

AULD LANG SYNE Variations (1948)

Franz Waxman

For Jascha Heifetz

1. *Eine Kleine Nichtmusik - Rondo (Allegro)*
2. *Moonlight Concerto - Adagio*
3. *Chaconne a Son Gout - Stately*
4. *Hommage to Shostakofiev – Allegro*

For the traditional Jascha Heifetz New Years Eve party of December 31, 1948 my father composed *Auld Land Syne Variations*. The music is based on Mozart's *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik* as it might have been composed by Mozart, Beethoven, Bach and Shostakovich/Prokofiev.

The variations are four individual movements, each one presenting the theme in the style of a different composer – and each featuring the violin prominently. The first variation, “*Eine Kleine Nichtmusik*,” highlights Mozart’s trademark active bass line in the piano, and includes references to Mozart’s *Sinfonia Concertante* for violin and viola, among other works. The second movement, called “Moonlight Concerto,” opens with a quote from Beethoven’s most famous piano sonata and the Second movement (Larghetto) of his Violin concerto set against a dramatic rendition of the “*Auld Lang Syne*” theme, and interpolates melodies from Beethoven’s Violin Concerto. The third movement, “Chaconne a son Gout” – a play on the French expression *a chacun son gout*, or “to each his own taste” – has the solo violin performing the theme in the style of *Chaconne Partita* No. 2 by J.S. Bach. The last movement, titled “Homage to Shostakofiev,” parodies two of Waxman’s contemporaries, the “*Auld Lang Syne*” theme here transforms itself into a spinning-out melody from Shostakovich’s Symphony No. 1, F Major, Second Movement – Allegro (Scherzo) and Piano Trio, and then segues into a snippet of Prokofiev’s Second Violin Concerto before fading out in a bleak Russian style.

Duration: 12:21

Published by: Fidelio Music Publishing Company; ASCAP