

*Dedicated to my niece
Brianna Atwell*

Bob Atwell

Variations on a Theme by Hovhaness

Op. 24

For Solo Viola

Composer's notes

This piece was conceived as a kind of parallel to Bach's Chaconne from the Violin Partita #2. That work is structured as 32 variations on an 8 bar theme (or 64 variations on a 4 bar theme) with the last note of one variation usually overlapping the first note of the next. I decided to do 16 variations of a 16 bar theme with overlap of the last / first measure which in my case means that each variation except the last actually ends up as 15 measures.

My source for the original theme is the fourth movement of Alan Hovhaness' Symphony #22 ("City of Light") published by C. F. Peters Corporation.

Performers, please use the indicated bowings, articulations and even the dynamic markings as suggestions rather than edicts. I believe that the markings given provide a good interpretation but you are free to make your own choices. The tempo should remain fairly constant but you are free to use a different tempo for each variation if you so wish. Make whatever adjustments you want but try to keep it reasonable and within the 60 - 88 bpm range indicated.

Maestoso ♩ = 72 (60 - 88)

ff detache

7

13

mp legato

18

23

p

28

mp *mf non legato*

33

39

f *mf*

44 3

p *detache*

Musical staff 44-47: Treble clef, 12/8 time signature, key of B-flat major. Measures 44-47. Measure 44 has a box with the number 3. The staff contains eighth and sixteenth notes with slurs. The dynamic *p* and the instruction *detache* are written below the staff.

48

Musical staff 48-51: Treble clef, 12/8 time signature, key of B-flat major. Measures 48-51. The staff contains eighth and sixteenth notes with slurs.

52

mp

Musical staff 52-54: Treble clef, 12/8 time signature, key of B-flat major. Measures 52-54. The staff contains eighth and sixteenth notes with slurs. The dynamic *mp* is written below the staff.

55

Musical staff 55-57: Treble clef, 12/8 time signature, key of B-flat major. Measures 55-57. The staff contains eighth and sixteenth notes with slurs.

58

pp

Musical staff 58-60: Treble clef, 12/8 time signature, key of B-flat major. Measures 58-60. The staff contains eighth and sixteenth notes with slurs. The dynamic *pp* is written below the staff.

61 4

f marcato *mf* *p* *f* *mf* *p* *f*

Musical staff 61-65: Treble clef, 12/8 time signature, key of B-flat major. Measures 61-65. The staff contains eighth and sixteenth notes with slurs and accents. The dynamics *f marcato*, *mf*, *p*, *f*, *mf*, *p*, and *f* are written below the staff.

66

mf *p* *f* *mf* *p* *f* *mf* *p* *f*

Musical staff 66-71: Treble clef, 12/8 time signature, key of B-flat major. Measures 66-71. The staff contains eighth and sixteenth notes with slurs and accents. The dynamics *mf*, *p*, *f*, *mf*, *p*, *f*, *mf*, *p*, and *f* are written below the staff.

72

mf *p* *f* *mf* *p* *f*

Musical staff 72-75: Treble clef, 12/8 time signature, key of B-flat major. Measures 72-75. The staff contains eighth and sixteenth notes with slurs and accents. The dynamics *mf*, *p*, *f*, *mf*, *p*, and *f* are written below the staff.

76 5

p legato

78

80

82

84

mp

86

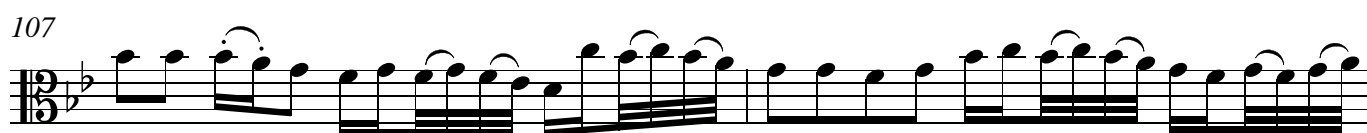
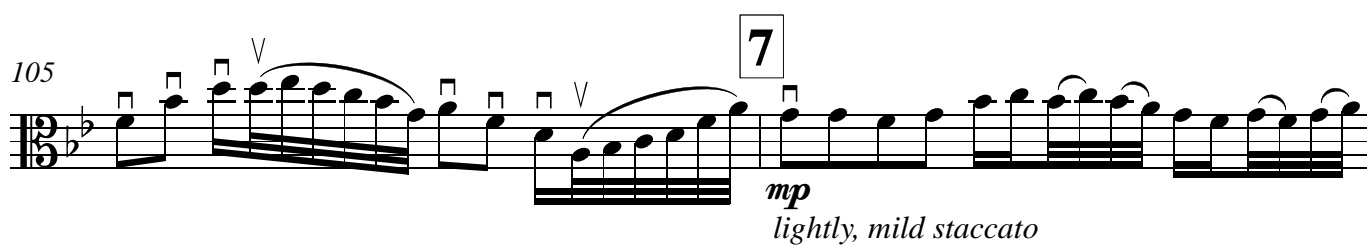
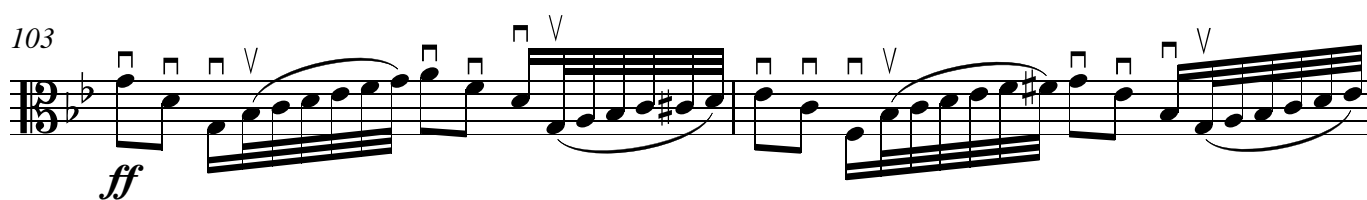
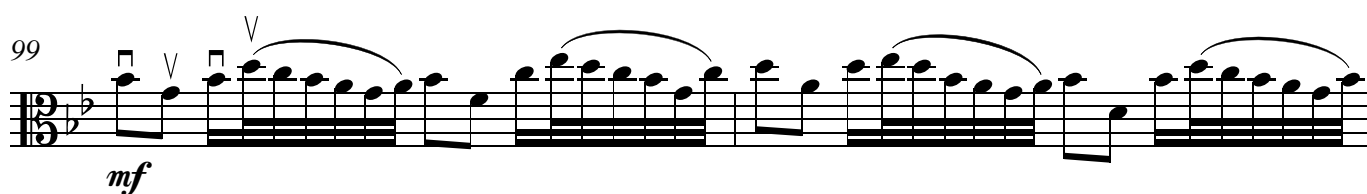
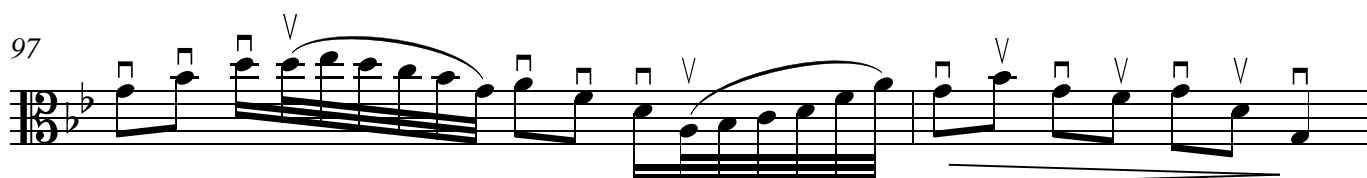
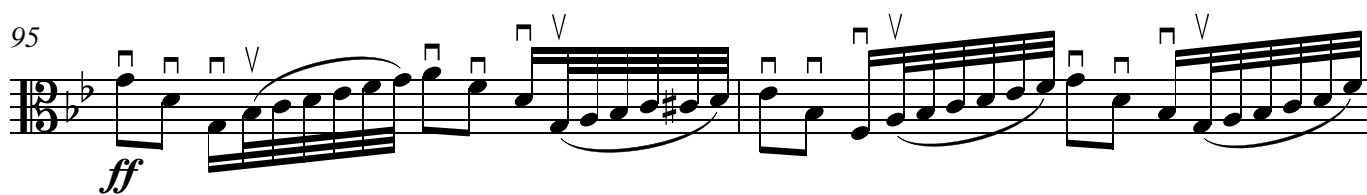
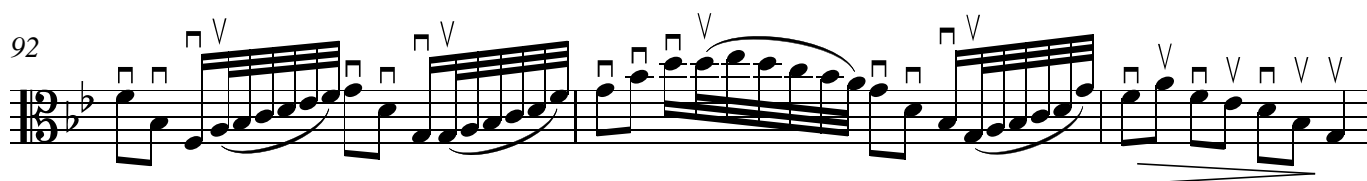
mf *mp*

88

p

90 6

ff con forza

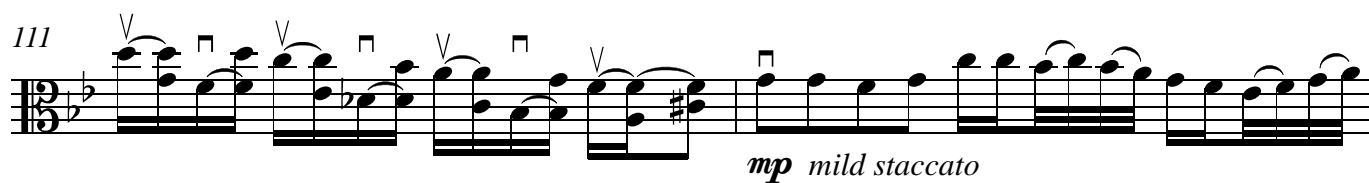


109



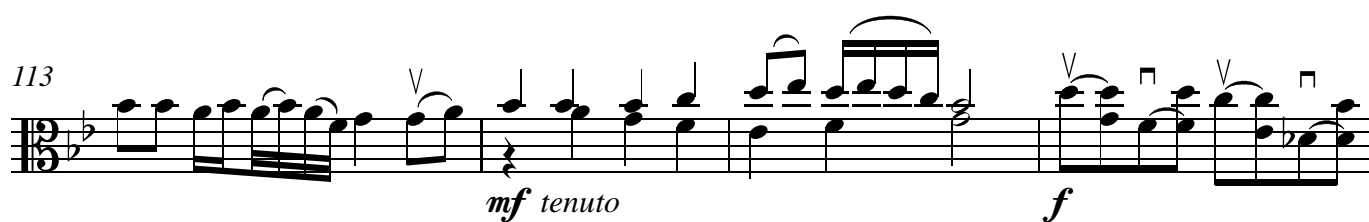
mf tenuto

111



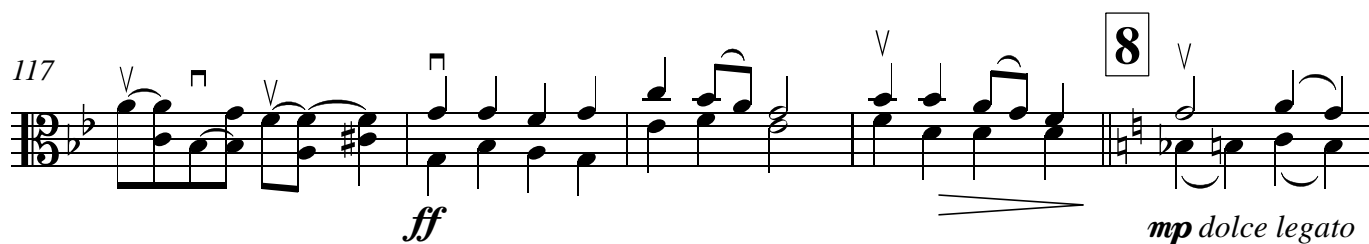
mp mild staccato

113



mf tenuto *f*

117

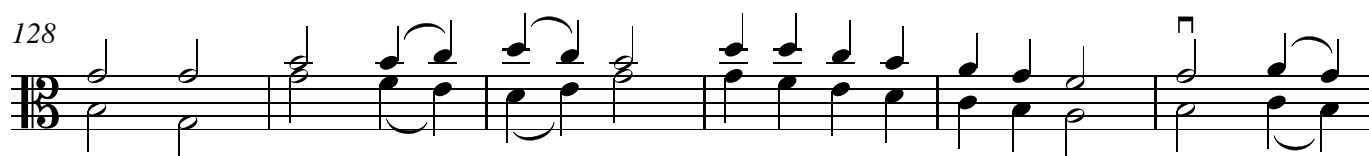


ff *mp* dolce legato

122



128



134



mf subito giacoso
lightly, with a 5/8 feel

139



143



147



10

151



155



159



163



11

167



172

mp legato

177

mf detache

180

mp espress.

184

optional note
play if intonation OK

188

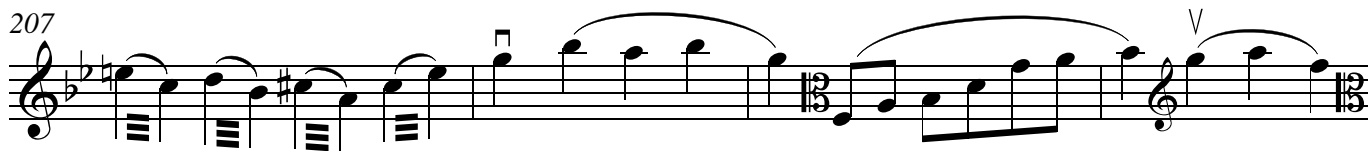
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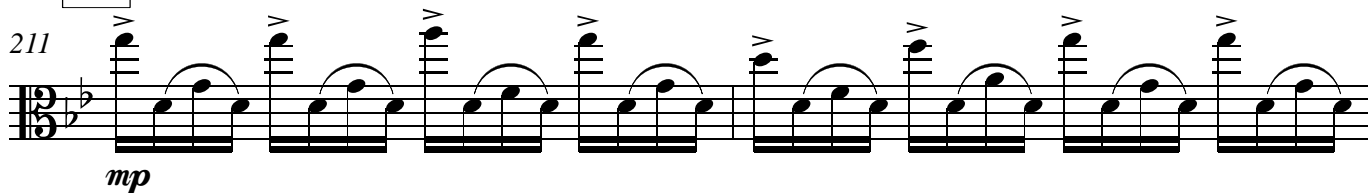


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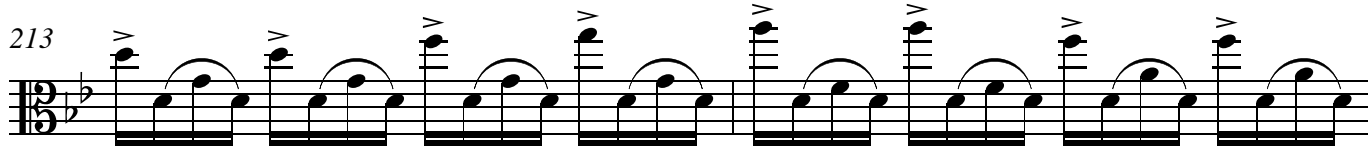


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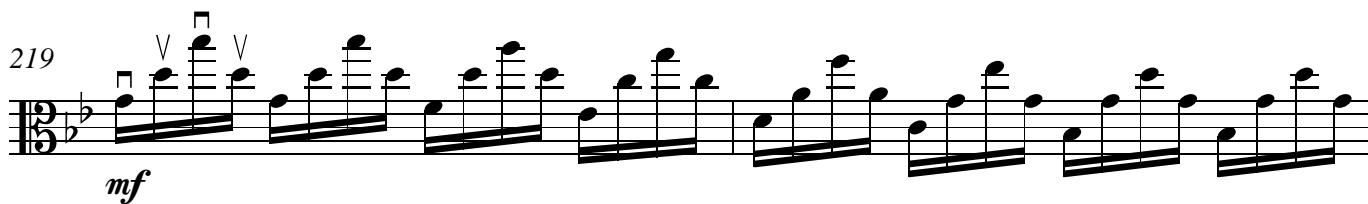
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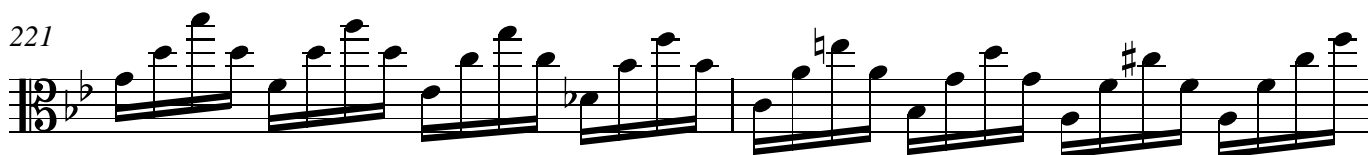
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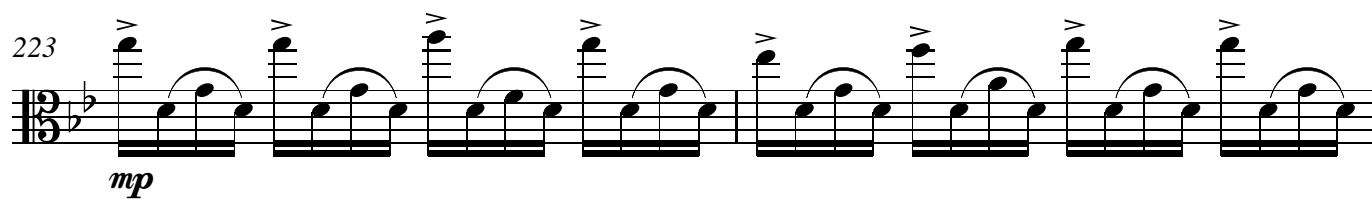
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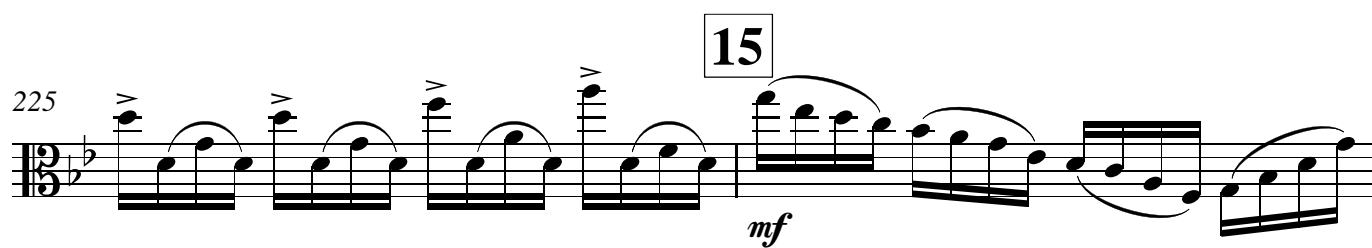
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mp

225

15



mf

227



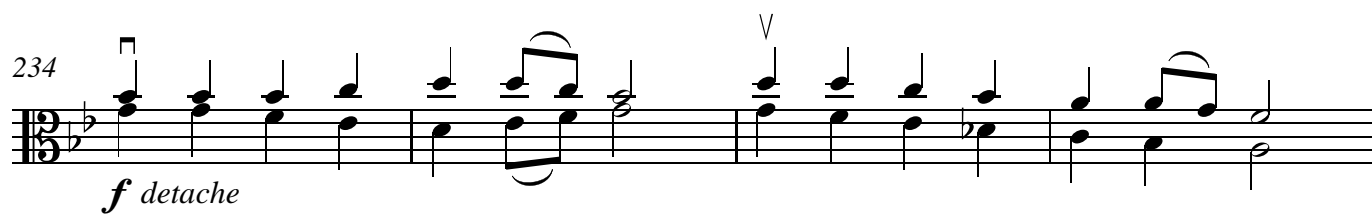
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231

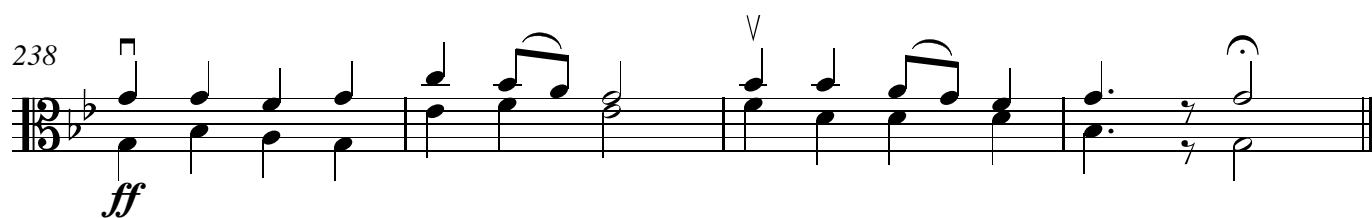


234



f detache

238



ff