

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring

from Cantata BWV 147

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)
arranged for harp by Josh Layne

Harp

4 3 2 1 2̇ 2 1 2̇ 2 1 2 2 1 2 3 4 2 1 3 2 1 2 3 1 2 1 2 3 2 1 4 3 2 1 2 3

5 1 4 3 2 1 2̇ 2 1 2̇ 2 1 2 2 1 2 3 4 2 1 4 1 2 3 4 1 3 1 2 1 3 2 1 2 3 4 2 1

9 1 4 3 2 1 3 2 1 2 1 2 3 4 3 2 1 2 3

14 3 2 1 2 3̇ 2̇ 2 1 3 2 1 2̇ 2 1 2̇ 2 1 2 1 2 3 4 2 1

19 3 2 1 2 3 1 2 1 2 3 2 1 4 3 2 1 2 3 1 4 3 2 1 2̇ 2 1 2̇ 2 1 2 1 2 3 4 2 1

23

4 1 2 3 4 1 3 1 2 | 1 3 2 1 2 3 4 2 1

28

1 4 3 2 1 3 2 1 2 | 1 2 3 4 3 2 1 2 3 | 3 2 1 2 3 4

33

4 3 2 1 2 3 4 3 2 | 1 2 3 4 3 2 1 2 3 | 4 3 2 1 2 3 4 3 2 | 1 2 3 4 3 2 1 2 3

F \flat F \sharp

37

1 4 3 2 1 2 2 1 2 | 2 1 2 1 2 3 4 2 1 | 3 2 1 2 3 1 2 1 2 | 3 2 1 4 3 2 1 2 3

41

1 4 3 2 1 2 2 1 2 | 2 1 2 1 2 3 4 2 1 | 4 1 2 3 4 1 3 1 2

Bach's "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring" (Jesus bleibet meine Freude) is the last movement of Bach's Cantata "Herz und Mund und Tat und Leben, BWV 147"

The start of the piece, with the constant 8th notes, is scored in the original for violin plus oboe. The sections with chords (bar 9, etc.) are sung by the choir.

In the interested of keeping lever/pedal changes to a minimum I have omitted the middle section from the original which includes various harmonic changes . If you're interested in adding this section you should be able to find the original at the International Music Score Library Project (IMSLP) online.

I did a "Harp Tuesday" video episode talking about this arrangement - find it at www.joshlayne.com/jesu You'll also find download links for the various versions of this arrangement.

Notes:

Right hand fingerings - depending on the version you downloaded you'll either have complete fingerings for the right hand (except for the chords), partial fingerings (showing the important changes with the rest implied) or no fingerings at all.

A dot above a fingering indicates to come off - after playing that note none of the fingers will be on the strings. There are long sections (multiple bars) where you continue connecting throughout - you always have at least one finger on the string.

I have not included brackets, but they are implied. Only place in one direction, etc.

For example:



Feel free to change the fingerings to suit!

I would suggest that all the left hand notes be played as open handed notes. Open octaves, of course, but also open thumb on the single notes, with an open 3 or 4 on the low G and E.

The lever harp version assumes a low C is available on the bass - on smaller harps be inventive with the left hand - perhaps taking a few notes up an octave and omitting the lower notes on the octaves.

This arrangement is release as public domain - feel free to make as many copies of it as you like!

Hope you enjoy - Josh Layne

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