Skills/Learning Goals:  
- Understanding how variation techniques can change the character traits of musical themes  
- Creating complete variations using the same techniques as Benjamin Britten

Big Idea:  
Through variation, a single musical theme can take on very different character traits.

Preparing for the Game:  
Assure that computers have strong internet connections and good sound quality. Try the game yourself ahead of time, so that you can help guide students. The Variation Playground is designed to be intuitive, but specific instructions are always available by clicking the (?) button at the top of the screen, and then the (…) icon to the right.

How to Use this Video:  
Students may play the game individually, in pairs, or in small groups at their desks or in a computer lab. Or, a whole class can play in front of a large monitor: call on individual students to complete specific tasks as you build up a group composition. Listen to the work in progress at frequent intervals, using the playback controls. Discuss outcomes and how to refine the intended character traits. You can begin a new variation by clicking the (+) sign in the tray at the bottom of the screen, and then choosing the desired instrument at the top of the screen. An almost infinite number of outcomes are possible in this Variation Playground.

When a session is complete, it can be shared with anyone via a unique URL, by clicking the 📣 button at the top of the screen. In order to protect children’s privacy, links should be shared only with trusted family and friends, or else anonymously.