

Variations on Cadair Idris

(2021)



For Guitar

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Variations on 'Cadair Idris' (2021 revision)

Although local hotel keepers will tell you that *Cadair Idris* (Chair of Idris) is the second highest mountain in Wales that, is not, of course, true. What is true, however, is the peak is magnificently separated from other mountains: summit views (when the mist lifts) are panoramic. Those wishing to meet the legendary giant Idris are encouraged to spend the night alone on the mountain's top; Welsh folklore promises that, if they wake at all, they will wake to be either famous poets (*beirdd*) or madmen! The original *Cadair Idris* melody is in the major mode and was composed by the *bardd* & harpist John Parry and first appeared in 1804. It is one of Wales' best know 'folk' tunes.

Many Christmases ago I heard this old melody played on a neglected piano in my daughter's house in Llanilar. On a short walk in the dying winter light its magic melody (all the more desolate as out of tune) accompanied me everywhere. It became part of the grey cheerless winter landscape; unresolved echoes of a forlorn world. But that bleak landscape was not dead, only sleepy. Many creatures: some in holes in ferny banks, some hidden deep in bare hedgerows, some in muddy fields, heard that sad magic. Those many wonderful animals were waiting patiently through the winter for their spring and summer. In this piece they have their chance to wake, to sing, speak or dance.

Notes on Each Movement:

Prelude: *Yr Fwyalchen* (The Blackbird). Early evening, or early morning, his song is very sweet.

Dawns y Fuwch Hapus (The Happy Cow's Dance). Yes, cows can dance – just like any other animal – just a little bit ungainly.

Y Wennol Ddu (The Swift). Swifts nest in my neighbour's house and roost in mine. The air is full of their excited voices as they twist and turn in free space.

Dawns y Mochyn Daear (The Badger's Dance). Our old house even had a badger set. Amazing how quickly he wrecks a lawn – in Welsh his name literally means 'ground pig'!

Llethrau (Slopes) Wales has more than its fair share of slippery slopes – beautiful to gaze upon, but start sliding down wet grass and it is terrifying how far you slither.

Y Niwyl ar Ben y Mynydd (The Mist on the Mountain Top). Mountain mist is amazing stuff – so illusory, so deceiving; strangely often brightening when it should be darkening; occasionally clearing completely only to return to yet baffle further.

Y Llyn (The Lake) Glistening in the summer sunlight little waves sparkle like jewels – but underneath lie dangerous depths of darkness.

Y Hebog (The Kite). The Mid-Wales bird of prey – so subtle, so patient; yet so quick, unpredictable and deadly.

Y Hen Gadno Cyfrwys (The Cunning Old Fox). We follow the fox as he works his way slyly through trees and undergrowth – as we finish he's ready to pounce.

Mae'r Golomen yn Hedfan i Ryddid (The Dove Flies to Freedom). Even the cunning fox cannot follow into the third dimension – all he, like we, can do is look up at the white dove silhouetted against a pure blue sky.

Yr Afon (The River) Above the irresistible flow of the river the scenery changes constantly – two thirds of the way through there's a total change of mood, we meet the sea and begin dancing on the waves.

Postlude: *Yr Eos* (The Nightingale) A return to the mood of the opening – the Nightingale echoes the Blackbird.

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(Prelude) Lento ♩ = 57

Var 1. Moderato (♩ = 100)

Dawns y Fwch Hapus (The Happy Cow's Dance)

41 *CV* *f* $\frac{1}{2}CII$ $\frac{4}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}CV$

49 *f* $\frac{1}{2}CV$ *p* *mf* *tasto*

57 *f* *nat.* *f*

65 *f* *f* *CV*

73 *pp* *triste* *L.V.*

Y Wennol Ddu (TheSwift)

Var 2. Moderato (♩ = c. 85)

83

mf mp

Detailed description: This system contains measures 83 to 88. It begins with a treble clef and a 3/4 time signature. The music is marked *mf* and features a series of eighth-note patterns with various fret numbers (0, 4, 1, 0, 3, 0, 0) above the notes. A slur covers the first six measures. The second system of this block (measures 87-88) is marked *mp* and continues the eighth-note patterns with fret numbers (2, 3, 2, 4, 0, 2, 4) below the notes. A long slur spans across both systems.

89

p i m

Detailed description: This system contains measures 89 to 94. It continues the eighth-note patterns with fret numbers (4, 1, 2, 2, 1, 1, 2, 1, 4, 3, 2, 1) above and below the notes. The music is marked *p i m* (piano, mezzo-forte, mezzo-piano) at the end of the system. A long slur covers the entire system.

95

f mf L.V. mp

Detailed description: This system contains measures 95 to 100. It features eighth-note patterns with fret numbers (4, 2, 1, 2, 0, 2) above the notes. The music is marked *f* (forte) at the beginning, *mf* (mezzo-forte) in the middle, and *mp* (mezzo-piano) at the end. A long slur covers the first part of the system, and another slur covers the second part. The marking *L.V.* (Larghetto Vivace) is present.

101

CVI

Detailed description: This system contains measures 101 to 106. It continues the eighth-note patterns with fret numbers (3, 2, 4, 1, 2, 3, 0, 1, 3, 1, 2, 1, 2, 2, 1, 1, 1, 0, 2, 3) above and below the notes. The music is marked *CVI* (Crescendo Very Intense) at the end of the system. A long slur covers the entire system.

107 *f* *mf* *f*

113 *CIII* *CV* *CIII*

119 $\frac{1}{2}CV$ *comodo* *(a tempo)* *ff* *f* *ff* *mf*

125 *mp* *f* *comodo* $\frac{1}{2}CI$

131 *rubato* *a tempo* *triste* *mp* *p*

i m i m i m

Dawns y Mochyn Daeear (The Badger's Dance)

pesantemente

Var 3. Moderato (♩ = c.73)

1 m i a. m i a. m i a.

L.V. 0
④
mp

143 m 3 1 4 3 1 1 0 4 1 0

f

149 0 2 1 3 1 4 1 1 1 1 1

ff *f* *p*

155 4 1 4 3 1 0 4 0 4 0 3

p *f*

161 ff f *CV*

167 ff mf *C1*

173 f p *L.V.*

179 f *subito p* ff mf $\frac{1}{2}\text{CIII}$ *pont.* *nat.CV.*

185 mf pp f *dolce* *dolcissimo* *nat.*

Var 4. Moderato (♩=134)

Llethrau (Slopes) Scherzo

193 *mp* Legato *mf* *mf*

202 *mp* C1 L.V.

210 *f* C1 L.V. *pp* *p*

218 C1V *mf*

226 *p* *ff* 1/2 CII

234

p L.V. *f* L.V.

242

p *mf* *f*

250

poco rit. *a tempo* *pizz.* *pp* *nat.* *pp*

259

f *mp* *pp*

268

mf *f* *sempre f*

a tempo

352 *misterioso*
p *f* *mp*

357 *pp* *mf* *p*

362 *ff* *mp*

368 *p* *pp* *mf*

373 *p* *f* *pp* *mf* *CVI*

380

4

pp.

p

mf

L.V.

L.V.

385

pp

mf

L.V.

391

poco rit.

a tempo

mp

L.V.

396

pp

mp

C VI

401

m i m i m i

f

poco rit.

L.V.

L.V.

Y llyn (The Lake)

Var 6 Adagio

$\text{♩} = 58$
maestoso

1/2CV

f

art hrm12

art hrm12

1/2CV

mf

413

f

mf

417

p

mf

1/2CV

art hrm12

CIV

art hrm12

1/2CV

421

mp

mf

424

ff

p

calmo

mf

sempre legato

cantabile

1/2CIII

CII

428 *C1I* *comodo* *f* *C1I calmo* *legato*

431 *mf* *f* *1/2CII* *C1I* *mf*

434 *C1I* *f* *pp*

438 *p* *mf* *f*

441 *mf* *poco rit.* *1/2CIV*

Y Hebog (The Kite)

Var 7. Allegro (♩ = c. 180)

446

f *p* *pp* *p* *mf* *f* *p* rubato

454

p *f* *p*

461

f *p* *f* *p* *f*

468

p *pp* *pp* *f*

476

mp *ff* brillante

Var 8. Moderato (♩ = c. 46)

The musical score is divided into five systems, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The guitar part is written in a style that includes fingering numbers (1-4) and licks (L.V.). The voice part is written in a standard vocal line with lyrics in Welsh and English.

System 1: Starts with a piano (*p*) dynamic, followed by a mezzo-forte (*mf*) section, and then a forte (*f*) section. The tempo is marked Moderato with a quarter note equal to approximately 46 beats per minute. The guitar part includes a sequence of notes with fingering: 1 3 4 2 1. The voice part begins with the lyrics "a m i p a m i m".

System 2: Starts at measure 550. The tempo is marked *cantabile*. The guitar part includes a sequence of notes with fingering: 2 3 1 4. The voice part continues with the lyrics "a m i p a m i m".

System 3: Starts at measure 556. The guitar part includes a sequence of notes with fingering: 3 2 4 3 4 2 3 1. The voice part continues with the lyrics "a m i p a m i m".

System 4: Starts at measure 562. The tempo is marked *cantabile*. The guitar part includes a sequence of notes with fingering: 4 1 3 1 4. The voice part continues with the lyrics "a m i p a m i m".

System 5: Starts at measure 569. The tempo is marked *cantabile*. The guitar part includes a sequence of notes with fingering: 1 4 2 1. The voice part continues with the lyrics "a m i p a m i m".

574 *C1I*

mf

L.V.

sinistrio

581 $\frac{1}{2}$ CII

f

mp

sinistrio

588

L.V.

jangle...

sinistrio

cresc.

f

593

art 12 hamp.

sinistrio

p

pp

f

599

dolce tasto

nat.

attaca

ff

p

mf

f

ff

fff

22 Var 9 Allegro (♩ = c. 187) Mae'r Golomen yn Hedfan i Ryddid (The Dove Flies to Freedom)

606 *f* *mf* *pp*

614 *f* *mf*

622 *mp* *pp* *sfz* *ppp*

629 *p* *pp*

cantabile

636 *f* *p* *mf*

645 *f* *mp*

$\frac{1}{2}$ CII

654 *f* $\frac{1}{2}$ CII CII *p* *calmo* 23

663 $\frac{1}{2}$ CVII *f*

673 $\frac{1}{2}$ CIII CIII *p* *pp*

682 CVI *mf*

689 *ff* *mf*

696 *mp* *f* *pp* *poco rit.* hrm12 hrm12

24 *a tempo*

704 $\frac{1}{2}CIV$
p dolce *ff*

714 $\frac{1}{2}CII$ $\frac{1}{2}CIII$ $\frac{1}{2}CV$ *mf* *f* *ff* *p*

723 $[VII]$ $\frac{1}{2}CV$ $\frac{1}{2}CV$ *mf*

732 $\frac{1}{2}CV$ $\frac{1}{2}CIII$ *f* *mp*

740 *f* *p* *pp*

Yr Afon (The River)

Var 11. Lento ♩ = 60 (comodo)

788

4 3 2 0 2 1 0 4 3 2 1 4 4 0 2

p *mp* *mf*

799

3 1 4 1 2 2 0 1 0 1 3 3

p *pp* *f* *p*

810

1 2 1 4 3 2 3 0 0 2 0 4 3 2 4 1 3 4

mf *f*

819

2 1 4 2 4 1 2 4 3 2 4 2 4 3 0 4

pp *mf*

829

2 0 3 1 4 2 0 4 3 3 1 0 0 1 0 0 4 3 3

mp

837 *mf* *f* *p* *mf* 27

845 *pp* *mf* *CIII* *CII* *pont.* *nat.*

853 *p* *C1*

860 *mp* *mf* *espress.*

866 *ff* *f* *CVIII* *comodo*

Moderato (♩ = c. 180)

872 *a la danza*

872-880: Musical staff with notes, rests, and fingerings. Dynamics: *p*, *mf*, *f*. Includes markings for *a la danza* and *CV*.

881

881-890: Musical staff with notes, rests, and fingerings. Dynamics: *mp*, *f*. Includes marking for *CV*.

891

891-898: Musical staff with notes, rests, and fingerings. Dynamics: *f*.

899

899-906: Musical staff with notes, rests, and fingerings. Dynamics: *ff*.

907

907-914: Musical staff with notes, rests, and fingerings. Dynamics: *f*, *p*. Includes markings for *rit.* and *harm*.

