
Eighth Note Publications

Wachet Auf Cantata 140

Johann Sebastian Bach
Arranged by David Marlatt

Wachet Auf 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 as this excerpt from No. 140. This is most likely due to the elegant, flowing nature of the writing that is so distinctly Bach.

This arrangement manages to present all the musical material without the use of the piccolo trumpet as found in several other editions. It is scored for two trumpets (or flugelhorns) horn, trombone and tuba. Blend is crucial so flugels would help to ease the brilliance of the trumpets. Matching of articulations and dynamics will bring the whole piece to life. There is quite a bit of unison and octave writing and balance should always be a consideration.

PREVIEW ONLY

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DIFFICULTY RATING: Medium
Brass Quintet

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Wachet Auf

J.S. Bach
(1685-1750)

Transcribed by D. Marlatt

B♭ Cornet 1 *mp*

B♭ Cornet 2

F Horn

Trombone

Tuba *mp*

5

6

7

8 *mf*

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9

10

11 *tr*

mf

12 *tr* 13 14 15

16 17 18 19

0 1 2 3

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24 25 26 27

28 29 30 31

Musical score for measures 28-31. The score is in 3/4 time with a key signature of two flats. Measures 28-29 feature trills (tr) in the upper staves. Measure 29 has a piano (p) dynamic. Measure 31 has a mezzo-piano (mp) dynamic. The bass line consists of quarter notes.

32 33 34 35

Musical score for measures 32-35. Measures 32-33 feature a mezzo-piano (mp) dynamic. Measure 34 has a mezzo-piano (mp) dynamic. The upper staves have more complex rhythmic patterns, while the bass line continues with quarter notes.

6 3 8 9

Musical score for measures 36-39. Measures 36-37 feature a mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic. Measure 39 has a mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic. The upper staves show more complex rhythmic patterns, while the bass line continues with quarter notes.

40 41 42 43

Musical score for measures 40-43. Measures 40-41 feature a mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic. Measure 42 has a piano (p) dynamic. Measure 43 has a forte (f) dynamic. The upper staves feature trills (tr) in measure 42. The bass line continues with quarter notes.

44 45 46

Musical score for measures 44-46. The score is in 3/4 time with a key signature of two flats. Measure 44 shows a melodic line in the first staff and a bass line in the fourth staff. Measure 45 features a dynamic marking of *f* in the second staff. Measure 46 continues the melodic and bass lines.

47 48 49

Musical score for measures 47-49. Measures 47 and 48 include a *cresc.* marking in the first, second, and third staves. Measure 49 shows a melodic line in the first staff and a bass line in the fourth staff.

50 51 52

Musical score for measures 50-52. Measures 50 and 51 include a *cresc.* marking in the first staff. Measures 51 and 52 include *ff* and *rit.* markings in the first, second, and third staves. Measure 52 shows a melodic line in the first staff and a bass line in the fourth staff.

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A musical score consisting of five staves. The top three staves are in treble clef, and the bottom two are in bass clef. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat). Each staff contains a single horizontal line with a small black square, representing a whole rest.

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