

HANS GÁL · WORK NOTES

Variationen über eine Wiener Heurigenmelodie (Variations on a Viennese 'Heurigen' Melody)

for violin, cello and piano · Opus 9 · 1914

Duration	8 minutes
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Publisher	Simrock (1921), now Boosey & Hawkes
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Availability	Available from Boosey&Hawkes: in print (M221110718)
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First performance	München, Dec.1922
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Other performances	Elberfeld, Apr.1923 Rudolf Kolisch/Wilhelm Winkler/Hans Gál, Vienna, Nov.1923 Breslau, Jan. 1925 Berlin, Nov. 1925 Vienna, Feb. 1926 New York Trio (Edlin, van Vliet, Adler), New York, Jan. 1927 Weissgärber/Mayr/Gál, Radio Vienna Feb.1927 Cremer, Langhof, Genz, Bad Elster, Aug. 1927 Hamburger Trio, Köln Radio, Mar. 1928 Hirsch-Kaufmann-Trio, Breslau Radio, Apr. 1928 Station Trio, BBC Radio Wales, May, 1929 München Radio, Jul. 1929 Essen, Mar. 1930
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Mügge/Sprengler/Siber, Leipzig, Mar. 1930
Toni Alexi/Sophie Alexi/Alfred Morgenroth, Mainz, Nov. 1930
Stuttgart Radio, Dec. 1932
Steinbauer-Trio, Vienna, Jan. 1934
Wiener Kammertrio, Vienna, Dec. 1936
Odnoposoff/Krotschak/Schulhof, Vienna Radio, Feb. 1938
Gombrich/Sampson/Gál, Edinburgh, Jan. 1939
BBC Radio, Jan. 1939
Jessie Munroe/May Hope/Edith Vance, Edinburgh, 1943
Douglas Dickson/Joan Dickson/Gál, Edinburgh, Dec. 1945
Akademie, Vienna, Apr. 1960
London, Dec. Dec. 1970
Trio Motawa, Königsfeld, Sep. 1973, Wiedikon, Nov. 1973
Capricorn, BBC Radio, Aug., 1980, Oct. 1986; London, Oct. 1980
Mainz, Sep. 1980
Edinburgh, Sep. 1984
Elisabeth Perry/Moray Welsh/Anthony Goldstone, Manchester, Jun. 1989
Swiss Radio, Aug. 1990
Vienna, Oct. 1997
The Pierrot Lunaire Ensemble, Linz, Aug. 2002
Mainz, Nov. 2002
Ensemble Villa Musica, Neuwied, Oct. 2003
Felici Piano Trio, Bishop (CA), Nov. 2007
Rodenhäuser/Jensen, Luxemburg/Edenkoben/Meisenheim (Germany), May 2008
Artisan Trio, Edinburgh, Mar. 2011
Ensemble Tris, Vienna, Nov. 2012
Prometheus Trio, Milwaukee, Feb. 2014

Hans Gál Trio, Edinburgh, Aug. 2017

About the work

Gál wrote of the origin of the work:

"Over half a century ago, a hunchbacked extemporising singer by the name of Ungrad haunted the popular wine-houses of the Viennese suburbs. If you secretly slipped him a consideration with the necessary information he would improvise humorous and not necessarily polite verses to the melody of these variations, whose object was some lady or other, and such fun-poking attentions were generally not resented. The present piece was written on the day after such an occasion, as a penitential tribute to the victim. This was in 1914, between the Austrian ultimatum to Serbia and the outbreak of the First World War, and it is documentary evidence that the youth of the time greatly underestimated the seriousness of the situation. I have unfortunately forgotten the poems of the extemporising poet; but in any case they would probably have been unprintable."

The work was not published until after the First World War, when it was extremely popular. As one critic remarked:

"Hans Gál's 'Variations on a Viennese Heurigen Melody' are completely carefree, real Viennese folk-music. This is the Viennese Schubert, this is Austria with its love of song and its joy in music, seeking and finding expression in heightened fashion in the 'Heurigen'." [Breslauer Zeitung, 15.1.1925]

Or again:

"The novelty of the evening: 'Variations on a Viennese Heurigen Melody' proved to be a splendid thing. Hans Gál has scored a hit." [Die Tonkunst, Berlin. 1.12.1925]

Printed music

Recordings

Amber Trio Jerusalem

Amber Trio Jerusalem

Stutschewsky, Wellesz, Zeisl, Starer, Gál (Variationen über eine Wiener Heurigenmelodie, Op. 9)

ORF (Radio Österreich) CD193

1998

Hans Gal Piano Trios

Hans Gál: Piano Trios

Doris Adam, Karin Adam, Christoph Stradner

Piano Trio (E Major) Op.18

Variations on a Popular Viennese Tune, Op.9

Piano Trio in G Major, Op.49b

Camerata (Japan) CMCD-28149

2008

Gál - Shostakovich

BRIGGS PIANO TRIO

Sarah Beth Briggs piano

David Juritz violin

Kenneth Woods cello

Hans Gál

Piano Trio in E, op.18

Variations on a Viennese Heurigen Melody, op.9

Dmitri Shostakovich

Piano Trio No. 2 in E minor, op.67

Avie (AV2390) 2018

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