

## Music



**Variations on a Theme by  
Beethoven for Solo Flute  
Michael Braz**

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Michael Braz, professor of music at Georgia Southern University, has written a clever set of five variations, Finale, and Epilogue, based on the slow movement of Beethoven's Symphony No. 7. Also incorporated in the variations are motives and gestures inspired by the flute literature in general. The Introduction, which is cadenza-like, begins with dramatic

two-octave grace note flourishes reminiscent of The Art of Precluding by Gariboldi. The composer writes that Variation 3 is a loving homage to Fur Elise. Variation 4 turns from minor to major in a quick double-tonguing variation. Variation 5 embodies characteristics from the sonatas by Poulenc and Prokofiev. The Finale is based on Beethoven's Turkish March, and the movement concludes with a 6/8 parody of the Scherzo from Symphony No. 9. The theme is restated at the end.

This work will be an excellent addition to the recital "encore" repertoire. It is suitable for advanced high school and college flutists. There are two problems with page turns that occur in the middle of variations that could have been improved with better formatting.

—Patricia George

Note: the page turns have been corrected in the new Alry edition.