Combining Operatic Air Varié with style hongrois in Andante e Rondo Ungarese (1813): A Recipe for Success

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Combining Operatic Air Varié with Style Hongrois in Carl Maria von Weber’s Andante and Rondo Ungarese (1813): A Recipe for Success

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How does Carl Maria von Weber achieve exoticism and virtuosity through popular genre (air varié) and style (style hongrois) markers?
Background

Carl Maria von Weber (1786-1826) was a German Composer during the Romantic Era.

- Born in 1786 in Eutin, Germany.
- Moved to Vienna, Austria in 1803, living with Georg Vogler.
- Returned to Germany in 1809, composing "Andante and Rondo Ungarese" originally for viola.
- Composed the "Concerto" in 1813, transposed for bassoon and orchestra.
Methods

Weber’s *Andante and Rondo Ungarese (1813)* for bassoon fits two established stylistic categories of the time:

- First Movement exemplifies the genre of *Air Varié*
- Second Movement utilizes the musical dialect known as *Style Hongrois*
1st Movement

Air Varié

Variations

- Increasing activity in surface rhythm (quarter to eighth-note to sixteenth-note etc.)
- Virtuosity

Melodic Elements

- Lyrical/songful
- Simple and accessible
1st Movement (air varié)

**Main Theme**
Mm. 1-17
Silicana rhythm, 6/8

**First Variation**
Mm. 22-37
Sixteenth notes in the bassoon

**Second Variation**
Mm. 40-55
Thirty-second notes; unexpected “exotic” harmonic shift

Slide 6
1st Movement: Main Theme

Variations on this theme ensue (*Air varié*)

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1st Movement (*air varié*)

- **Main Theme** (Mm. 1-17)
  - Silicana rhythm, 6/8

- **First Variation** (Mm. 22-37)
  - Sixteenth notes in the bassoon

- **Second Variation** (Mm. 40-55)
  - Thirty-second notes; unexpected “exotic” harmonic shift

Slide 8
Sixteenth notes in the bassoon
Orchestral accompaniment (up to this point has been pizzicato chords) takes up the theme, while the bassoon plays a new obligato

First Variation

Main Theme

Silicana rhythm, 6/8

Second Variation

Thirty-second notes; A flat major, this key shift is unprepared and sudden creating exotic fluctuation of happiness and sadness

Mm. 1-17
Mm. 22-37
Mm. 60-75

1st Movement: First Variation (air varié)
The progression on variations on the theme is effective, each adds a new layer of complexity and energy.

**Main Theme**

- **Mm. 1-17**
  - Silicana rhythm, 6/8

**First Variation**

- **Mm. 22-37**
  - Sixteenth notes in the bassoon

**Second Variation**

- **Mm. 40-55**
  - Thirty-second notes; unexpected “exotic” harmonic shift

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Slide 11

1st Movement: Second Variation (air varié)
Characteristics

- Dotted Rhythm
- Augmented 2nds
- Syncopation
- Alla Zoppa
- Anapests

Hungarian National Dialect

- Verbunkos Dance
- Gypsy Sound
Stylistic Indicators

- **Mm. 99**
  - Spondee

- **Mm. 106**
  - Syncopated Accents
  - Alla Zoppa

- **Mm. 132**
  - Anapests
  - Ties

- **Mm. 194**
  - Bokazo
Stylistic Indicators

- Spondee
- Syncopated Accents
- Alla Zoppa
- Ties
- Bokazo
Stylistic Indicators

- Spondee at Mm. 99
- Syncopated Accents at Mm. 106
- Anapests and Ties at Mm. 132
- Bokazo at Mm. 194

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Stylistic Indicators

Mm. 99
- Spondee

Mm. 194
- Bokazo
Stylistic Indicators

- Spondee
  - Mm. 99
- Syncopated Accents
  - Mm. 106
- Anapests
  - Ties
  - Mm. 129
- Bokazo
  - Mm. 194
Hungarian Anapest: measure 132

Stylistic Indicators

- Turn Motifs
- Leaping 8ths
- Dotted Rhythms
- Syncopated Accents
- Cadential motion jumps to the 3rd
- Anapests
- Ties

Slide 8
Stylistic Indicators

- Mm. 99: Spondee
- Mm. 106: Syncopated Accents
- Mm. 129: Anapests, Ties
- Mm. 194: Bokazo

Slide 19
Stylistic Indicators

- Turn Motifs
- Leaping 8ths
- Dotted Rhythms

Mm. 82 & 85

Mm. 194
- Bokazo

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Weber: Life and Works

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Literature

*air varié genre*


*style hongrois*

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Andate and Rondo Ungarese

Air Varie

Hongrois

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Resources


