Variations on a Lonely Theme

for 5-string electric bass + electronics

Composer's notes

Variations on a Lonely Theme was composed during the winter of 2010 and represents a newfound interest in the use of live and prepared electronics in a performance setting. The work is written for 5-string electric bass and electronics powered by a Max/MSP patch.

The work is divided into two major sections: (A) an introductory main theme, and (B) a longer, developmental section based on several ideas introduced in that theme. After the B section concludes, the player is to return to section A and perform a highly embellished version of the main theme in free time.

Measures during which loops or delays are active can be repeated at the performer's discretion; this may be necessary in order to prepare for a subsequent musical passage.

To further break down the work,

Part A:		cue 1
Part B:	section I	cue 2-15
	section II	cue 16-43
	section III	cue 44-50
	section IV	cue 51-53
	section V	cue 54
Part A':		no cues

Electronic Requirements

A Max/MSP patch has been created to provide prerecorded sounds and live processing of the bass performance, via various delays and pitch shifts. During the first and third main sections of part B, a tempo of 90BPM is established via recorded loops and held constant during those sections. Prerecorded cues are delivered via separate AIFF audio files, which are also provided with the patch. The performer must trigger both cues and live processing via MIDI foot pedal. Timing is critical due to the exacting nature of the cues and time-based delays.

Instructions for configuring and using the patch are included with the software.

Legend

>	indicates a slap/pop note.
\Diamond	indicates a note to be played as a harmonic.
	indicates a glissando.
# # #	indicates an upward strum.
7	indicates a cue or rehearsal mark.
ca. 3"	indicates a series of notes to be played in any order, ad. lib., for the specified duration. Rhythms and gestures are left to the performer's discretion.

Tuning

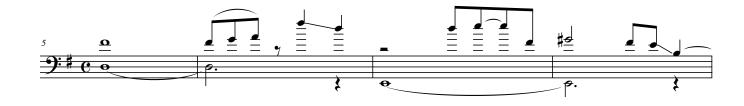
Variations utilizes standard 5-string bass tuning.

Variations on a Lonely Theme:

A.

brandon green 2010











Variations on a Lonely Theme:

