

James Wunsch

Variation on Etude No. 12 Op.10 by Frederic Chopin



REVOLUTIONARY ETUDE



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Variation on Etude No.12 Op.10 C-minor
by Frederic Chopin

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The Etude

After the Napoleonic Wars the kingdom of Poland lost its independency and was separated in 4 parts at the Vienna Congress in 1815. In the following years, slowly but surly life in Poland became rough and unmanageable. The discontent among the population finally culminated in the November Uprising against the Russian suppressors in 1830. Chopin residing in Vienna, Austria at that time was deeply moved and although his ties with his family in Poland were very strong he would never return to Poland again.

In July 1831 Chopin was in Stuttgart Germany just on his way from Vienna to Paris, when he learned about the fall of Warsaw. He was devastated and it's said but not proven, that this event inspired Chopin to compose etude No. 12 Op. 10 in C-minor, later on referred to as "revolutionary etude". The etude was completed in 1832 and published in 1833.

The Variation

This etude is a very powerful piece, you can almost hear the sound of the canons on the battlefield and I love the etude very much, just as it is.

But last year while improvising over this etude, I started playing the bass part two octaves higher, with the right hand and it sounded just fine. So I created this variation by simply interchanging the left and the right hand. Although this is not much of an accomplishment, it is a very good exercise for the right hand. It takes a little getting used to, but it is an easy Variation which can be played even by students.

I hope you enjoy it, have fun!



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for my Mother

Allegro con fuoco (♩ = 160)

James Wunsch

Piano

legatissimo

ff

cresc.

3

sf con fuoco

6

cresc.

9

ff

12

fz



