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## PROGRAM NOTES

I composed my *Variations and Fugue on a Christmas Carol* to celebrate the artistry of my friend David Higgs. This score is based on the old British carol *I Saw Three Ships*. There are seven variations preceding a closing fugue. After the theme is stated, the first two variations extend it; the third variation introduces the pedal. The next three variations are in the style of Baroque genres; the fourth variation is a “noël” written as an homage to Daquin; the fifth variation is a figured chorale in which the chorale *Vom Himmel hoch, da komm ich her* makes its first appearance; and the sixth is a Handelian rigaudon. The seventh variation is a “carillon” in which *Vom Himmel hoch, da komm ich her* reappears. After a dramatic, dissonant chord, the score concludes with a chorale fugue in which *Vom Himmel hoch, da komm ich her* appears in the pedal.

## PERFORMANCE NOTES

The closing fugue may be played separately from the variations, but the variations may not be played separately from the fugue. The variations should be performed continuously without a pause. Suggestions appear for registrations that the organist should follow whenever possible. All ornaments should be played before the beat. Finally, the organist may add a Zimbelstern at measure 221 of the fugue.

—Byron Adams

**DURATION: 6:45**

**Byron Adams (b. 1955)**

For biographical information visit:  
[www.ecspublishing.com/composers](http://www.ecspublishing.com/composers)

to David Higgs

# Variations and Fugue on a Christmas Carol

for Organ Solo

Byron Adams (BMI)

Gt: Foundations 8', 4', 2', Sw. to Gt.

Ch: Flute 8'

Sw: Flute 8', Oboe 8'

Ped: Foundations 16', 8', Sw. to Ped., Gt. to Ped.

## Thema: *I Saw Three Ships*

*Allegro moderato ma gioiosamente* (♩ = ca. 82)

Organ

Sw. *mf*

Pedal

8

Var. I

*mp*

Ch.

13

Sw. + Principal 8'

Ch. + Flute 4'

39

Gt: Trumpet. 8', Sw. to Gt.  
 Ch: Cromorne 8', Sw. to Ch.  
 Sw: Flute 8', 4' Principal, 2', 2 2/3', 1 3/5', Trumpet 8'  
 Ped: Principal 8', Ch. to Ped., Sw. to Ped.

Var. IV: Noël après Daquin

44 L'istesso tempo

52

60

Gt: Foundations 8', 4', Sw. to Gt.  
Ch: Flute 8', Reed 8'  
Sw: Foundations 8', 4', 2', Mixture, Oboe 8'  
Ped: Principal 16', 8', Soft Reed 8', Sw. to Ped.

### Var. VI: Rigaudon

**Allegro energico** (♩ = 88-90)

111

Musical score for measures 111-116. The system includes a grand staff with three staves. The top staff is the treble clef, the middle is the right-hand piano part, and the bottom is the left-hand piano part. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 2/4. The tempo is marked 'Allegro energico' with a quarter note equal to 88-90. The dynamic marking is *mf*. The instrument 'Sw.' is indicated. The music features a rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes with some rests.

117

Musical score for measures 117-122. The system includes a grand staff with three staves. The top staff is the treble clef, the middle is the right-hand piano part, and the bottom is the left-hand piano part. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 2/4. The dynamic marking is *p* with the instruction 'echo Ch.'. The instrument 'Ch.' is indicated. The music continues with similar rhythmic patterns.

123

Musical score for measures 123-128. The system includes a grand staff with three staves. The top staff is the treble clef, the middle is the right-hand piano part, and the bottom is the left-hand piano part. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 2/4. The dynamic marking is *mf*. The instrument 'Sw.' is indicated. The music features more complex rhythmic patterns.

129

Musical score for measures 129-134. The system includes a grand staff with three staves. The top staff is the treble clef, the middle is the right-hand piano part, and the bottom is the left-hand piano part. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 2/4. The dynamic marking is *mf*. The instrument 'Gt.' is indicated. The music concludes with a final cadence.

Gt: Foundations 8', 4', Ch. to Gt.  
Ch: Foundations 8', 4'  
Sw: Foundations 8', 4', 2', Oboe 8', Trumpet 8'  
Ped: Foundations 16', 8', Reed 8', Gt. to Ped, Ch. to Ped., Sw. to Ped.

### Fuga

194 **Allegro moderato** (♩. = 62-64)

Musical score for measures 194-197. The system includes a grand staff with three staves. The top staff is for guitar (Gt.) with a dynamic marking of *mf*. The middle and bottom staves are for piano accompaniment. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 9/8. The music features a complex rhythmic pattern with many eighth and sixteenth notes.

198

Musical score for measures 198-200. The system includes a grand staff with three staves. The top staff is for guitar (Gt.) and the middle and bottom staves are for piano accompaniment. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 9/8. The music continues with intricate rhythmic patterns.

201

Musical score for measures 201-203. The system includes a grand staff with three staves. The top staff is for guitar (Gt.) and the middle and bottom staves are for piano accompaniment. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 9/8. The music features a dense texture of notes.

204

Musical score for measures 204-206. The system includes a grand staff with three staves. The top staff is for guitar (Gt.) and the middle and bottom staves are for piano accompaniment. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 9/8. The music concludes with a final cadence.