IMAGES AND VARIATIONS
A Musical Slide Show on the First 75 Years of the AAVSO

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Abstract

A musical slide show arranged and composed by Gerald P. Dyck was performed at the AAVSO's 75th Anniversary Banquet. The performers were Glenn Chaple, Douglas Danskin, Keith Danskin, Sylvia Danskin, Gerald Dyck, Richard Lynch, Helga Magrath, Elizabeth Waagen, and Theodore Wales.

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"Images & Variations" was produced especially for the AAVSO 75th Anniversary Banquet and was intended to display the beauty of the Universe, the important role of amateur observers, the international character of our organization, and the cyclical nature of the many stars we observe.

Here follows a brief summary of the nine sections of the presentation:

Part  Music                                Slides
1. J. S. Bach: "The Duteous Day Now Closeth" (recorders and singers) A slow-motion sunset sequence

   The duteous day now closeth,
   Each flower and tree reposeth,
   Shade creeps o'er wild and wood.
   Let us as night is falling
   On God, our Maker, calling,
   Give thanks to Him, the Giver good.

   Now all the heavenly splendor
   Breaks forth in starlight tender
   From myriad worlds unknown.
   And Man, the marvel seeing,
   Forgets his selfish being
   For joy of beauty not his own.

   (translated by Catherine Winkworth)

2. "Night Medley" (Chinese hammered dulcimer) A panorama of celestial objects

   A medley of night songs gathered in southeast Asia.

3. "Cycles" (xylophone and gong ensemble) A gallery of AAVSO observers and their instruments

   A multi-layered piece based on a scatter curve of a Mira star.

4. "Laotian Nocturne" (recorder and xylophone) Vignettes of five observers gathering data

   Variations on a Laotian night song with xylophone background based on light curve of an RV Tauri star.
5. "7....5....Twinkle"
   (African Kalimba, hand clapping, & percussion)

6. "Z Cam Variations"
   (recorder and guitar)
   A computer-generated light curve transposed onto a musical staff

7. "Golden Rays"
   (xylophone and gong ensemble)
   The light curve of SS Cygni set in Javanese gamelan style.

8. "Night Medley"
   (Chinese hammered dulcimer)
   A reprise of part 2.

9. J. S. Bach: "How Brightly Shines the Morning Star"
    (recorders and singers)
    How brightly shines the Morning Star
    With radiance beaming from afar,
    Its glory now is gleaming.
    The firmament in bright array
    Fortells the dawning of the day;
    Its splendor now is streaming.
    Daystar rising!
    We behold thy face unfold
    With inward pleasure!
    Then return to toil and leisure.

    (words by G. P. Dyck)