## BENJAMIN BRITTEN THE YOUNG PERSON'S GUIDE TO THE ORCHESTRA

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OPUS 34

VARIATIONS AND FUGUE ON A THEME OF PURCELL



The "Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra" should be performed with the inserted commentary, spoken by the conductor. The music is arranged so that the orchestra can continue playing at those moments when the conductor is speaking. A separate speaker can be used for the commentary if preferred.

In order to facilitate performance, a slightly different version omitting the spoken commentary is included in the score. The version without commentary, cuts or alters, in some instances, some bars between the sections of the theme and between the single variations. These instances are indicated as follows:

Bars to be played only in the version with the commentary are bracketed thus : bars marked 2 apply to the version without the commentary only.

Notes printed in small type apply only to the version without commentary.

There are sometimes cuts marked with "vi-de" which, of course, refer only to the version without commentary.

Sometimes there are single bars "repeated ad libitum" so as to allow the speaker sufficient time. These bars are only to be played twice in the version without commentary. In addition the conductor will forego many pauses which are bracketed and linger less during the transitions if the commentary is not spoken. This work is affectionately inscribed to the children of John and Jean Maud Humphrey, Pamela, Caroline and Virginia, for their edification and entertainment

Benjamin Britten, Op. 34

## The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra

Variations and Fugue on a Theme of Purcell

The commentary written by Eric Crozier

To be spoken before the music starts:

The composer has written this piece of music specially to introduce you to the instruments of the orchestra. There are four teams of players; the STRINGS, the WOODWIND, the BRASS, and the PERCUSSION. Each of these four teams uses instruments which have a family likeness. They make roughly the same kind of sound in the same way. The STRINGS are played with a bow or plucked by the fingers. The WOODWIND are blown by the breath. The BRASS are blown too. The PERCUSSION are banged. First you will hear a Theme by the great English composer, Henry Purcell, played by the whole orchestra and by each one of the four groups of instruments.

## Instrumentation

Piccolo
2 Flutes
2 Oboes
2 Clarinets in B<sub>b</sub> and A
2 Bassoons
4 Horns in F
2 Trumpets in C
3 Trombones
Tuba
Timpani
\*Percussion (3+)
Harp
Strings

\*bass drum/cymbals/tambourine; triangle/side drum/Chinese block/xylophone; castanets/gong/whip.

Duration with spoken commentary: c. 19 minutes
Duration without commentary: c. 17 minutes

The music to **The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra** was originally written for the film 'The Instruments of the Orchestra'.

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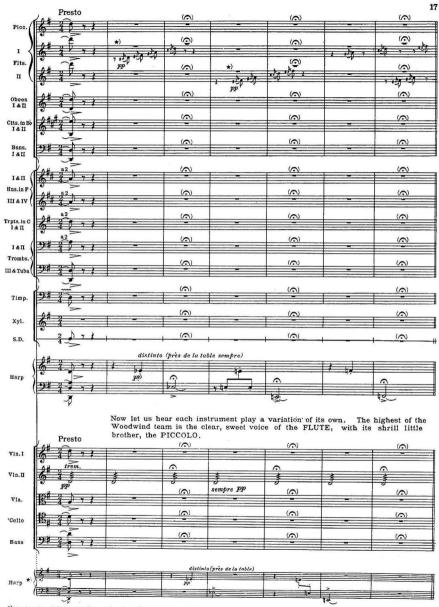


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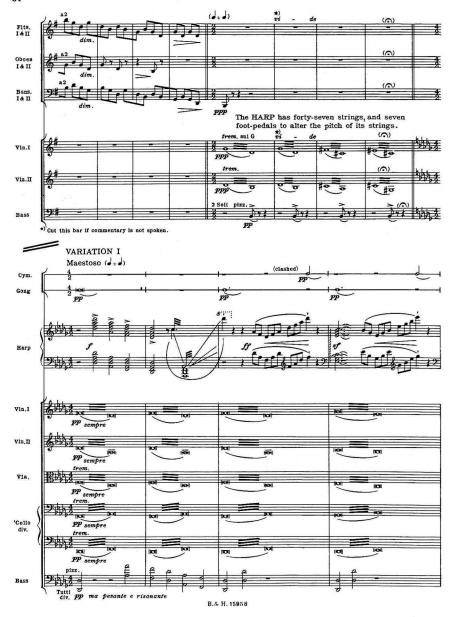






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\* If there are not enough players for the percussion instruments, the Triangle and the Gong may be omitted for the text six bars only.

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