

Spiritus Sanctus

Variations on Hildegard of Bingen
for flute and piano

Nell Clowder

Here is a transcription of Hildegard's chant, for reference:

Largo ♩ = 46

Spi - ri tus San - ctus³ vi - vi fi - cans vi - ta

5 mo - vens o - mni - a et ra - dix est in o -

9 mni cre - a - tu - ra ac o - mni - a de in - mun - di - ci - a ab -

13 lu - it ter - gens cri - mi - na ac un - git vul - ne -

16 ra et sic³ est ful - gens ac lau - da - bi - lis vi³ - ta su - sci - tans

20 et re - su - sci - tans om - ni - a

The phrases of Hildegard's chant have each been taken as a source for one variation, as follows:

Theme: Spiritus Sanctus vivificans vita movens omnia	the root
Var 1: Spiritus Sanctus vivificans vita movens omnia	-- Holy Spirit, living & life-giving, the life that's all things moving
Var 2: et radix est in omnia creatura	-- the root in all created being
Var 3: ac omnia de inmundicia abluit tergens crimina	-- of filth and muck it washes all clean, wiping away guilty stains
Var 4: ac ungit vulnera et sic est fulgens laudabilis vita	-- healing our wounds, is our true life luminous and wonderful
Var 5: suscitans et resuscitans omnia	-- rousing and awakening everything

I believe that religions are like different languages, each capable of expressing profound truths, and often the same truths in different ways. Hildegard lived in 12th century Europe. She was given to a convent as a child and matured there into a mystic, a healer, and a composer. Institutional religion was all she knew, it was her language. To me, her words convey a sense of the mystery of life, a wonder, and an awareness of the healing powers of Nature.

Spiritus Sanctus Variations - 2

Largo ♩ = 46

25 Spi - ri - tus san - ctus vi - vi - fi - cans vi -

p dolce

29 ta mo - vens o - mni - a et

p

33 ra - dix est

1

mp *tranquillo*

38 spiritus sanctus

mp *tranquillo*

Spiritus Sanctus Variations - 3

42 vivificans

p *mp*

4 1 2 5 8va - - 1 8va - 1

45 vita

3 4 3 5 1 2 1

8va - - - 1 8va - - - 1

47 movens omnia

p *mp* *p*

3 2 1 2

49

cresc. *cresc.*

5 3 2 1 5

Spiritus Sanctus Variations - 4

50 *mf* *f* *8va*

52 *p* *cresc.* *6/4*

54 *f* *flz.* *p* *3* *p* *3*

57 *pp* *3 4 5 4* *1 2 1 2* *Moderato* *et* *radix* *mf animato* *molto staccato* *mf* *108*

Spiritus Sanctus Variations - 5

est

Musical notation for measures 62-65. The system includes a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line features a series of triplet eighth notes. The piano accompaniment consists of eighth notes in the right hand and quarter notes in the left hand.

Musical notation for measures 66-68. The system includes a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line continues with triplet eighth notes. The piano accompaniment features a more complex rhythmic pattern with some sixteenth notes.

in om - - -

Musical notation for measures 69-71. The system includes a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line has a crescendo leading to a forte (f) dynamic. The piano accompaniment features a complex rhythmic pattern with many sixteenth notes and triplets. The piano part also includes a crescendo and forte dynamic. The word "Ped." is written below the piano part.

- ni crea - a tu - - ra

Musical notation for measures 72-75. The system includes a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line features a series of eighth notes. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and eighth notes. The instruction "(sustain all)" is written in the piano part. The word "Ped." is written below the piano part.

Spiritus Sanctus Variations - 6

79

84

pizz.

85

pp cresc. mf

89

pp cresc. mf

93

pp cresc. mf

Spiritus Sanctus Variations - 7

Musical score for measures 96-99. The top staff is a single melodic line with a sixteenth-note triplet in measure 96 and a fermata in measure 97. The bottom staff is a piano accompaniment with sixteenth-note patterns. Dynamics include *f* and *mf*.

3 Andante ♩ = 82

Musical score for measures 100-105. Measure 100 has a fermata. The piano part features a triplet in measure 100 and a *pp* section starting in measure 102 labeled "una corda". Fingerings and articulation marks like "legato quietly ominous" and "simile" are present.

ac om - ni -

Musical score for measures 106-110. The piano part has a triplet in measure 106. The vocal line in measure 108 is marked *pp dolce* and includes a triplet.

- a de in - mun - di - - ci - a

Musical score for measures 111-115. The piano part has a triplet in measure 111. The vocal line in measure 111 is marked *p* and includes a triplet. Fingerings are indicated in the piano part.

Spiritus Sanctus Variations - 8

ab - lu - it

116

mp

poco cresc.

120

mf

dim.

mp tres corda

124

cresc.

cresc.

ter - gens cri -

127

f

mp *fp* *cresc.*

f *dim.* *pp*

Spiritus Sanctus Variations - 9

mi - - - - - na

132 *f* *mf mp* *pp*

p mp mf mp p

throughout

4 **attaca**
Moderato ♩ = 108

ac un - git

138 *pp* *una corda* *p semplice*

vul - - - - - ne - ra

144

150 *et sic est*

Spiritus Sanctus Variations - 10

ful - - - gens ac lau - da-bi - lis vi - ta

156

162

rit. *a tempo*

169

dim. *8va*

169

8va *8va* *8va* *tres corda* *

5

Allegro ♩ = 126

mp misterioso

176

p misterioso *8va* *8va*

Spiritus Sanctus Variations - 11

181 *mp* *mp*

181 *8va*

186 *mp* *cresc.* *f* *dim.* *mp* *mf* ³ *animato*

186 *mp* *animato*

190 *f* *mf* ³ *f*

190 *8va*

et re - su - sci - tans

195 *mf*

195 *cresc.* *8va*

4

Detailed description: This musical score is for 'Spiritus Sanctus Variations - 11'. It consists of four systems of music. Each system includes a vocal line (treble clef) and piano accompaniment (grand staff). The first system (measures 181-185) features a vocal line with a melodic phrase starting on a half note, followed by a rest, and then a second phrase. Dynamics are marked *mp* with accents. The piano accompaniment has a steady eighth-note bass line and chords in the right hand. The second system (measures 186-190) shows a vocal line with a crescendo from *mp* to *f*, followed by a decrescendo to *mp*, and then a triplet of eighth notes marked *mf* ³ *animato*. The piano accompaniment continues with eighth-note patterns. The third system (measures 190-194) features a vocal line with triplet eighth notes, marked *f*, *mf* ³, and *f* again. The piano accompaniment has a consistent eighth-note bass line. The fourth system (measures 195-199) shows a vocal line with a melodic phrase marked *mf*, followed by a triplet of eighth notes. The piano accompaniment includes a crescendo and a triplet of eighth notes in the right hand.

Spiritus Sanctus Variations - 12

200

f *mf* *f*

3 3 3

205

mf

3 3 3 3 3

om - - - - ni - - - -

210

mf

3 3 3 3 3

cresc.

a

215

f *cresc.*

3 3 3 3 3

5 3

3 2 1

8va

Spiritus Sanctus Variations - 13

219

219

ff

ff

1 4 3 1 3 2 1 3 2 1 2

2 4 5 2

223

223

mf

f

3 4 3 5

228

228

mf

f

3 3 3 3

232

232

mf

f

3 3 3 3

mf

Spiritus Sanctus Variations - 14

236 *mf* *mf* *8va*

241 *f* *mf* *f* *mf* *f* *cresc.* *f* *RH*

246 *f* *mf*

251 *mp dim al fine*

Detailed description: This musical score is for 'Spiritus Sanctus Variations - 14'. It consists of five systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 3/4. The first system (measures 236-240) features a vocal line with two phrases of eighth-note runs, each marked *mf* and slurred. The piano accompaniment has a steady eighth-note bass line. The second system (measures 241-245) has a vocal line with triplets of eighth notes, alternating between *f* and *mf*. The piano accompaniment includes a *cresc.* marking and a *f* dynamic. The third system (measures 246-250) features a vocal line with trills and eighth-note runs, marked *f*. The piano accompaniment has a steady eighth-note bass line, marked *mf*. The fourth system (measures 251-255) has a vocal line with eighth-note runs, marked *mp dim al fine*. The piano accompaniment continues with a steady eighth-note bass line.

Spiritus Sanctus Variations - 15

256 *dim al fine* *8va* *8va*

256 *p*

261 *p*

8va

Detailed description: This musical score is for 'Spiritus Sanctus Variations - 15'. It consists of three systems of staves. The first system (measures 256-260) features a vocal line with a melodic line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line includes a 'dim al fine' instruction and two '8va' markings. The piano accompaniment is marked 'p' and includes accents. The second system (measures 261-262) shows a vocal line with a melodic line marked 'p' and a piano accompaniment that is mostly silent. The third system (measures 263-264) shows a vocal line with a melodic line and a piano accompaniment. The piano accompaniment includes an '8va' marking and an accent.