

The Canadian Brass Series
JOHANNES BRAHMS
OPUS 122
ELEVEN CHORALE PRELUDES

Brahms composed the *Eleven Chorale Preludes* for Organ, Op. 122, during the last year of his life. Probably written in memory of Clara Schumann, they are his musical testament.

Biographer Walter Niemann described the pieces as “a retrospect and an epilogue, a salutation to youth and its ideals, and a farewell to this world which is, after all, so fair.”

From the stern and powerful opening piece, to the exquisite *Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen*, to the double echos of the final chorale, there are wonderful varieties of mood infused with a somber quality common to Brahms' later works.

Profound meditations on life and death, the *Preludes* can be considered the quintessence of his art.

In memory of my father

Ralph Sauer
Los Angeles, California

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No. 1-Mein Jesu, der du mich

Transcribed by
Ralph Sauer

Moderato

Trumpet I in C

Trumpet II in C

Horn in F

Trombone

Tuba

4

mf dolce

mf dolce

mf

mf dolce

dolce

mf

2

7

First system of musical notation, measures 7-10. The score is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It features five staves: two treble clefs and three bass clefs. The music includes various rhythmic patterns, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests. Dynamic markings include *più f* (more forte) in measures 8 and 9, and *f* (forte) in measure 10.

11

Second system of musical notation, measures 11-14. The score continues with five staves. Measure 11 has a *più f* marking. Measure 14 ends with a *f* (forte) marking. A large diagonal watermark "www.hickeys.com" is visible across the system.

15

Third system of musical notation, measures 15-18. The score continues with five staves. Measures 15, 16, and 17 have *dim.* (diminuendo) markings. Measure 18 has a *dim.* marking and a fermata. A large diagonal watermark "www.hickeys.com" is visible across the system.

No. 2-Herzliebster Jesu

Adagio

2nd only

Trumpets in C

Horn in F

Trombone

Tuba

f

This block contains the first system of the musical score, measures 1 through 4. It features four staves: Trumpets in C, Horn in F, Trombone, and Tuba. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The tempo is marked 'Adagio'. The first staff is labeled '2nd only'. All instruments begin with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The music consists of sustained notes and simple melodic lines.

5

1st only

mf

This block contains the second system of the musical score, measures 5 through 8. It continues the four staves from the previous system. The first staff is labeled '1st only'. The dynamic for all instruments is marked mezzo-forte (*mf*). The musical texture remains relatively simple with sustained notes and basic melodic movement.

10

cresc.

dim.

This block contains the third system of the musical score, measures 9 through 12. It continues the four staves. Measures 9 and 10 are marked with a crescendo (*cresc.*), while measures 11 and 12 are marked with a decrescendo (*dim.*). The musical complexity increases in measures 11 and 12 with more active melodic lines and some chromaticism.

No. 5-Schmücke dich, o liebe Seele

13

Andante

1°

Trumpets in C *

p

Horn in F

mf

Trombone

p

Tuba

mf

3

2°

6

* This piece may be performed as a trio by omitting the trumpets.