

Variationen: “Mein junges Leben hat ein End”

Jan Pieterszon Sweelinck (1562–1621)

Jan Pieterszon Sweelinck war wie sein Vater, der ihn unterrichtete, Organist an der Oude Kerk zu Amsterdam. Da die reformierte Kirche die Orgel aus dem Gottesdienst verbannt hatte, war der Organist städtischer Angestellter, der zum Vergnügen eines zahlreichen Publikums spielte. Sweelinck hat für Orgel viele Variationen über geistliche und weltliche Lieder, außerdem Ricercari und andere choralfreien Orgelwerke geschrieben. Seine Variationskunst hat vor allem in Deutschland durch seine zahlreichen Schüler großen Einfluss auf die weitere musikalische Entwicklung ausgeübt.

Als Vorlage für diese Ausgabe stand mir leider keine primäre Quelle zur Verfügung. An Stelle von Takten habe ich Mensuren gesetzt. Vorzeichen der jeweiligen Stimme gelten für die ganze Mensur; auf Erinnerungsvorzeichen habe ich bewusst verzichtet. Man beachte den dorischen Modus; Querstände sind von Sweelinck beabsichtigt und tragen zu dem Reiz dieses Stückes bei. Im Gegensatz zu seinen Vokalwerken sind Sweelincks Orgelwerke nicht streng stimmig: Stimmen trennen sich und vereinigen sich wieder. Der Notensatz vermag das nicht adäquat wiederzugeben: während im Notenbild Stimmen unvermittelt aufzutauchen und abzubrechen scheinen, fließen im Spiel alle Stimmen natürlich und harmonisch. Als Wiedergabeinstrument ist die Orgel am besten geeignet; da keine Variation getrennte Manuale voraussetzt, genügt ein kleines einmanualiges Instrument. Nur im letzten Satz braucht man für die Zeilenschlusstöne Pedal; zur Not lässt sich jedoch in Mensur 8 der Basston eine Oktave höher nehmen.

Jan Pieterszon Sweelinck was—as his father from whom he got his musical education—organist of the Oude Kerk at Amsterdam. Since the reformed service did not permit the use of the organ, the organist was employed by the city to play for the enjoyment of the population, and it is reported that the Oude Kerk was regularly overcrowded when Sweelinck played. Sweelinck’s organ compositions comprise numerous variations over sacral and secular songs as well as choral-free music as *ricercari*. Many musicians, particularly from Northern Germany, came to Sweelinck to learn their profession or to improve their art. His compositions, as well as those of his disciples, had great influence on the art of composition.

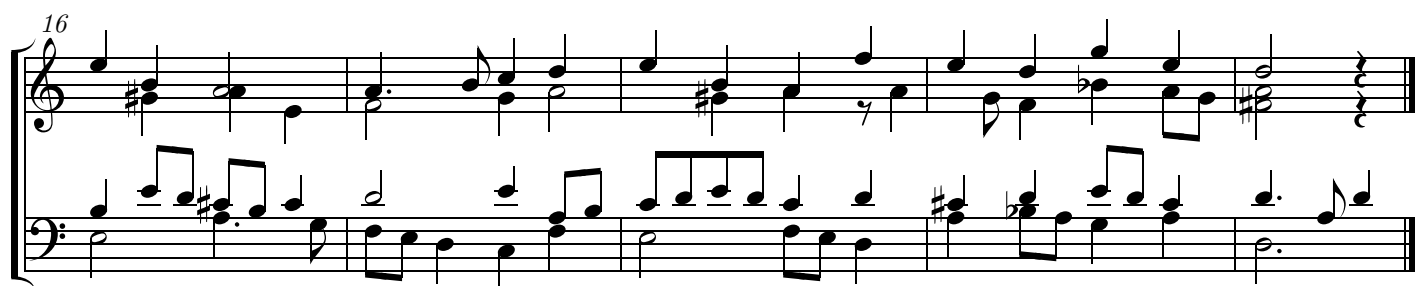
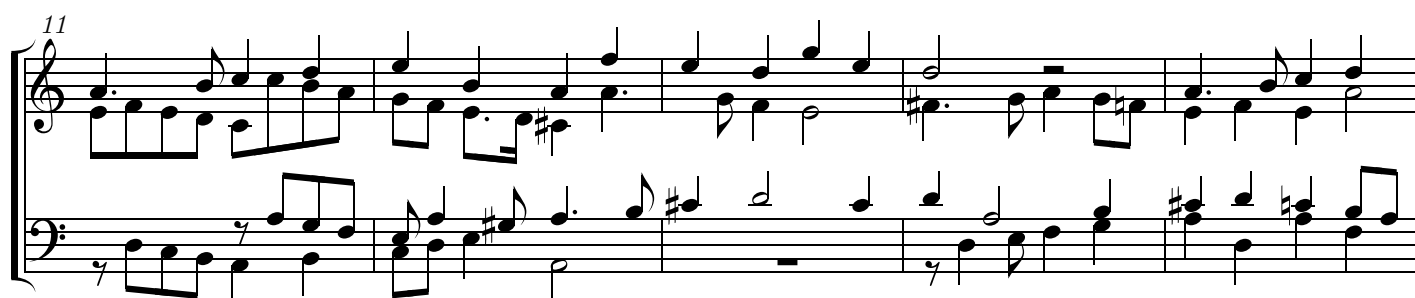
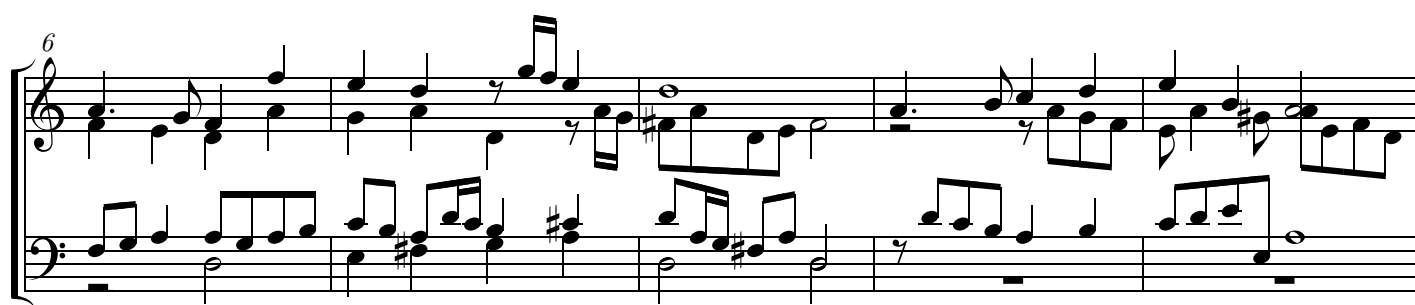
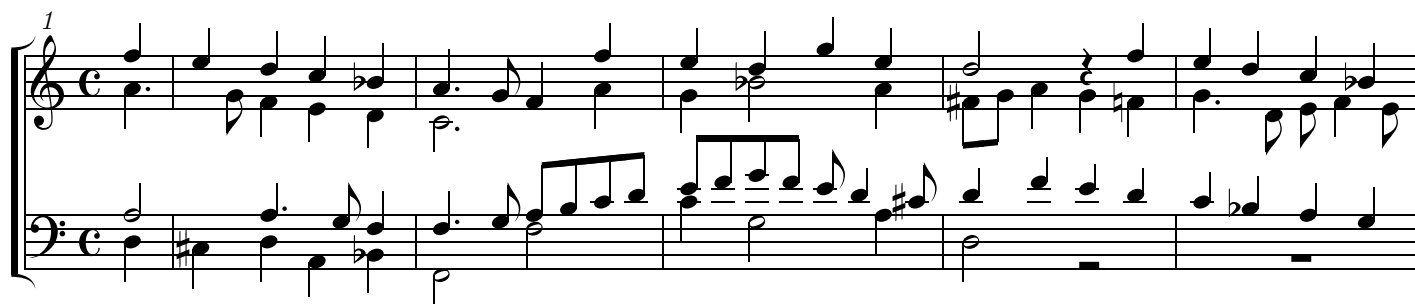
For this composition I had no primary source and I used an edition from the beginning of the last century. I wrote only free measures where the bars are no barrier for the duration of a note. Accidentals are only valid in the same voice for the whole measure, and I avoided the use of cautionary accidentals. Remarkable is the plagal Dorian modus for a secular song. In contrast to Sweelinck’s vocal compositions, his organ pieces treat the voices quite freely: voices may separate and reunite. The variations get therefore the impression of being improvised, which they probably were when Sweelinck played them. The typeset of this feature is not adequate: while voices seem to emerge and disappear by looking at the notes, they flow quite naturally in the play. The best instrument for performance of this piece is the organ; a small instrument with only one manual suffices. Only in the last variation a pedal seems to be needed for the final bass notes of lines; however, the bass note in measure 8 may be played in the higher octava. In my opinion, this music has not lost its charm since its composition more than four centuries ago.

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2. Variatie

1

First system of musical notation (measures 1-4). The treble clef staff contains a melody with eighth and sixteenth notes, including a triplet of eighth notes in measure 3. The bass clef staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and moving lines.

5

Second system of musical notation (measures 5-8). The treble clef staff continues the melody with various intervals and rests. The bass clef staff features more complex rhythmic patterns, including sixteenth-note runs.

9

Third system of musical notation (measures 9-12). The treble clef staff shows a continuation of the melodic line. The bass clef staff has a steady accompaniment with eighth-note chords.

13

Fourth system of musical notation (measures 13-16). The treble clef staff includes a triplet of eighth notes in measure 15. The bass clef staff has a more active accompaniment with sixteenth-note figures.

17

Fifth system of musical notation (measures 17-20). The treble clef staff concludes the melodic phrase. The bass clef staff features a dense, rhythmic accompaniment with many sixteenth notes.

3. Variatie

The musical score is written for a two-staff instrument, likely a lute or harpsichord, in common time (C). The key signature has one sharp (F#). The score is divided into six systems, each with a first staff (treble clef) and a second staff (bass clef). Measure numbers 1, 4, 7, 11, 14, and 18 are indicated at the beginning of their respective systems. The music features a variety of rhythmic patterns, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1 through 6 above the notes. The piece concludes with a final measure in the sixth system.

4. Variatie

This musical score is for a variation in a piece by Sweelinck. It consists of 17 measures, written for a keyboard instrument in G major (one sharp) and common time (C). The notation is arranged in three systems, each with a grand staff (treble and bass clef). Measure numbers 1, 4, 7, 11, 14, and 17 are indicated at the beginning of their respective systems. The music features a variety of rhythmic patterns, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests. There are several trills marked with a '3' in measures 14, 15, and 16. The piece concludes with a final cadence in measure 17.

5. Variatie

This musical score is for a variation in a piece by Sweelinck. It consists of six systems of two staves each (treble and bass clef). The time signature is common time (C). The key signature has one sharp (F#). The score is marked with measure numbers 1, 4, 7, 11, 14, and 17. The notation includes various rhythmic values, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests. The piece features complex polyphonic textures with many beamed notes and some dynamic markings like 'p' (piano) and 'f' (forte).

6. Variatie

1

6

11