

KALMUS PIANO SERIES

No. 3602

“HEXAMERON”

6 Variations on the March from Bellini's I Puritani

by

**LISZT, THALBERG, PIXIS,
HENRI HERZ, CZERNY & CHOPIN**

with an introduction by EUGENE LIST

© Copyright 1974 by
EDWIN F. KALMUS

The dictionary defines HEXAMERON as "the six days of Creation, or a history thereof as contained in Genesis," but in the case of this work, one of the grandest of those grand Romantic extravaganzas so often referred to but so rarely performed, the Biblical connotation, if intended at all, is of little consequence; the term simply identifies a series of six variations, each by a different composer, on a theme from Bellini's opera *I Puritani*.

This "piece d' occasion" was requested by the Princess Belgiojoso for a Charity Concert in Paris. The Princess was one of the fabulous characters of the 19th Century, a century particularly rich in fascinating personalities.

She presided over a salon which many compared favorably to that of Madame Recamier. She participated actively in the *risorgimento* movement in Italy, wrote many books (including one titled ORIENTAL HAREMS AND SCENERY), travelled widely, knew everyone worth knowing (Heine, Bellini, Dumas, Victor Hugo, etc.) in the haute monde of literature and the arts, and in addition was a lady of quite an extraordinary eccentricity. According to Raymond Lewenthal, when the Princess's final and most-cherished lover (a fellow revolutionary) died, she kept his mummified body, clad in evening clothes, in a secret closet in her bedroom.

The Princess, for her benefit concert, sought out the most pianistic "lions" in the Paris of that day, and she succeeded spectacularly in snaring a pride of six — Liszt, Thalberg, Chopin, Czerny, Pixis and Henri Herz. Each virtuoso contributed a variation, most of them brilliant, and designed to place its composer in the most dazzling light. Only Chopin, never one to roar, contributed a short, nocturne-like variation.

The plan of this morceau follows the usual pattern: Introduction, Setting of the Theme, Six Variations, and Finale. Liszt was the chief architect in that he not only wrote a variation; he also composed the Introduction, the Setting of the Theme, several interludes, and the Finale.

The HEXAMERON, the coup of coups of the Paris social and artistic season of 1837, was followed some years later in London by a comparable spectacle, the ballet "Pas de Quatre", choreography by Jules Perrot, which featured the four most famous ballerinas of the time — Marie Faglione, Carlotta Grisi, Fanny Cerito and Lucile Grahn. The year was 1845.

The HEXAMERON sets out mostly to dazzle, but also to please, and even at times to entice us with its poetic potions; for all of this, and for the kaleidoscopic overview it provides of the prevailing piano writing of the period, it is a fascinating piece.

HEXAMERON.

*

Extrêmement lent.

quasi Recit:

Introduction.

Piano à 6 Octaves

patetico

f marcato

trem:

mf pesante

cresc: poco a

fp

quasi Recitativo.

mf cresc: poco a poco

f marcato

poco

ff strepitoso

energico

dim: molto. cresc:

f molto rf

sempre fff e Maestoso.

ten: ten: ten: ten: ten:

ten: ten: ten: ten: ten:

ten: ten: ten: ten:

ga..... loco

marcatissimo il Tema.

sempre fff

f

ga..... loco

lunga pausa.

rit:

3

tremolando

13231323

ppp

con duolo molto espressivo

dol: ma sempre marcato il Tema.

dolcissimo
trem: sempre

12

Vlle et C.B.

pp sempre

Allegro vivace doppio movimento.

5

8a.....

*poco a poco cresc. **

8a.....

*molto * rf stringendo sempre più f*

8a.....

*ff martellato * fff*

8a..... loco

loco

8a..... loco

*ritenuto sempre più ritenuto * loco.*

Allegro marziale

TEMA

ff marcatisimo

sotto voce ma sempre marcato

sempre stacc.

ff

The musical score is written for piano and voice. The piano part is in 2/4 time, marked 'Allegro marziale'. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The score is divided into five systems. The first system is labeled 'TEMA' and begins with a piano introduction marked 'ff marcatisimo'. The second system continues the piano introduction. The third system introduces the vocal line, marked 'sotto voce ma sempre marcato'. The fourth system continues the vocal line, marked 'sempre stacc.'. The fifth system concludes the piano introduction with a final 'ff' marking. The score includes various musical notations such as treble and bass staves, notes, rests, and dynamic markings.

8a.....

This system features a piano accompaniment with a steady eighth-note pattern in the left hand and chords in the right hand. The right hand has some notes marked with a triangle (^). The system concludes with five asterisks (*).

8a..... loco

con fuoco

This system begins with a piano introduction and then transitions into a rapid, ascending scale in the right hand, marked *loco*. The left hand continues with eighth-note accompaniment. The system ends with a double bar line.

8a..... loco

precipitato

This system contains a very fast, ascending scale in the right hand, marked *precipitato*. The left hand has a more complex accompaniment. The system ends with a double bar line and an asterisk (*).

This system features a piano accompaniment with eighth-note patterns in both hands. The right hand has some notes marked with a triangle (^). The system concludes with five asterisks (*).

8a..... loco

f

This system features a piano accompaniment with eighth-note patterns in both hands. The right hand has some notes marked with a triangle (^). The system concludes with five asterisks (*).

Ben marcato.

S.T.

Var:1.

The musical score is written for piano (p) and includes various musical notations such as treble and bass staves, notes, rests, and dynamic markings like *p*, *f*, *ff*, and *cresc:*. The piece is in 3/4 time and features a variety of musical textures, including arpeggiated figures and dense chordal passages.

8 a. loco

f *ff*

p *cresc:*

ga... loco loco
f
ga... loco ga... loco ga... loco ga... loco
loco
con strepito.
p
crese:
più f.
dim: rallentando
a Tempo.
p
crese:
ga... loco
ff

Moderato.

F.L.

Var:2.

sempre marcato il tema

mf nobilmente

poco rit:

precipitato

mp

dol: armonioso

f marcato

poco ritenuto

sotto voce

dolente

p loco

The musical score is written for piano and consists of several systems of staves. The notation includes treble and bass clefs, key signatures, and various musical symbols such as notes, rests, and ornaments. Dynamics like *cresc.*, *f appassionato*, *marcatiss.*, *stringendo*, *fff*, *trem.*, *gna bassa*, *p dolce*, *sempre dol. ed espressivo*, *pesante*, and *f portamente* are used throughout. Performance instructions such as *gna.*, *loca*, and *gna bassa* are also present. A section is marked *Piano a 6 sves*. The score concludes with the name *ELISZ.*

J.B.P.

Var:3.
Di bravura.

8a.....loco

f

fp

cresc.

f

8a.....loco

cresc.

ff

p

mf

8a.....loco

mf

m.d.

rf

p

m.g.

poco a poco ed cresc:

loco

con fuoco.

8a

loco

cresc:

ff

loco

Ritornello.
F. L.

ff molto energico.

J.B. PIXIS.

F. LISZT.

legato e grazioso

H.H.

Var: 4.

*p dol: espress:**marcato il basso**8a..... loco**8a..... loco**8a..... loco**cresc:**rf**p**8a.....**loco**p**leggiere**delicato**cresc: - - -**8a.....*

This page of musical notation consists of six systems, each with a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The notation includes various musical elements:

- System 1:** Treble staff has a melodic line with slurs and a dotted line labeled "8a". Bass staff has a rhythmic accompaniment. Dynamics include *mf* and *p*. A section is marked *loco* and *scherz:*.
- System 2:** Treble staff continues the melodic line. Bass staff has a more complex accompaniment. Dynamics include *mf*, *p*, *f*, and *dim:*. A section is marked *loco*.
- System 3:** Treble staff has a melodic line. Bass staff has a rhythmic accompaniment. Dynamics include *p*.
- System 4:** Treble staff has a melodic line. Bass staff has a rhythmic accompaniment. Dynamics include *f*. A section is marked *loco*.
- System 5:** Treble staff has a melodic line. Bass staff has a rhythmic accompaniment. Dynamics include *f*. A section is marked *loco*. The phrase *poco a poco cresc:* is written below the bass staff.
- System 6:** Treble staff has a melodic line. Bass staff has a rhythmic accompaniment. Dynamics include *f*. A section is marked *loco*. The page ends with a double bar line.