

B-A-C-H Variations is a set of variations for brass septet based not on a melody by Bach, but rather on the four letters of the name Bach itself. In German notation "B" stands for the note B flat and "H" stands for the note B natural. Therefore, the four letters of Bach's name are the four notes B flat, A, C, and B natural. Further, these four notes are a motive of a descending minor second, followed by a rising minor third, and concluding with another descending minor second. The set of variations is based on these four notes, this set of intervals, and their various permutations and combinations.

B-A-C-H Variations was written for the 40th anniversary of the Adrian (Michigan) Chamber Brass (1972-2012).

Dr. Michael Pratt has degrees in music education and music composition from The University of Toledo, The University of Michigan, and Boston University. He studied composition with Pulitzer Prize winning composers Ross Lee Finney and Leslie Bassett at The University of Michigan, and taught music in the public schools for many years in Michigan.

He has sung with The Toledo Choral Society, Toledo Symphony Chorale, Opera!Lenawee, and The University Musical Society Choral Union of The University of Michigan with whom he has performed with The Detroit Symphony Orchestra, The San Francisco Symphony, The Kirov Orchestra, The Russian National Orchestra, The Ann Arbor Symphony, The Lansing Symphony, The Grand Rapids Symphony, The Toledo Symphony, The Birmingham Symphony, The Gabrieli Consort, and The Tallis Scholars.

He has played tuba with The Toledo Symphony, Toledo Concert Band, Toledo Opera, University of Toledo Faculty Brass Quintet, Adrian Chamber Brass, Adrian College Faculty Brass Quintet, The Crowell Opera House, The Adrian Symphony Orchestra and The Adrian City Band.

He has performed with many notable conductors, including, Valery Gergiev, Michael Tilson Thomas, Neeme Jarve, Mikhail Pletnev, Rafael Fruhbeck de Burgos, Leonard Slatkin, John Adams, Gennady Rozhdestvensky, Paul McCreech, Peter Phillips, Catherine Comet, Eric Kunzel, Margaret Hillis, Martin Katz, and John Finley Williamson.

Michael Pratt is a member of ASCAP.

for the 40th anniversary of the Adrian Chamber Brass 1972-2012

Duration 6:30

B-A-C-H Variations

Michael Pratt

for Brass Septet

Var. 1 $\text{♩} = 120$

1 2 3 4 Mute 3 5 6 7 8 9

Trumpet in B \flat 1

Trumpet in B \flat 2

Trumpet in B \flat 3

Horn in F

Trombone

Euphonium

Tuba

10 Var. 2 Slower $\text{♩} = 104$ 11 12 13

B \flat Tpt. 1

B \flat Tpt. 2

B \flat Tpt. 3

Hn.

Tbn.

Euph.

Tuba