

All My Heart This Night Rejoices

For unto us a child is born. Isaiah 9:6

Johann Georg Ebeling (1637-76) composed this hymntune. The text comes from the great German hymn writer Paul Gerhardt (1607-76). We know it in the translation by Catherine Winkworth (1829-78):

All my heart this night rejoices as I hear, far and near, sweetest angel voices; "Christ is born," their choirs are singing, till the air everywhere now with joy is ringing.

It appears, at first, that Walther uses only the first half of the tune for his chorale prelude, running it through two times with only a few variations. What might seem to be a redundancy merely focuses on certain charming elements of the tune, such as the melodic sequence in ms. 3-4 and ms. 10-11. To avoid too much clutter in the musical text, the LH is assumed to be detached, except when under a slur, and the RH is to be connected at all times.

Johann Gottfried Walther
Edited by William Phemister

(♩ = 58)

1 1 32

4 2 3

5 1 12 4 1 2 3 1 5

3

1 3

3 1 2 3 1 3

Old French Carol

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. Matthew 1:18

The origins of this tune and the nature of its text are obscure. It does, however, bear witness to the character of the French Noël, which is like a simple folk song with a lilting rhythmic pulse. The piece consists of two verses, the second being a more elaborate setting of the first. Take note of the higher register of the 1st verse, so that the "cello" register of the 2nd may be allowed to blossom. Also mark the subtle changes in the tenor/alto line in the 2nd phrase of the 1st verse (ms. 5-7). The tempo changes need to be carefully exaggerated, because their effect is powerful. Normally, the repeated C's in ms. 24-27 would be softly played, but a stronger emphasis is needed here, so bring them out.

César Franck

Edited by William Phemister

Andantino (♩. = 66)

The musical score is presented in three systems, each with a grand staff (treble and bass clefs).
 System 1 (measures 1-4): Treble clef has a melodic line with notes G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. Bass clef has a bass line with notes G2, F2, E2, D2, C2, B1, A1. Dynamics: *p semplice*.
 System 2 (measures 5-8): Treble clef has a more complex melodic line with notes G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. Bass clef has a bass line with notes G2, F2, E2, D2, C2, B1, A1. Dynamics: *cresc.*.
 System 3 (measures 9-12): Treble clef has a melodic line with notes G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. Bass clef has a bass line with notes G2, F2, E2, D2, C2, B1, A1. Dynamics: *pp rall.* and *a tempo* at the end.