Eighth Note Publications

Allegro from Water Music Suite #3

George Frederic Handel

Arranged by Tom Wade-West

Georg Frederick Handel (1685-1759) composed the Water Music in 1717, for a royal barge trip on the River Thames. The occasion, a "party on the water", presented by King George I, was a grand success, and the orchestra was asked, according to reports of the day, to play some parts of the work over again on the way back down the river from Chelsea to Whitehall.

The entire piece is made up of three sections: F major, with horns added to the orchestra; G major, with the use of a flute; and D major. The Allegro is from this third section (the part that the King reportedly asked to have repeated), and features prominent parts for horns and trumpets.

This arrangement give the hornist the chance to play both horn parts. The piano takes on some hornistic passages, too, as well as those of the orchestra. The aim, in this setting, is to make the piano and horn equal, and not to have the piano playing an "accompaniment" role.

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ISBN: 9781554720446 CATALOG NUMBER: SH982 COST: \$6.00 DURATION: 1:55 DIFFICULTY RATING: Medium F Horn and Keyboard

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ISBN 978-1-55472-044-6

Exclusively distributed in the United States by:



