Athanasios Zlikas

Recursion

on a theme by K. Tsougras

York, 2012
Composer's note

I am often inclined to give titles that describe my compositions in a self-referential manner. “Melting clocks”, “Reflections”, “Permutations”, for example, refer to what actually happens in those works at a deeper level of construction. Thus, “Recursion” for Solo Piano attempts a personal approach to the traditional theme and variation form, with the concept of the title defining the form of the work. The choice of the theme itself obeys this principle. It is a miniature of 8 measures (mm. 1-8) by the Greek composer Kostas Tsougras, which, besides the fact that it is used as a theme for variations by himself, is also an allusion to Anton Webern's Concerto for Nine Instruments, Op. 24, since it is based on the free use of the tone row of the work. In other words, I refer to a composer who refers to another composer by writing variations on a theme that is itself a kind of variation. Furthermore, at an even deeper level of recursion the fourth variation of the work contains variations of the three last ones as well as of the theme.
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THEMA

non nervoso \( \cdot = 67 \) poco rit.

A Tempo

INVENTION I
CRAB CANON