

“Scarborough Fair Variations”

Traditional English folk song

An intermediate-level student guitar solo

Arrangement

By

Peter Altmeier-Mort



Scarborough Fair Variations

(Traditional English)

Original arrangement for solo guitar by Peter Altmeier-Mort

Performance Notes

This version of the well known Scarborough Fair melody comprises of four distinct sections,

Delicato, **Fermato**, **Con brio**, and **Declamando**. The broad musical intention of the arrangement is to treat the theme with a dance-like feel in most of these variations, and each must move seamlessly onto the next to strictly maintain the indicated tempo of quarter-note = 120 throughout.

The optional use of a capo at the 2nd fret is presented for two reasons; the left-hand stretches in the campanella figures may be more manageable for some students in this position; the raised pitch of the guitar most definitely contributes a *cantabile* dimension to the music.

Delicato (delicately)

- Slightly 'lean' on beat 2 of each bar. This emphasis helps the rhythmic feel, and defines the root to 5th movement which functions like a drone under the melody;
- The 4th string note E is a key *left-hand pivot finger* in this section. Keep it held down with the 2nd finger up to bar 10, then with the 1st finger up to bar 17.

Fermato (firmly, resolutely)

- Bars 28 and 29, the slight dissonance here within this succession of upper intervals is intentional. Fret the notes cleanly and allow all to fully sound against each other;
- The right-hand should 'roll' or arpeggiate the strings of any 3 note chord occurring on beat 1 of the bar.

Con brio (with vigour)

- Here the dance is in full flight, with a melodic variation only faintly reminiscent of the original;
- Hold down left-hand 2nd finger as pivot on 4th string E - from bar 43 to 47;
- Hold down left-hand 1st finger as pivot on 3rd string A - from bar 47 to 53.

Declamando (in a declamatory style)

- Follow the right-hand fingerings shown for articulating these 3 note chords. Most use 'p, i and m' to get the power and clarity needed for this section.
- Practice the chord shifts inside bars 66 to 69 to achieve the smooth connection needed for this phrase – and similarly for bars 70 to 73.
- In the **Coda**, be sure to hold down all the fretted notes from bar 85 (like a chord formation), until bar 91 where these notes change.

Peter Altmeier-Mort 2014

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notprod@bigpond.net.au

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Email: westside@tower.net.au

ENQUIRIES OR CORRESPONDENCE TO:

info@classicalguitarhowto.com

Website: www.classicalguitarhowto.com

Scarborough Fair Variations

Traditional English

Arranged for Guitar by

Peter Altmeier-Mort

Allegro ♩ = 120

Capo on 2nd Fret (optional)

Delicato

Musical notation for measures 1-6. The piece is in 3/4 time. Measures 1-4 feature a melody with a capo on the 2nd fret, indicated by a '2' above the staff. Fingering is shown with numbers 0, 2, 3, and 0. Dynamics include *p* and *mp*.

Musical notation for measures 7-12. Measure 7 starts with a treble clef. Fingering includes 3, 0, 4, 4, 2, 2, 4, and 1. A dynamic of *mf* is indicated with a hairpin.

Musical notation for measures 13-17. A *campanella* section is indicated with a dashed line. Lyrics 'm i a m i m i m' are written above the staff. Fingering includes 4, 2, 0, 2, 4, 0, 2, 0, 3, and 2.

Musical notation for measures 18-22. A *campanella* section is indicated with a dashed line. Lyrics 'm i p i m i' are written above the staff. Fingering includes 4, 0, 1, 4, 1, 0, 0, 2, 0, 2, 1, and 1. A hairpin indicates a dynamic change.

Fermato

Musical notation for measures 23-26. Measure 23 starts with a treble clef. Dynamics include *p* and *mf*. Fingering includes 1, 3, and 4.

28

f *mf*

33

III

38

campanella-----

mp

43

Con brio

m i m i m i

mf *cresc.*

47

m i m i m i

f *p*

51

$\frac{1}{2}$ II

f *p*

55

m i m i m i

p

Declamando

59

p *f*

64

p *mf*

69

p *mf*

74

p *mf*

79

p *mf*

dim. e rit.-----

CODA
piu mosso

84

(dim. e rit.)----- *mp*

89

molto rit. *sul pont.*

mf *mp*

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