

# A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Commissioned by the Senior Choir of Trinity Lutheran Church,

St. Joseph, Michigan, in commemoration of the 125th anniversary  
of the parish 1867 - 1992

A Chorale Concertato for SATB Choir, Congregation,  
Two Trumpets, Two Trombones, Timpani, and Organ

Martin Luther 1483-1546

tr. hymnal version 1978

"Ein feste Burg"

Martin Luther, 1483-1546

setting by Walter L. Pelz

# Introduction: Brass, Timpani, and Organ

Majestic, festive  $\text{♩} = c. 72-80$

Score for Introduction: Brass, Timpani, and Organ. Measures 1-5.

Instrumentation: Tpt. I & II, Tbn. I & II, Timp., Organ.

Key signature: One sharp (F#). Time signature: 4/4.

Measures 1-5: The brass and organ play a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. The timpani plays a series of notes, starting with a *mp* dynamic and increasing to *ff*. A circled number 5 is written above the fifth measure.

Score for Introduction: Brass, Timpani, and Organ. Measures 6-10.

Measures 6-10: The brass and organ continue their rhythmic pattern. The timpani plays a series of notes, starting with a *mf* dynamic and increasing to *f*. A circled number 10 is written above the tenth measure.

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2

Handwritten musical score for the first system, measures 15-19. The score is written for four staves: two vocal staves (top), a piano accompaniment (middle), and a bass line (bottom). The time signature is 4/4. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The tempo is marked  $\text{♩} = \text{♩}$ . The first vocal staff has the word "incisive" written above it. The dynamic marking *ff* is present. A circled number "15" is in the top right corner. The piano accompaniment features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes in the right hand and chords in the left hand.

Handwritten musical score for the second system, measures 20-24. The score is written for four staves: two vocal staves (top), a piano accompaniment (middle), and a bass line (bottom). The time signature is 7/8. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The tempo is marked  $\text{♩} = \text{♩}$ . A circled number "20" is in the top right corner. The piano accompaniment features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes in the right hand and chords in the left hand.

25

*f*

2

30

*p*

2

35

Musical notation for measures 35-36. The top staff is a vocal line with a slur over measures 35 and 36. The bottom staff is piano accompaniment.

Musical notation for measures 37-38. The top staff is a vocal line with a slur over measures 37 and 38. The bottom staff is piano accompaniment.

Musical notation for measures 39-40. The top staff is a vocal line with a slur over measures 39 and 40. The bottom staff is piano accompaniment.

Musical notation for measures 41-42. The top staff is a vocal line with a slur over measures 41 and 42. The bottom staff is piano accompaniment.

40

Musical notation for measures 43-44. The top staff is a vocal line with a slur over measures 43 and 44. The bottom staff is piano accompaniment.

Musical notation for measures 45-46. The top staff is a vocal line with a slur over measures 45 and 46. The bottom staff is piano accompaniment.

Musical notation for measures 47-48. The top staff is a vocal line with a slur over measures 47 and 48. The bottom staff is piano accompaniment.

Musical notation for measures 49-50. The top staff is a vocal line with a slur over measures 49 and 50. The bottom staff is piano accompaniment.

45

Violin I  
Violin II  
Viola  
Cello/Double Bass

Right Hand  
Left Hand  
Lower Bass

*pizz*

50

Violin I  
Violin II  
Viola  
Cello/Double Bass

Right Hand  
Left Hand  
Lower Bass

*ff*

*cresc.*

*rit.*

# Stanza 1: Congregation, Brass, Timpani, and Organ

55

(♩ = 72)

Musical notation for measures 55-58, top two staves. The music is in 4/4 time and begins with a forte (f) dynamic. The upper staff contains a melody with eighth and quarter notes, while the lower staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with similar rhythmic values.

Musical notation for measure 59, bottom staff. It features a bass line with eighth notes and rests, starting with a forte (f) dynamic.

Musical notation for measure 60, top staff. It contains a vocal line with quarter and eighth notes, starting with a forte (f) dynamic.

1. A might-y for-tress is our God, A sword and shield vic-to-ri-ous;

Musical notation for measures 60-63, piano accompaniment. It consists of two staves (treble and bass clef) with chords and moving lines, starting with a forte (f) dynamic and a 'Ped.' (pedal) marking.

60

Musical notation for measures 64-67, top two staves. The music continues with a melody in the upper staff and accompaniment in the lower staff, featuring various note values and rests.

Musical notation for measure 68, bottom staff. It features a bass line with eighth notes and rests.

Musical notation for measure 69, top staff. It contains a vocal line with quarter and eighth notes.

He breaks the cruel op-pres-sor's rod And wins gal-va-tion glo-ri-ous.

Musical notation for measures 69-72, piano accompaniment. It consists of two staves (treble and bass clef) with chords and moving lines.

65

The old sa-tan-ic foe Has sworn to work us woe! With craft and

dread-ful might He arms him-self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.



# Stanza 2: Choir and Brass

(d = c / 12)

80

Tpt. I II  
 S. A.  
 2. No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re-ject ed.

85 90

Tbn. I II  
 T. B.  
 But now a cham-pion comes to fight, Whom God him-self e-lect

95 100

Tpt. I II  
 Tbn. I II  
 S. A.  
 T. B.  
 Ask who this may be: Lord of hosts is he! Je-sus Christ, our ed.

105

Poco rit.  
 Lord, God's on-ly Son, a-dored. He holds the field vic-to-ri-ous.  
 Poco rit.

\* Maintain proper balance between voices and instruments

# Stanza 3: Organ

Aggressive, agitated  $\text{♩} = c. 120$

110

Gt. *ff*

3. Though hordes of dev-ils fill the land freely All

115

120

threat'ning to de-vour us, *poco rit.*

125

Piuf

Ponderous  $\text{♩} = c. 72$

We trem-ble not, un-moved we stand; They can-not o-ver-pow'r us. *subito P*

130

Lugubrious, somber  $\text{♩} = c. 60$

Sw.  $\text{♩}$  (8' fl., 4' fl., 2 2/3')

simile

135

\* suggested registration 10

3 3 3 3 (reduce) (reduce) (140) same as in MS 13

61 Solo Prin. 8+4  
mf Let this world's

(145)

ty-rant rage; In bat-tle we'll en-gage! His might is doomed to

mf simile

Slow J.c. 46

fail; God's judg-ment must pre-vail!

rit. mf

(150) Tranquil J.c. 86 (155)

molto crescendo ff Long sw. pp ppp

One lit-tle word sub-dues him.

\*If the Keyboard has less than 61 Keys, play this phrase on the softest 4' stop an octave lower

Stanza 4: Congregation, Brass, Timpani, Choir Descant and Organ

Maestoso  $\text{♩} = c. 72$

160

Tpt. I & II *ff*  
 Tbn. I & II *ff*  
 Timb *ff*  
 Descant *ff*  
 Congregation *ff*  
 Organ *ff*  
 Ped.

4. God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, No thanks to foes, who fear it;

4. God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, No thanks to foes, who fear it;

165

well accented

For God him - self fights by our side With wea - pons of the Spir - it.

For God him - self fights by our side With wea - pons of the Spir - it.

170

Were they to take our house, Goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, Though life be

Were they to take our house, Goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, Though life be

175

wrenched a-way, They can-not win the day, The King-dom's ours for-ev - er!

wrenched a - way, They can-not win the day, The King-dom's ours for-ev - er!