
Eighth Note Publications

Wachet Auf Cantata 140

Johann Sebastian Bach
Arranged by David Marlatt

THE WORK: Wachet Auf, ruft uns die Stimme is a section from J.S. Bach's (1685-1750) Cantata No. 140. Heralded as one of Bach's finest cantatas, it was written for the 27th Sunday after Trinity. What is interesting about this time is that this Sunday does not exist unless Easter is very early. Therefore, this happened only twice during Bach's years in Leipzig. The libretto is based of a hymn by Philipp Nicolai (1599) and due to the nature of the writing, this work is considered a chorale cantata.

Bach wrote many cantatas but none have maintained the popularity of this excerpt from No. 140. This is most likely due to the elegant, flowing nature of the writing that is so distinctly Bach.

THE ARRANGEMENT: The ideal instrumentation for this arrangement is 4 b-flat trumpets and 2 b-flat flugelhorns. The colour difference between the trumpets and flugelhorns will make this piece more pleasing to the ear and more varied in colour and timbre. If flugelhorns are not available, perhaps cornets could be used.

The dynamic is marked fairly soft until near the end so players should strive for playing the uppermost lines effortlessly without increasing dynamic. Also the matching of articulations, trills and other musical nuances is crucial since there is quite a bit of unison and octave writing.

PREVIEW ONLY

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DIFFICULTY RATING: Medium-Difficult
6 Trumpets

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Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme

from Cantata 140

J.S. Bach
(1685-1750)
Arranged by D. Marlatt

Moderato

Trumpet 1

Trumpet 2

Trumpet 3

Trumpet 4

Trumpet 5 (opt Flugelhorn) *mp*

Trumpet 6 (opt Flugelhorn) *mp*

This system contains the first five measures of the score. Trumpets 1-4 are silent. Trumpet 5 plays a melodic line starting with a half note G4, followed by eighth notes. Trumpet 6 plays a rhythmic accompaniment of quarter notes.

5

1

2

3

4

5 *mf*

6 *mf*

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This system contains measures 6-10. Trumpets 1-4 remain silent. Trumpet 5 continues its melodic line. Trumpet 6 continues its accompaniment. A large 'PREVIEW ONLY' watermark is overlaid across the staves.

10

1

2 *tr* *mp* cup mute

3 *tr* *mp* cup mute

4 *tr* *mp*

5 *tr* *mp*

6

This system contains measures 11-15. Trumpets 1-4 are silent. Trumpets 2, 3, and 4 play a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with trills (*tr*) and are marked *mp*. Trumpet 5 continues its melodic line. Trumpet 6 continues its accompaniment. The instruction 'cup mute' is written above staves 2 and 3.

15

Musical score for measures 15-19. The score is written for six staves (1-6) in a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The music features a complex rhythmic pattern with eighth and sixteenth notes, often beamed together. The first staff (1) has the most active melody, while the other staves provide harmonic support with various rhythmic patterns and rests.

20

Musical score for measures 20-24. The score continues with the same six-staff arrangement. A large, semi-transparent watermark reading "PREVIEW ONLY" is overlaid across the center of the page. Dynamic markings include a piano (*p*) marking in measure 21 and another in measure 24. The musical notation includes various note values, rests, and articulation marks.

25

Musical score for measures 25-29. The score continues with the same six-staff arrangement. Dynamic markings include a mezzo-piano (*mp*) marking in measure 26 and another in measure 28. The musical notation includes various note values, rests, and articulation marks.

30

1

2

3

4

5

6

open

open

p

p

p

mp

35

1

2

3

4

5

6

mp

mp

mp

mp

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40

1

2

3

4

5

6

mf

mf

mf

45

Musical score for measures 45-49, featuring six staves. The music is in a key with two flats and a common time signature. Measures 45-46 are mostly rests. From measure 47, the music begins with a forte (*f*) dynamic. Trills (*tr*) are present in measures 48 and 49. The score includes various rhythmic patterns and articulation marks.

50

Musical score for measures 50-53, featuring six staves. The music continues with a *cresc. poco a poco* (crescendo poco a poco) instruction. A large, semi-transparent watermark reading "PREVIEW ONLY" is overlaid across the center of the page, spanning from measure 48 to measure 53.

54

Musical score for measures 54-56, featuring six staves. The music is marked *molto rit.* (molto ritardando) and *ff* (fortissimo). Trills (*tr.*) are present in measure 55. The score concludes with a double bar line and repeat signs at the end of each staff.

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