

Variations and Distorted Reflections (After Stradella)

For solo violin

Ian Percy

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(2014/17)

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Movement Subtitles

- | | | | |
|-------|---|--------|---|
| I. | For the past, present and future ... | XIV. | The changing circadian rhythms of humanity ... |
| II. | People tend to romanticise the past ... | XV. | Reminiscent distractions from modern life ... |
| III. | Hidden memories and passing reflections ... | XVI. | Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar ... |
| IV. | Linear melodic statement for passing of time ... | XVII. | Past has passed and the lesson long forgotten ... |
| V. | Changing the wrapping does not alter contents ... | XVIII. | Take from Caesar that which belonged to Caesar ... |
| VI. | Inside time, outside time ... | XIX. | In simplicitas ... |
| VII. | A poetic and retrospective soliloquy ... | XX. | Betwixt and between (The infinite triptych) ... |
| VIII. | A product of the twenty-first century ... | XXI. | Ghosts in the machine (The eternal trinity) ... |
| IX. | And never the twain shall meet ... | XXII. | Streams of consciousness and conversations ... |
| X. | Unnatural chronometric perpetuum of linear time ... | XXIII. | What was then, what is now & what will never be ... |
| XI. | A cautious lullaby for all ages ... | XXIV. | What goes around, comes around ... |
| XII. | In the blink of an eye ... | XXV. | Ad infinitum – The past is always present ... |
| XIII. | What was that we were saying? | | |

Variations and Distorted Reflections

(After Stradella)

For solo violin

This is a multiple-movement work composed around the ground bass for Alessandro Stradella's (1639-1682) Twelfth Two-Part Sinfonia (A – E – B – E – F – G – A – F – E – C – D – E – A), using the overall form, pitch-scheme and internal structures of the original manuscript as a template for pitch-organisation, texture, form and proportion. The initial conception of this work evolved out of a collaborative recording project with violinist-musicologist Dr Alberto Sanna: *The Stradella Project – Alessandro Stradella: Two-Part Sinfonias*.

The multiple movements (twenty-five in total) reflect upon the atmosphere and stylistic character of the Stradella variations with elements of direct and subliminal quotation often using the original melodic contour and/or rhythmic impetus as a starting point, but have been reinterpreted (distorted) and entirely recomposed from a contemporary perspective. Some of the latter movements contain more of the original material in recognisable form and are credited as such within the score.

The writing is filled with reminiscences of the past alongside glimpses of the future, but hopefully combining to create a timeless music realised within a personal compositional autograph highlighting the idiomatic (and virtuosic properties) of the solo violin and the creative talent behind the original variations. Some movements are undeniably a product of the twenty-first century.

Note:

Twelve of the movements (initially composed during 2014) were extensively edited during completion of the score in the summer of 2017. Materials and textures for movements X, XIV, XVIII and XXII (the recurring theme) were influenced by an earlier work from the composer: *An Instant Conception* for small chamber ensemble and percussion (2009).

Variations and Distorted Reflections

(after Stradella)

for solo violin

Variation I

Ian Percy

[... for the past, present and future ...]

... in contemporary antiquity ...

1 $\text{♩} = 40$ accel. $\text{♩} = 52$

sul tasto molto legato
p
molto rubato
pizz.
arco
molto express. vib.
pizz. arco sul pont.
fff

... a kaleidoscope of memories ...

A $\text{♩} = 52$ rit. $\text{♩} = 40$ accel. $\text{♩} = 52$ rit. $\text{♩} = 40$

molto legato rubato
p
molto express.
mf
sul tasto dolce
pizz.
arco
pp

Variation II

[... people tend to romanticise the past ...]

Ian Percy

2 ♩ = 40 ... melancholy and reflective ...

I molto espress. sul tasto rit. molto legato rubato accel. dolce molto rubato [♩ = 40] **B** ... the past has passed ...

II
III
IV

14 *ppp* *pp* *p* *mp* *pp* *mf* **IV** **II** **IV** **II** **III**



... and all have gone ...

C ♩ = 40 rit. dolce

III I aggressive, but lyrical vib. molto legato rubato molto espress. I

IV II
II
III
IV

20 *mf* *f* *mf* *mp* *pp* *p* *pp*

Variation III

[... hidden memories and passing reflections ...]

Ian Percy

senza misura, con rubato: The truth is often just out of reach ...

3 ♩ = 40 **accel.** rit. a tempo

poco rubato molto legato rubato vib. molto express. legato rubato

27

p **mf** **p** **mp** **pp** **mp**

≡ ... but that should not stop us reaching ...

D **accel.** rit. a tempo **E** ... when the bough breaks (the wind blows) ... rit.

sul tasto dolce ord. lament molto legato rubato [tone trill] trill

p **mf** **mp** **f** **ppp** **mp** **pp**

Variation IV

[... a linear melodic statement for the passing of time ...]

Ian Percy

senza misura, con rubato



[♩ = 60] **accel.** - - - - - [♩ = 40] ... the fluidic transition of time ... **rit.** - - -

vib. sul tasto *lyrical* *dolce* ord. [as fluid as possible] art. harm.

mf p **f** *mp* 3 **ppp**

The musical score consists of two staves. The top staff shows a melodic line with various note heads (solid black, open circles, solid dots) and stems. The bottom staff shows harmonic information with vertical bars indicating bass notes. Performance instructions include dynamic markings (mf p, f, mp, ppp), articulation (vib. sul tasto, lyrical, dolce, ord. [as fluid as possible], art. harm.), and tempo changes (accel., rit.). Measure numbers 1 through 3 are indicated at the end of the staff.

Variation V

[... changing the wrapping does not alter the contents ...]

Ian Percy

... as if brushing the dust from an old manuscript ...

5 ♩ = 80 rit. [♩ = 40] accel. [♩ = 48] rit. [♩ = 40] poco accel.

poco rubato sul pont. ord. molto rubato

33

IV III II
p f p ppp p mp mf

... the past can often be littered with regrets ...

F ♩ = 48 ... with just a hint of melancholy ... ♩ = 58

molto legato rubato dolce molto expressive legato rubato aggressive

mp mf p mf

38

G accel.

♩ = 69 accel. [♩ = 80] rit. [♩ = 40] ♩ = 58 rit. ♩ = 40 attacca

sul tasto dolce ord. molto express. aggressive, but aggression dissipates with dynamic and pulse ...

f p mp ppp mf pp ppp

41

Variation VI

[... inside time, outside time ...]

Ian Percy

6 ♩ = 52 ... assertive, lyrical and expressive ... *poco rit.* [combine gliss. with arp. techniques ad.lib.] *poco rubato*

46

rit. [♩ = 40] accel. [♩ = 52] rit. [♩ = 40]

molto express. rubato with increasing aggression [tone trill] [tone trill]

50

H ♩ = 52 ... there will always be elements of doubt ... *sul tasto*, *ord.*, , *a little slower...* *rit.*

53

mp mf ff

I ♩ = 40 lively, but restrained ... yet life rolls on regardless ... *molto lyrical rubato...* rit. [tone trill]

56

f ff mf f mf ff

Variation VII

[... a poetic and retrospective soliloquy ...]

Ian Percy

senza misura, con rubato

7

$\text{J} = 40$... sometimes feeling down can be appropriate ...

sul tasto
molto legato rubato

sul pont.
[min 3rd trill]
ord.

dolce

molto espress.

f

\equiv

\equiv

≡

rit.

sul tasto

sul pont.

sul tasto

ord.

vib.

\equiv **mf**

sfz **ff**

f **\equiv** **mf**

f

pp **ppp**

Variation VIII

[... a product of the twenty-first century ...]

Ian Percy

... animated and just a little bit clumsy ...

8 ♩ = 72 **poco accel.** [♩ = 84] **J** ♩ = 72 **poco accel.**

III *poco rubato*
sul pont.

II *ord.*

I ,
sul pont.

IV *mf* ————— **ff** **fff** **f** ————— **ff** **fff**

=
senza misura, con rubato

K ♩ = 84 ... a product of the 21st century ... **poco accel.** ♩ = 96

arp. double-stops throughout ...

ord. *molto rubato* sul tasto

sul pont. aggressive

f ————— **ff** ————— **fff** ————— **fffz**

=
L ... a release of pent-up frustrations ...

sul tasto *molto espress.legato rubato*

sul pont.

ord. *animated and aggressive* vib.

ff ————— **fff**

Variation IX

[... and never the twain shall meet ...]

Ian Percy

... an awkward conversation across the centuries ...

9 ♩ = 50 **poco rit.** **a tempo**

I *molto rubato*, pizz. **III** **II** **III**, **I** *arco*, pizz. **II** **I** **lyrical** arco *sul tasto*

II **mp** **IV** **III** **IV** **mf** **IV** **f** **III** **mp** — **mf** **IV** — **ff** **mf**

rit. ♩ = 40 **M** **and whose voice is this?**

I *dolce*, vib. **arco** **II** **III** **pizz.**

senza misura, con rubato

♩ = 50 **a tempo** ... a stream of consciousness and a rapid interchange of ideas and thoughts ...

molto espress. legato rubato

75 **sul pont.**

f **mf** **mp**

... the conversation ends more cordially than it began, but distance remains ...

poco rit. **N** ♩ = 50 **rit.** [♩ = 40] **a tempo**

molto rubato, **ord.** **II**, pizz. **I** **III** **II** **lyrical** **II**, **arco**, **dolce**

III **IV** **fff** **mp** — **mf** **ppp** **mf**

Variation X

[... the unnatural chronometric perpetuum of linear time ...]

[... a recurring theme ...]

Ian Percy

10 $\text{J} = 76$... with frenetic (and excited) energy ...

[more like a ricochet echo than individual articulations]

molto rubato

poco rit.

$\text{J} = 66$ **O** $\text{J} = 76$... restating the positives ...

, *poco rubato*

mf

... the complexities and contradictions of modern life ...

rit.

$\text{J} = 56$

P

rit.

$\text{J} = 46$

molto legato rubato

sul tasto

, *poco rubato*

molto vib.

sul pont.

, ord.

a little slower

Q

... erratic glimpses of the future past ...

sul pont.

molto rubato

lyrical

accel.

$\text{J} = 56$ rit.

attacca

$\text{J} = 46$

molto expressive rubato

sul tasto

, ord.

Variation XI

[... a cautious lullaby for all ages...]

Ian Percy

11 $\text{♩} = 50$... with respect for tradition ... **poco accel.** $\text{♩} = 56$... with more energy ... **poco rit.** $\text{♩} = 50$

molto expressive rubato

94

I **II** **I** **II**
II **III** **II** **III**
I
II
III

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



... to walk the hallowed halls ...

S $\text{♩} = 66$ rit. $\text{♩} = 50$ $\text{♩} = 60$ **poco rit.** $\text{♩} = 50$ **rit.** $\text{♩} = 40$

molto legato rubato **III** **II**
sul tasto **IV** **III** ord.

102

I **II** **I** **II**
II **III** **II**
I

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

Variation XII

[... in the blink of an eye ...]

Ian Percy

12 ♩ = 112 ... the rapid flashbacks of flying time ...*poco rubato*

sul pont.

with enthused energy ...

ord.

T ... the fluidity of the mind's eye ...*molto legato rubato*

... there was a memory that I wanted to recall ...

U ♩ = 56 poco rit. [♩ = 40] rit.

Variation XIII

[... what was that we were saying ...]

Ian Percy

13 ♩ = 46 ... oh, I remember where we were now ...

sul tasto *molto rubato*

molto express.

ord.

poco rit. ♩ = 40

sul tasto

127

ppp mf mp p pp

V ♩ = 40 ... skeletons in the closet (with no recognisable pulse) ...

molto rubato arp. ad lib. throughout ...

pizz.

molto express. molto rubato molto express. molto rubato molto express. molto rubato molto express. molto rubato molto express. pizz. arco sul tasto

arco sul tasto pizz. arco sul tasto pizz. arp. ad lib. ... arco sul pont.

134

mf p f ppp mp p mf p mp pp

W ♩ = 46 ... and there we go, drifting again ...

molto expressive legato rubato

lyrical and forlorn

poco rit. [♩ = 40] rit.

morendo
sul pont.
vib.

138

ppp mp p — mp p — ppp

Variation XIV

[... the changing circadian rhythms of humanity ...]

Ian Percy

[14] ♩ = 76 ... with frenetic (and excited) energy ...

[more like a ricochet echo than individual articulation]

molto rubato

poco rit. [♩ = 66] **X** ♩ = 76 ... with just a little more control ...

poco rubato

mf *f* *mf*

... in reflection ...

[♩ = 56] **Y** *rit.* *sul tasto molto espressive legato rubato*

I

II

f *mp*

... trap doors, hidden meanings and false prophets ...

Z ... a stuttering transition ...**AA** ♩ = 76 ... and an anomalous crescendo ...

♩ = 46

pp *ppp* *p* *mp* *mf* *p* *mf*

poco rubato

bursts into life

rit. [♩ = 60]

molto rubato

aggressive

sul pont.

f *fff* *mf sfz*

Variation XV

[... a reminiscent distraction from the intensities of modern life ...]

Ian Percy

15 ♩ = 40 ... as if the music was already playing ...

pizz. III legato rubato
 sul tasto
 arco

molto vib. II molto expressive rubato
 ord.

157 IV III

mp *p* *mp* *mf*

BB poco accel.

III II
 sul tasto

IV III

p *mp* *mf* *mp*

ord.

Variation XVI

[... give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar ...]

Alessandro Stradella
(Ian Percy)

16 ♩ = 50 ... if it is not broken, then do not fix it ...

ord. [II] [In fluid phrases] [I]

poco rubato molto legato

156

sul tasto a little slower

a tempo

mf III II

III I II III II

mp III IV II III IV III

mf

poco rit. EE ♩ = 50 ... with just a little spit and polish ...

I II I II I II

molto espress.

162

sul tasto a little slower

a tempo poco rit. [♩ = 40]

sul pont.

f mf III II f mp III II III IV

mf II III IV

ff

Variation XVII

[... the past has passed and the lesson long forgotten ...]

Ian Percy

17 ♩ = 50 ... sometimes it is wise to keep a respectful eye on the past ...

I poco rubato
ord.
II

molto rubato
[whole-tone trills]
tr ~ *tr* ~



poco rit. [♩ = 44] **FF** ♩ = 50 ... as it seems time can dilute the lessons of memory ... rit. [♩ = 40]

I poco rubato
sul tasto
II

molto rubato II I
ord.
III

poco rubato
II

sul tasto

f mp mf

pp p — ppp

Variation XVIII

[... and so take from Caesar that which belonged to Caesar ...]

Ian Percy

18 ♩ = 54 ... an obstinate stutter ...*molto rubato*
sul tasto*a little quicker*
sul pont.♩ = 60] **accel.** ♩ = 72 ... in perpetual motion ...*poco rubato* [more like a ricochet echo than individual articulations]
ord.

179

molto rubato
sul tasto

a little quicker
sul pont.

poco rubato [more like a ricochet echo than individual articulations]
ord.

ppp pp p mp mf

=

183

poco accel. ♩ = 76

=

molto espress. rubato

186

ff

=

189

poco rubato

f ff f

a little slower

192

... things may not be quite as bad as first feared (with cautious optimism) ...

rit.

GG [♩ = 60] poco accel.

molto rubato molto espress. rubato

195

[♩ = 69] poco rit.

lively and energetic ...

[♩ = 60] poco accel.

, molto espress.

198

[♩ = 66] poco rit.

with positive energy and exaggerated character

[♩ = 52] rit.

sul tasto ,

201

Variation XIX

[... in simplicitas ...]

Ian Percy

... simplicitas est forma (simplicity is beauty) ...

2

... sancta simplicitas (sacred simplicity) ...

attacca

Variation XX

[... a second in three and the infinite triptych ...]

[... betwixt and between ...]

Ian Percy

20 ♩ = 50 ... pensive anxiety - betwixt and between ...

poco rubato
ord.

... in mysterious ambiguity ...

... distorted reflections - contorted imitations ...

II = 50

poco rubato
ord.

ord

224

p *mf* *pp* *f* *p* < *f* *p* ————— *f* *mp* *ff* *p* ————— *ppp*

[] = 50

rit

[40] rit

molto espress. legato rubato

sul pont

p ————— mf pp ————— f $p \leq f$ p ————— f mp ————— ff p ————— ppp

Variation XXI

[... ghosts in the machine ...]

[... a third in three and the eternal trinity ...]

Ian Percy

21 ♩ = 40 ... everyone has skeletons in the closet ...

molto rubato *arp. ad lib. throughout ...*
pizz.

an abstract emotion ...
arco sul pont.

molto espress.
pizz. arco sul tasto,
pizz.



JJ ... everyone has conversations with the past ...

molto rubato

molto espress.
arco sul tasto

arp. ad lib. ...
pizz.

molto espress.
arco sul tasto

rit.

arp. ad lib. ...
pizz. *morendo*

Variation XXII

[... streams of consciousness and conversations across time and space ...]

[... the infinite triangle is a straight line ...]

Ian Percy

22

$\text{♩} = 52$... with controlled momentum and a sense of hope ...

molto rubato
arco sul pont.

a little quicker
sul tasto

poco accel.

poco rubato [more like a ricochet echo than individual articulation]
ord.

244

molto rubato
arco sul pont.

a little quicker
sul tasto

poco accel.

poco rubato [more like a ricochet echo than individual articulation]
ord.

tempo $\text{♩} = 52$

dynamics *ppp* *pp* *p* *mp* *mf*



$\text{♩} = 66$

poco accel.

molto espress.

247

poco accel.

molto espress.

dynamics *ff*

24 KK $\text{♩} = 72$... with increasing intensity and excited energy ...

molto rubato

249

f

poco rit.

$\text{♩} = 69$

poco rubato

250

ff

f

poco accel.

molto expressive rubato

molto rubato

251

f

$\text{♩} = 72$

254

ff

Musical score for piano, page 10, measures 257-260. The score consists of two staves. The top staff shows a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp, and a 3/4 time signature. The bottom staff shows a bass clef. The music features a continuous eighth-note pattern with various grace notes and slurs. Measure numbers 257 through 260 are indicated above the staves. Articulation marks include '5' over groups of five notes, '3' over a group of three notes, and dynamic markings *fff*, *mf*, and *p* at the end of the section.

... life is within the passing seconds of the present ...

LL [♩ = 46] accel. ♩ = 60

lively and energetic ..

poco accel.

, molto espresso

262

lively and energetic ...

f

ff

0] poco rit.

with positive energy and exaggerated character

- [♩ = 52] rit.

NN ♩ = 40

poco rubato

molto rubato

vib

... it is hard to keep an animal from running away ...

OO = 52 rit.

molto espress.

• = 40

a little slower ...

... these days! ...

PP = 52 rit.

aggressive

molto espress.

Variation XXIII

[... what was then, what is now, and what will never be ...]

Alessandro Stradella
(Ian Percy)

23 ♩ = 72 ... a golden olden (a fifth in three) ...

I

molto espress.

arpeggiate double stops throughout ...



mf

II



QQ ... self-similar replication ...

poco rit.

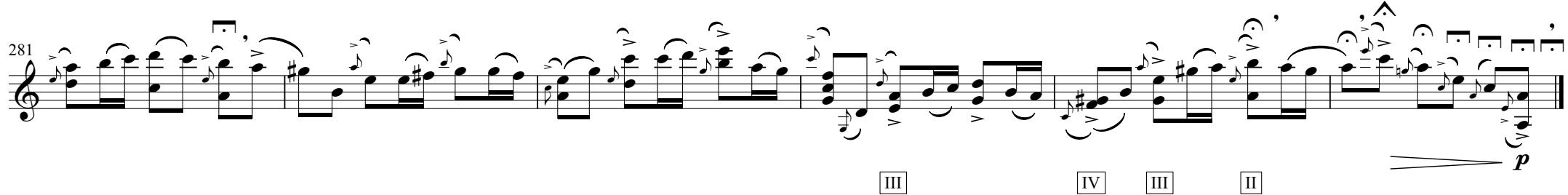
II

III

II

I

sul pont.



Variation XXIV

[... what goes around comes around ...]

Alessandro Stradella
(Ian Percy)

24 $\text{J} = 50$... staring at an ancient artefact ...

I
molto espress.
ord.

p

poco rit. $\text{J} = 40$

II I II III IV



... with careful restoration ...

... should it look as good as new? ...

RR $\text{J} = 50$ **poco rit.**

II
molto espress. legato rubato
sul tasto

SS $\text{J} = 40$ **poco accel.**

ord. I dolce

poco rit. $\text{J} = 46$

II molto espress. legato rubato
sul tasto

rit. $\text{J} = 40$

morendo sul pont.

mp **p** **ppp**

Variation XXV

[... ad infinitum - the past is always present ...]

[... and there will always be hope ...]

Alessandro Stradella
(Ian Percy)**25** $\text{♩} = 100$... a lively and energetic statement (a blast from the past) ...

ord. *poco rubato*

mf

**TT** ... in the last reserves of energy one can find a second wind ...*molto expressive rubato*
sul tasto*poco rit.**III*
II
ord.*III* *II*
exaggerated and flamboyant ,

f

mf

IV *III*

IV *III* *f*

**Variations and Distorted Reflections
(After Stradella)**

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(2014/17)

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