

An Archive of the musical compositions by Herb Bielawa

Composition:

Five Preludes on *Lobe den Herren* – organ solo

Date: 2000

Duration: c.16:00 complete

Canon: 2:17

Meditation: 4:35

Scherzo: 3:29

Interlude: (No recording)

Toccatà: 3:28

Recording: by Sandra Soderlund

Program Note:

In *Canon* the tune appears in dotted half notes in the Pedal, quarter notes on the Great and triplets on the Swell. Chromatic alterations have been made to accommodate the demands of harmony. It should be performed in a playful manner.

In *Meditation* the tune is either in the soprano or alto voice in a lyric duet, alternating positions along the way. The left-hand chords and pedal notes are freely accompanimental. There should be stark contrast between the slurred character of the duet and the sharp jabs in the accompaniment. It should create a mysterious mood.

In *Scherzo* the tune appears in canon with its inversion. Both, however, are also surrounded by a rush of 32nd-note arpeggios. The notes of the tune also appear in the Pedal as sparsely-spaced points, making it hardly recognizable there. Keep a steady pulse.

In *Interlude* the pitches of the tune occur in their original form in the pedals and in inversion on manual I. Manual II accompanies with free counterpoint, but the hands alternate manuals occasionally. Each note in the pedal contributes not only to the tune's melody; it also defines the key center for the duration of that note. The lines and rhythm should be shaped expressively with grace.

In *Toccatà* the tune appears in two places: in the pedal where it is altered into a flashy cadenza-like scamper and several times on the manuals where it appears in tight syncopation with its own accompaniment. As the piece closes, the pedal restates the opening phrase two more times. The final one, however, instead of returning upward as it should, continues ever downward until it reaches the tonic. Surprise! Play with bravura and rhythmic drive.

The pieces were originally published by MorningStar Music.