

Theme and Variations

Below are some examples of ways in which a theme can be varied:

THEME: 'The Green Grass' (trad.)

G C E C D E D A F G E F A G F

E G F G A B C G E C C D E D C A F

G E E F A F E G F G A B C

Add Passing Notes

Make sure that every note on the first beat of the bar is the same as the corresponding bar in the original theme.

G C B C D E C D E D C B A C F A G E G

F G A G A F E F G E F A G A B G C

Change Metre: Play the theme in 4/4 instead of 3/4.

G C E C D E D C A F

G E E F A F E G F G A B C

Change Rhythm
Use a dotted rhythm

G C CE C D ED C CA F G E

F FA G F E EG F G GA B C

Remove Notes

Use notes only on selected beats, so that you have the 'bare bones' of the original theme.

F F E F G B C

Use a Syncopated Rhythm

Change Key

Play the theme in a minor key



- You can combine some of these ideas, as shown in the example below. Passing notes have been used, but some notes of the melody have been removed, leaving the bare bones of the structure.

