



NAME _____

DATE _____

My Country, 'Tis of Thee: Part 2

BEETHOVEN 7 Variations on 'God Save the King', WoO 78

WHAT DO YOU HEAR?



BEFORE YOU WATCH

"America (My Country, 'Tis of Thee)" is a patriotic song in the United States. As Buddy says, the tune for this piece has been around a long time, and no one is sure who wrote the original version of the music. In the United Kingdom, they know the tune currently as "God Save the Queen," and it has been the country's national anthem in some form since the 18th century, when Beethoven was alive.

Beethoven wrote a set of seven variations on the popular tune; in the previous episode, Buddy and Benjamin Rossen took us through the first four variations. In this episode, Buddy and Benjamin finish off the last three variations in this set, variations 5, 6, and 7. Let's see if we can figure out how they are different from one another.

WHILE YOU WATCH

Benjamin starts us off with variation 5. This variation has a very different character to it than the theme and the previous variations. How is it different?

The music is: FASTER / SLOWER

The music sounds: SMOOTHER / CHOPPIER / THE SAME

The mood of the music is: HAPPY / SAD

Can you still hear the theme? YES / NO

What does Buddy do on the keyboard to demonstrate how the composer changes the mood of the music?



Next up is Buddy with variation 6! He explains that the theme and all of the previous variations moved in groups of _____. In this variation, Beethoven changes the meter! How is this variation different from the others?

The music is: FASTER / SLOWER

The music sounds: SMOOTHER / CHOPPIER / THE SAME

The music moves in groups of: THREE / FOUR

Can you still hear the theme? YES / NO

Finally, Benjamin finishes off this set of variations with variation 7! This one really flies! There's a surprise in the middle—what happens?

Could you still hear the theme over all seven of these variations? YES / NO

What was your favorite variation and why?
