Semi-Simple Variations

This piece is written in the 12 tone technique made famous by Schoenberg. The theme appears in the first six measures and consists of six different tones:

The next six measures, beginning at \( A \) are the first variation. Here the theme appears in its retrograde (backward) form:

It is transposed and the six new tones all differ from the original six. Note however that the semi-tonal distances between the tones are the same backwards as they were forwards in the theme itself:

Rhythmically, the sixteenth notes in the first six measures represent all 16 possible partitions of the quarter note unit in terms of the 16th note unit.

Further variations appear at \( B \), \( C \), \( D \) and \( E \). Note: Accidental affect only those notes which they immediately precede.

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PIANO