

Johann Pachelbel

Chorale Partita *for Organ on*

*Was Gott tut, das ist wohlgetan*

*A Performing Edition*



*Fruhauf Music Publications*

2023

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*"Was Gott tut, das ist wohlgetan"*

**Notes**

Johann Pachelbel's Chorale Partita on "*Was Gott tut, das ist wohlgetan*" exemplifies southern German mid-Baroque keyboard variations as a genre. Pachelbel [b. 1653 in Nuremberg, d. 1706, also in Nuremberg], can be seen to have adopted and adapted to his own use idiomatic, regional and historically practiced compositional skills. The composer's timeline precedes by one generation that of Johann Sebastian Bach and the culmination of the Baroque era in musical arts. Pachelbel was a friend of the Bach family, and at one point he provided musical instruction to Johann Christoph Bach (of Ohrdruf), who subsequently tutored his younger second cousin, Johann Sebastian Bach.

Pachelbel's command of variational techniques is revealed in this partita; the overall style is more conservative than similar presentations based on secular tunes and melodies. His use of a two-stave keyboard layout is a stylistic manifestation derived from commonly practiced regional tradition, but it also hints that the chorale partitas might have been intended for generic keyboard instruments, with organ as one of various options.

This performance publication makes practical use of a three-stave organ score layout for three of the variations. It includes occasional suggestions for ad lib. ornamentation, also for the application of terraced dynamics within the phrases and repeats of each variation [see N.B., p. 9]. The tenth and concluding variation — an abbreviated chorale fantasia — is proposed as an editorial improvisation serving to round out the diverse collection; it is reminiscent of similar fantasia settings for keyboard from Pachelbel and his contemporaries, a genre later adopted by J. S. Bach.

About the experimental score layout: it has been formatted in two separate PDF files, one for the four-page cover, and the other for the pages of music. It has also been also presented in a horizontally oriented legal paper size (8 ½" x 14"), and will require a 90° rotation when printed out in hard copy.



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