

"Jesu, Joy Of Man's Desiring"

...From the last movement of the cantata BWV 147 by Johann Sebastian Bach...

Here's a holiday favorite from 1723 or so by the ever prolific and enthralling Johann Sebastian Bach. I've included a couple of themes. First, there is the upper voice of the primary theme played then as a single line on our basses. At measures 9 – 15 or the second theme, I've added a lower voice to fill out some of the implied harmony. It's colored in red and the stemming is down.

This piece is intermediate to advanced in difficulty. For the left hand, the main theme is quick but mostly positional. The second theme, although not quite as busy, will require some focus regarding sustain as the harmony has been filled out. For the right hand, technically, you'll need a bit of skill with rakes for the double stops as well. The arrangement is designed for rest strokes with the index and middle fingers of the right hand.

"JESU, JOY OF MAN'S DESIRING"

...MAIN THEME FROM THE CANTATA, BWV 147...

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685 - 1750)

BPM = 82 (♩)

First system of guitar notation. It consists of a bass clef staff with a 9/8 time signature and a guitar-specific staff with strings labeled T, A, B. The guitar staff contains fret numbers for the right hand and string numbers for the left hand. The right hand part starts with a 2 on the 3rd string, followed by a sequence of notes: 0, 2, 0, 3, 3, 2, 0, 0, 5, 4, 5, 0, 2, 0, 2. The left hand part starts with a 7 on the 3rd string, followed by 3, 0, 2, 3, 3, 2, 0, 0, 5, 4, 5, 0, 2, 3, 0, 2.

Second system of guitar notation. The right hand part continues with fret numbers: 2, 0, 2, 0, 3, 2, 0, 2, 2, 1, 2, 1, 2, 1, 2, 1. The left hand part continues with string numbers: 3, 0, 2, 0, 3, 2, 0, 2, 3, 2, 3, 0, 3, 2, 0, 0.

Third system of guitar notation. The right hand part continues with fret numbers: 1, 2, 1, 0, 2, 1, 0, 0, 5, 4, 5, 0, 1, 2, 1. The left hand part continues with string numbers: 2, 3, 0, 2, 3, 3, 2, 0, 0, 5, 4, 5, 0, 2, 3, 0, 2.

Fourth system of guitar notation. The right hand part continues with fret numbers: 4, 2, 1, 3, 2, 3, 1, 2, 1, 0, 5, 0, 1, 2, 0. The left hand part continues with string numbers: 0, 5, 3, 2, 0, 3, 3, 3, 2, 3, 2, 0, 2, 3, 2, 0.

Fifth system of guitar notation. The right hand part continues with fret numbers: 3, 3, 3, 12, 3, 3, Harm. 4. The left hand part continues with string numbers: 9, 10, 12, 12, 10, 9, (12). The system concludes with a harmonic section marked 'Harm. 4 (12)' and a final sequence of fret numbers: 8, 10, 12, 12, 10, 8, 7, 3.

