

N. Paganini

CAPRICE

Nº 24

Op. 1

arranged for

Clarinet

by

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Performance notes

The piece may of course be performed on any clarinet; the arranger finds the Bb Clarinet to be most suitable for performance.

- m.15 A slight *rubato* is possible here
- m.25, 27 The speed of the grace notes is of greater importance than any slight break which may need to be observed following the initial eighth notes of these measures.
- m.49 et seq. This variation will be highly *rubato* in performance, but attention should be given to the relative time-values of the main notes, in order to maintain the melodic line.
- m.71 In this and all similar measures, the final two sixteenth notes should be played in time, to lead seamlessly into the following measure.
- m.74,76 The grace notes leading to the high final note should be thrown off, very light and airy. The 'harmonic' symbol on the final note signifies a light, flute-like quality which may be facilitated by the use of 'long' or resonated fingerings.
- m.80 It will be of great value throughout the arrangement for the performer to discover and implement a fingering on the particular instrument for the high A_6 which can be easily voiced in the slur from the lower E_6 .
- m.81 et seq. The second eighth note of each measure may be trilled or flutter-tongued as desired, so long as it is played with sufficiently gruff emphasis.
- m.97 et seq. This variation has been notated to maintain the four-bar phrases of the original. A great amount of care should be taken to maintain the flow of the notes in as virtuosic a manner as possible, while maintaining the feel of the underlying chordal progression. The time values of the notes (as represented in their beaming) serve to measure the relative emphasis to be placed in the phrasing of each run, rather than to provide a strict interpretation of their meter.
- m.111 As the variation winds down, the harmonic progression must be maintained in the same style and tempo that has been employed heretofore; care must be taken not to rush these final notes through to the end.
- m.137,139 These measures will necessarily be played in half time, in order to place all the filigree notes properly. The passage will be all the more effective if the performer will play these measures very wistfully, while contrasting them with the force and drive requested in m.138 and 140.
- m.145 et seq. This variation should show off the clarinet's ability to perform rapid tonguing and skips. Visualizing a *spicatto* bowing technique will be helpful. An even, metronomic tempo, even if somewhat slower, is preferred.
- m.161 et seq. The audience should strain to hear the performer in this variation. The clarinet is uniquely capable of performing at the edge of audibility, and the absence of a true harmonic -producing technique allows the performer the opportunity to offer a similar experience using sub-tones. The low E in m.168, and the variation's final low A, should be felt rather than heard. Experimentation with 'long' and fully resonated fingerings will assist in the production of the higher notes at this dynamic.
- m.180 a slight *crescendo decrescendo* on the final low E is very effective.

- m.182 If the performer is capable of producing the alt-altissimo D, then by all means it should be performed as the final note of the measure. In any case, great rapport with the audience can be built by making much of the process of the *consideration* of playing the high note, whether or not the effort results in success, or in the acceptance of the lower note!
- m.185 The high C will likely be playable, being a more standard part of the technique of most clarinetists. The performer should appear visibly proud to have been able to stretch the instrument's range this far, no matter the outcome.
- m.188 This trill should be very fast and full, at top volume. It may be more effective to trill the right-hand 'side' key to achieve this effect.
- m.198 This section represents the actual ending of the piece in the original, and should be played as though it will in fact be the conclusion of the performance.
- m.203 Here, the audience will sense that the end has not yet arrived.
- m.205 et seq. From here to the end, the audience is treated to a klezmer-like experience wholly characteristic of the clarinet. It should be played with as much enthusiasm and fun as possible. Clapping on the part of the audience is to be encouraged!
- m.262 The effect can be heightened by the performer acting as though the right hand has taken off on its own, and must be stopped by stamping the foot, shaking off the hand, whatever will be of most entertainment value to the audience.
- m.270 Tone quality may take a back seat here. The high E in m.274 may be shaken, wailed, or smeared as desired for fullest effect.
- m.275 Whatever liberties have been taken in the preceding measures should be here immediately constrained, as the variation comes to an end with the most disciplined tone quality and tempo observance possible.
- m.277 It would be possible to continue the grace note run another octave, to end the piece on the next higher A; however, the intent should be to 'rip' the grace notes as fast as possible, and the addition of three extra notes would add enough overhead to the run to reduce the effectiveness of the effect. The performer who is tempted to extend the run should carefully consider this, along with the absolute necessity for 'popping' the final note securely and precisely.

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