

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

GERALD P. DYCK
418 High Hill Road
N. Dartmouth, MA 02747

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:

<u>Part</u>	<u>Music</u>	<u>Slides</u>
1.	J. S. Bach: "The Duteous Day Now Closeth" (recorders and singers) The duteous day now closeth, Each flower and tree reposeseth, 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)	A slow-motion sunset sequence
2.	"Night Medley" (Chinese hammered dulcimer) A medley of night songs gathered in southeast Asia.	A panorama of celestial objects
3.	"Cycles" (xylophone and gong ensemble) A multi-layered piece based on a scatter curve of a Mira star.	A gallery of AAVSO observers and their instruments
4.	"Laotian Nocturne" (recorder and xylophone) Variations on a Laotian night song with xylophone background based on light curve of an RV Tauri star.	Vignettes of five observers gathering data

5. "7....5....Twinkle"
(African Kalimba, hand clapping, & percussion) Former Headquarters and A Busy Day at Birch Street
6. "Z Cam Variations"
(recorder and guitar) Data processing and publication at AAVSO Headquarters
A computer-generated light curve transposed onto a musical staff
7. "Golden Rays"
(xylophone and gong ensemble) Tributes to founders and group pictures of past meetings
The light curve of SS Cygni set in Javanese gamelan style.
8. "Night Medley"
(Chinese hammered dulcimer) Panorama of celestial objects
A reprise of part 2.
9. J. S. Bach: "How Brightly Shines the Morning Star"
(recorders and singers) A slow-motion sunrise sequence
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)