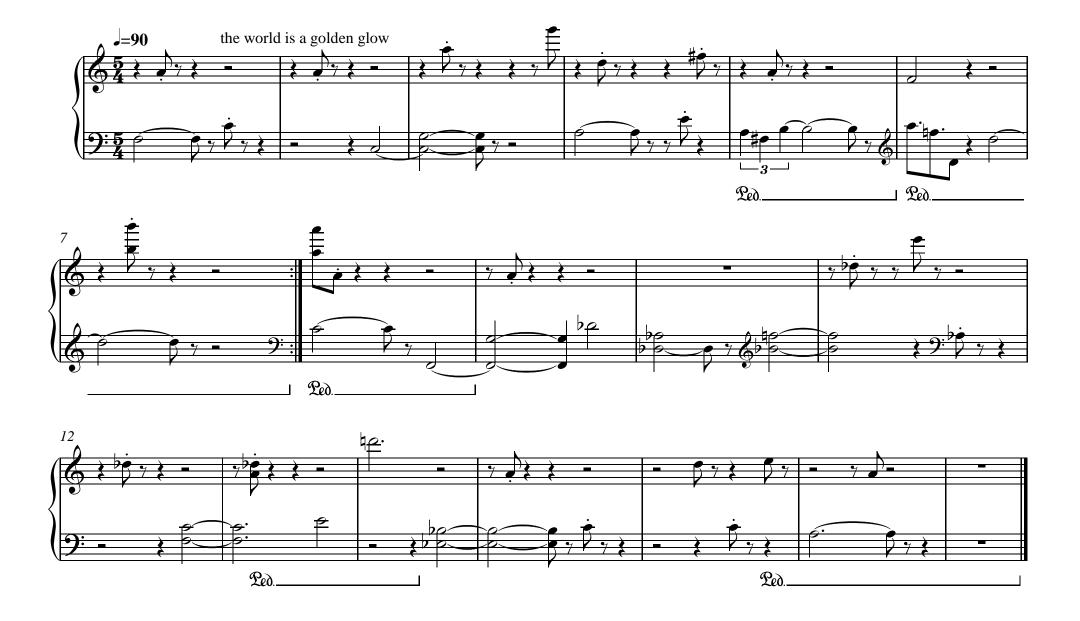
Versions of the score

Since the piece was completed in 2016, several versions of the score have appeared online. The first, completed on January 11th, 2016, listed the variations in random, non-alphabetical order. They were presented in a continuous manner, with no page breaks between individual variations. The second version of the score, completed on April 18th, 2018, shows one variation per page. It includes several corrections, and many formatting changes. This is the third version of the score, completed on May 5th, 2021. For this edition, formatting has been streamlined to make the music easier to read, and performance notes were slightly rewritten for clarity.

Letter Variations



Variation C



Variation D





Variation F



Variation G



Variation H



the darkness would shroud them and the rolling ocean waves





Variation J



Variation K



Variation L

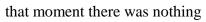


Variation M

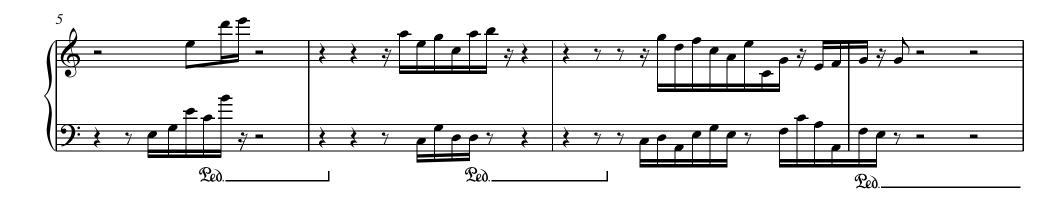


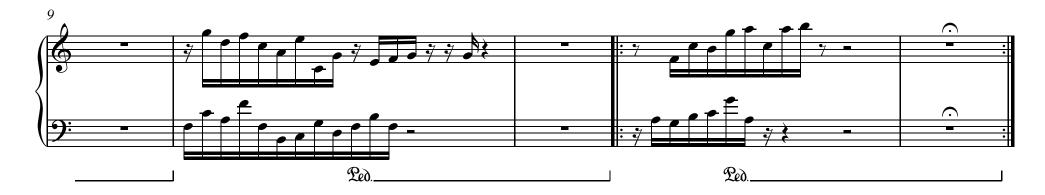










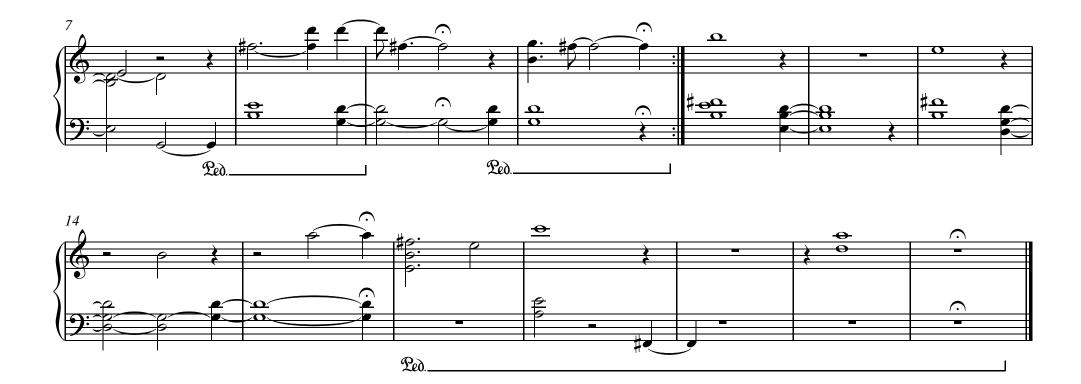




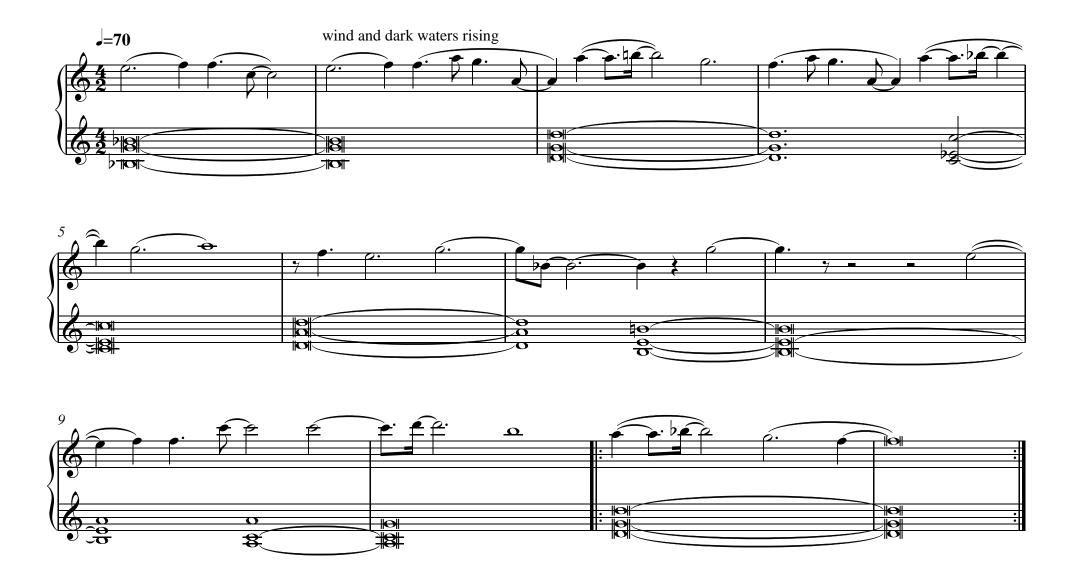
Variation Q



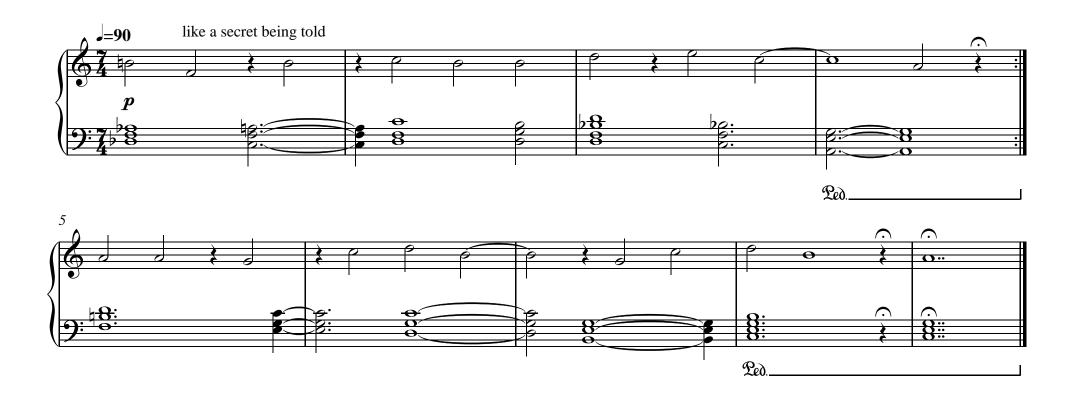
until there is nothing left of you for me to hate



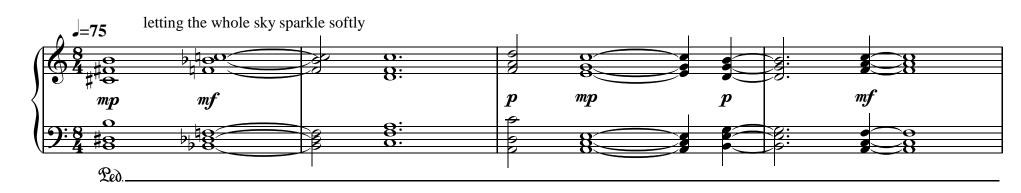
Variation R

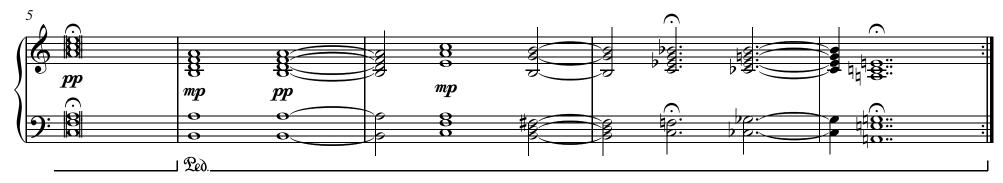


Variation S

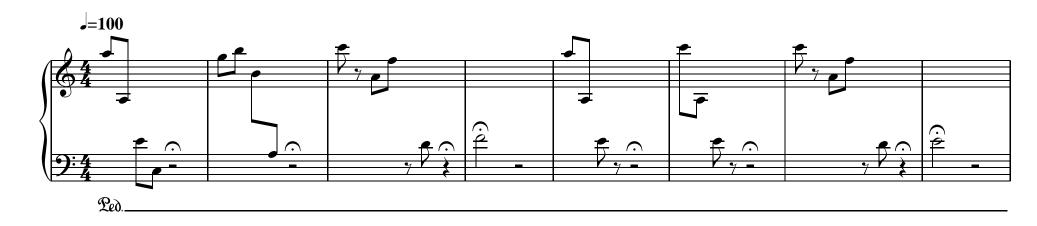


Variation T

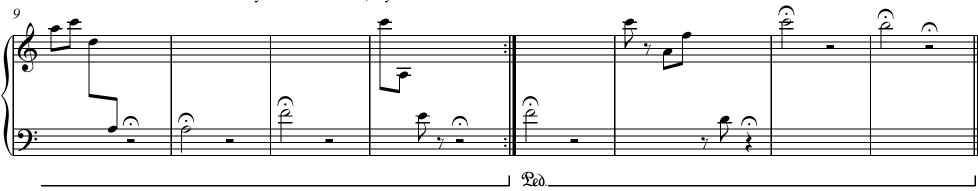




Variation V



to allow my mind to wander, my fantasies to overcome reason



Variation W



Variation X



Variation Z

