

St John Passion (Passio Secundum Johannem, BWV 245): A Masterpiece of Baroque Music

Johann Sebastian Bach's St John Passion (Passio Secundum Johannem, BWV 245) is a monumental work of Baroque music that stands as a testament to the composer's unparalleled genius. Composed in 1724, this oratorio captivatingly narrates the events of Christ's crucifixion, combining profound beauty and emotional depth to create a powerful and moving musical experience.

Historical Context

The St John Passion was written during a period of intense religious fervor in Lutheran Germany. Bach's setting of the Passion text reflects the deep faith and spirituality of the time, with the composer using music to convey the emotional and spiritual journey of Christ's followers.



St. John Passion (Passio Secundum Johannem), BWV 245: For Solo, SATB or SSAATTBB Chorus/Choir and Orchestra with German and English Text (Choral Score) (Kalmus Edition) by Shayna L. Maskell

★★★★★ 5 out of 5
Language : English
File size : 42993 KB
Screen Reader: Supported
Print length : 160 pages
Paperback : 30 pages
Item Weight : 3.36 ounces
Dimensions : 8.5 x 0.07 x 11 inches



The work was first performed in Leipzig on Good Friday, April 7, 1724, at the St. Thomas Church. It was a resounding success and quickly became one of Bach's most beloved compositions.

Musical Structure

The St John Passion is a large-scale work, lasting approximately three hours. It is scored for a large orchestra, chorus, and vocal soloists. The work is divided into two parts, each corresponding to one of the two days of the Passion story.

The first part opens with a dramatic chorus, "Herr, unser Herrscher" (Lord, our Ruler), which sets the stage for the events to come. The chorus is followed by a series of recitatives and arias that explore the emotions and experiences of the disciples as they witness Christ's arrest and trial.

The second part begins with the moving chorus, "Erbarme dich, mein Gott" (Have mercy on me, my God). This is followed by a series of choruses, recitatives, and arias that depict the crucifixion and death of Christ. The work concludes with the poignant chorus, "Ruhet wohl" (Rest well), which offers a message of hope and comfort in the face of death.

Musical Highlights

The St John Passion is filled with numerous musical highlights, including:

* The opening chorus, "Herr, unser Herrscher," is a powerful and majestic statement of faith. * The tenor aria, "Erbarme dich, mein Gott," is one of

Bach's most beautiful and moving compositions. * The bass aria, "Betrachte, meine Seel" (Consider, my soul), is a profound meditation on the suffering of Christ. * The chorale, "O Mensch, bewein' dein' Sünde groß" (O man, bewail your grievous sin), is a powerful reminder of the consequences of sin. * The concluding chorus, "Ruhet wohl," is a beautiful and serene expression of hope and comfort.

Influence and Legacy

The St John Passion has had a profound influence on the development of Western music. It is considered one of the greatest works of the Baroque period and has served as a model for later composers who have set the Passion text to music.

The work has also been highly praised for its dramatic pacing, emotional depth, and extraordinary musical beauty. It is a cornerstone of the choral repertoire and continues to be performed and recorded by choirs around the world.

Johann Sebastian Bach's St John Passion is a masterpiece of Baroque music that continues to inspire and move audiences to this day. Its profound beauty, emotional depth, and musical brilliance make it a work that is both timeless and universal.

Whether you are a seasoned music lover or a newcomer to classical music, the St John Passion is an essential listening experience. It is a work that will stay with you long after the final notes have faded away.

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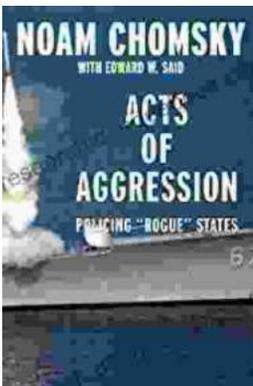
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