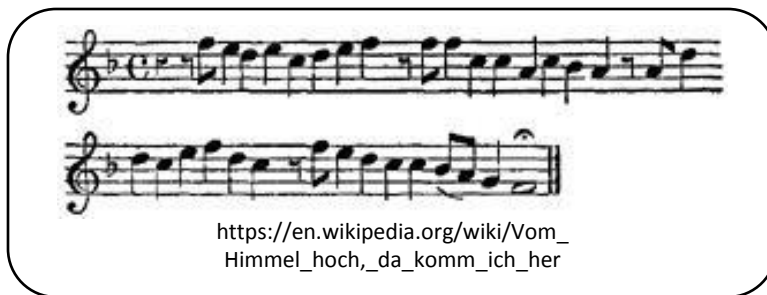




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Prelude *and* Fugue on Vom Himmel Hoch

A traditional fifteen verse Christmas text *by* Martin Luther

Above: One *of* three tunes applied *to and/or* written *for* Luther's text

Notes

A **Triptych of Martin Luther Hymns** presents three extended settings written for four-octave carillon (or larger). All three texts are ascribed to Luther, as are two of the three hymn tunes. One of the first publications of Luther's 15-verse text for *Vom Himmel Hoch* (1535) was paired with the melody of a popular song of the day, "*Ich kumm aus frembden Landen her.*" Four years later, the text was paired with a new tune that is ascribed to Luther. His original hymn tunes display many traits of a compositional school and tradition that favored use of Christian church modes. Also of note, his compositions frequently include infusions of isorhythmic motifs applied within consecutive phrases of a hymn tune that provide a unique rhythmic impetus, while creating a sense of melodic unification by means of repetition. This latter trait is readily apparent in the tune composed for *Ein Feste Burg*.

Prelude and Fugue on *Vom Himmel Hoch* begins with a slow moving and introspective presentation of the hymn melody in lower bells, accompanied by a progression of *quasi faux bourdon* chords in treble range. The fugue — more accurately a loosely imitative *fugato* or *ricercar* — features phrase-by-phrase thematic points of imitation in treble bells, with each miniature exposition followed by a *cantus firmus* statement of the corresponding chorale phrase in lower bells; the final phrase is repeated in slow moving and richly arpeggiated chords.

N.B. from the publisher: Although expressly written for cast bell carillons, this setting will sound out effectively on a variety of keyboard and/or plucked string instruments. The setting bears an *In memoriam* honoring an uncle and namesake whom I never met. The collection of three Luther hymn tune settings bears three honorary inscriptions to friends and colleagues past and present (see the closing page for a detailed listing).



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In memory of
Ennis Frederick Bramley
Flight Sergeant, RCAF
[1911-1942]

Preludę and Fugę on Vom Himmel Hoch

I. Prelude

Traditional Christmas Hymn Text by **Martin Luther** (1483-1546)

Setting for Carillon
Ennis Fruhauf

Tune attributed to **Martin Luther**

Largo con moto [♩ = c. 54]

Musical score for the first system (measures 1-4). The piece is in 4/4 time. The right hand features a melody of chords and eighth notes, while the left hand provides a steady bass line. Dynamics include *mp*, *più f*, *mp*, *poco f*, and *mf*. A performance instruction ** [non-arpeggiando, play 3rds with l.h. or r.h.]* is present.

** [non-arpeggiando, play 3rds with l.h. or r.h.]*

Musical score for the second system (measures 5-8). The right hand continues with a melodic line, and the left hand has a bass line with some rests. Dynamics include *poco ritardando*, *mp*, *a tempo*, *mp*, *sim.*, *f*, *Ped. quasi marcato*, and *f*.

Musical score for the third system (measures 9-12). The right hand features a melodic line with some grace notes, and the left hand has a bass line. Dynamics include *poco f*, *poco f*, *f*, and *f*.

Musical score for the fourth system (measures 13-16). The right hand has a melodic line with some grace notes, and the left hand has a bass line. Dynamics include *allargando*, *mp*, *largamente*, *poco f*, *sf*, *allargando poco a poco*, *mp*, and *mp*. Pedal instructions include *Ped. sempre quasi marcato* and *mp*.

Ped. sempre quasi marcato

mp [c]

Prelude and Fugue on Vom Himmel Hoch ~ for Carillon

II. Fugue

Largo animato [♩. = c. 60]

16 *poco f*

mf

mp

20 *mp*

poco f

f Ped. *quasi marcato*

23 *mp*

poco f

mp

mf

26 *poco f*

mf

f

Prelude and Fugue on Vom Himmel Hoch ~ for Carillon

29

mf
mf
mp
mf

2 2

Detailed description: This system contains measures 29, 30, and 31. Measure 29 features a treble clef with a melodic line of eighth notes and a bass clef with a simple accompaniment. Measure 30 shows a change to a 6/8 time signature and the introduction of a second melodic line in the treble. Measure 31 continues with both lines, featuring dynamic markings of *mf* and *mp*. Fingerings of 2 and 2 are indicated in the bass clef.

32

mp
poco f
f

2 2 2 2

Detailed description: This system contains measures 32, 33, and 34. Measure 32 has a treble clef with a melodic line and a bass clef with a simple accompaniment. Measure 33 shows a change to a 6/8 time signature and the introduction of a second melodic line in the treble. Measure 34 continues with both lines, featuring dynamic markings of *mp*, *poco f*, and *f*. Fingerings of 2, 2, 2, and 2 are indicated in the bass clef.

35

mp
più f
mf
mf

2 2

Detailed description: This system contains measures 35, 36, and 37. Measure 35 has a treble clef with a melodic line and a bass clef with a simple accompaniment. Measure 36 shows a change to a 6/8 time signature and the introduction of a second melodic line in the treble. Measure 37 continues with both lines, featuring dynamic markings of *mp*, *più f*, and *mf*. Fingerings of 2 and 2 are indicated in the bass clef.

38

mp
fz
mp
mf

mp

Detailed description: This system contains measures 38, 39, and 40. Measure 38 has a treble clef with a melodic line and a bass clef with a simple accompaniment. Measure 39 shows a change to a 6/8 time signature and the introduction of a second melodic line in the treble. Measure 40 continues with both lines, featuring dynamic markings of *mp*, *fz*, *mp*, and *mf*. A *mp* marking is also present in the bass clef.

Prelude and Fugue on Vom Himmel Hoch ~ for Carillon

41 *8ve b. ad lib.* *poco f* *poco ritard.*

mp *f*

44 *allargando* *poco accel.* *meno f* *a tempo*

mp *poco f*

allargando molto [♩] **Largo** [$\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 44$] *poco f*

sf *mp* *f* *sf* *mp* *f*

allargando *fz* *poco ritardando* *più f* *p*

mp *poco f* *p*

A Triptych of Martin Luther Hymns

Settings for Carillon

Three Hymn Tunes written by or ascribed to Martin Luther (1483-1546)

~ for ~

Bruce and Hanna Clements

Dennis and Susan Curry

David and Lauri Herman

Prelude and Fugue on

Vom Himmel Hoch

("From Heaven Above")

Hymn Text by Luther

Tune from *Kirche Gesang*

attr. to Luther

Three Verses on

Aus Tiefer Not

("Out of the Depths")

Hymn Text by Luther

Tune from *Geystliche Gesangk Buchleyn*

attr. to Luther

Three Variations on

Ein Feste Burg

("A Mighty Fortress")

Hymn Text by Luther

Isometric Tune from *Kirche Gesang*

attr. to Luther



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vom_Himmel_hoch,_da_komm_ich_her

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