

**VASILY PETRENKO**  
**ROYAL LIVERPOOL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA**



# **BRITTEN**

**THE YOUNG PERSON'S GUIDE TO THE ORCHESTRA**  
**‘VARIATIONS AND FUGUE ON A THEME OF PURCELL’ OP.34**

**onyx**

**BENJAMIN BRITTEN** (1913–1976)

**THE YOUNG PERSON'S GUIDE TO THE ORCHESTRA**

**'VARIATIONS AND FUGUE ON A THEME OF PURCELL' OP.34**

1.	Theme	2.14
2.	Variations for Woodwind	3.12
3.	Variations for String Instruments	4.41
4.	Variations for Brass Instruments	2.25
5.	Variation for Percussion	1.55
6.	Fugue	2.52

**Total Timing: 17.24**

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Artist biographies can be found at [www.onyxclassics.com](http://www.onyxclassics.com)  
[www.vasilypetrenkomusic.com](http://www.vasilypetrenkomusic.com) [www.liverpoolphil.com](http://www.liverpoolphil.com)

Liverpool Philharmonic has brought many new works into the musical world over the last 180 years. One of the most famous premieres in its history is that of Benjamin Britten's "The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra". The music was originally commissioned for film to educate people (not just children) about an orchestra and its various instruments and sections. The optional script written to accompany "educational" concerts was written by Eric Crozier who had also provided the libretto for some of Britten's operas.

On 15th October 1946 the Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra (as they were then) gave the concert premiere conducted by Malcolm Sargent. The Orchestra recorded it at the same time and was awarded the "Orchestral Record of the Year" in New York at the Annual Conference of Gramophone Critics in 1948. Sargent had also introduced schools concerts back in January 1943 and "YPG" (as it is affectionately known in the business) soon became a regular feature for many schools concerts in years to come worldwide.

Sargent was keen to communicate with young people, an interest shared by the composer Benjamin Britten who wrote many works specifically for children to perform. But this "YPG" was conceived as a showcase for the professional symphony orchestra, displaying each section in turn with flair and virtuosity. The theme upon which the variations develop was taken from a Rondeau in D minor from the incidental music to *Abdelazar, or The Moor's Revenge* by Henry Purcell and bears the sub-title in the score "Variations and Fugue on a Theme of Purcell" – the fugue being infamous amongst professional musicians because some conductors take it faster than others!

**Extract from *The Original Liverpool Sound: The Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Story* by Darren Henley & Vincent McKernan**  
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