

PATRICK R WALKER

An
Wasserflüssen Babylon

*Commissioned by the Boston Chapter of the
American Guild of Organists*

*First Performed by Heinrich Christensen
23 September 2018
King's Chapel
Boston, MA*

Program Note

My new setting of the 16th century chorale tune
An Wasserflüssen Babylon elaborates upon the original
melody in ways that reflect the emotional content of Psalm 137,
the original text for this tune. In order to bring out the sadness
and despair in this text I removed all the notes from the chorale
except for those which formed descending melodic motion.
The resulting line, which cascades downward tearfully,
becomes the basis for much of the first half of the piece which
builds to an anguished climax bordering on anger.
Following a moment of quiet uncertainty the unaltered chorale
finally arrives in the pedal with comforting solidity under falling
waves of embellishing notes. Reassured by this new found
strength in the chorale the final "amen" section flows downward
gently while simultaneously rising up to heaven with the
buoyancy of a prayer.

Kindly send notification of performances to
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An Wasserflüssen Babylon

Psalm 137. Super flumina

1. By the waters of Babylon we sat down and wept, when we remembered thee, O Sion.
2. As for our harps, we hanged them up upon the trees that are therein.
3. For they that led us away captive, required of us then a song, and melody in our heaviness:
Sing us one of the songs of Sion.

PATRICK R WALKER (2018)

Slow ♩=52

Organ

Swell *pp* Strings

Solo, Warm Pr.

mf

Pedals

Soft 16'

pp legato

5

Org.

Sw.

Solo 3

Ped.

sim.

9

Org. Swell

Ped.

Solo

Measures 9-11. Organ part: Treble clef, 2/2 time. Measure 9 has a swell bracket and a triplet of eighth notes. Measure 10 has a solo bracket. Measure 11 has a solo bracket. Pedal part: Bass clef, 2/2 time. Measure 9 has a triplet of eighth notes. Measure 10 has a half note. Measure 11 has a half note.

12

Org. Sw.

Ped. sim.

Solo

Measures 12-14. Organ part: Treble clef, 2/2 time. Measure 12 has a swell bracket. Measure 13 has a solo bracket. Measure 14 has a solo bracket. Pedal part: Bass clef, 2/2 time. Measure 12 has a whole rest. Measure 13 has a whole rest. Measure 14 has a half note.

16

Org. Sw.

Ped.

Short

Measures 16-18. Organ part: Treble clef, 2/2 time. Measure 16 has a swell bracket. Measure 17 has a short bracket. Measure 18 has a short bracket. Pedal part: Bass clef, 2/2 time. Measure 16 has a half note. Measure 17 has a half note. Measure 18 has a half note.

More free, with motion

19

Org. Pos. *mp* *molto espr.*
Flutes 8' 4'

Ped.

24

Org.

Ped.

accel.

28

Org.

Ped.

Fast ♩=120

Gt. *mf* 8' 4' Pr.



32

Org.

Ped.

36

Org.

Ped.

+2' Pr.

40

Org.

Ped.

44

Org.

Ped.

48

Org.

Ped.

+8' Reeds

f

Pr 16' 8' 4'

+8' Reeds

52

Org.

Ped.

Sw. *f*

7

Slow ♩=52

Solo, Warm Pr.

Org.

Ped.

56

pp

7/8 4/4

rit. . . . Fast ♩=120

Org.

Ped.

Gt.

f

60

f

3 3 3 3 3 3

f

4/4

Org.

Ped.

64

3 3 3 3 3 3

3/2 4/4

66

Org.

Ped.

69

Org.

Ped.

72

p

Org.

Ped.

75

Org.

Ped.

78

Org.

Ped.

80

Org.

Ped.

rit.

82

Org.

Ped.

Grand ♩=80

Fast ♩=120

ff Tutti

ff +16' reeds, Gt

84

Org.

Ped.

87

Org.

Ped.

89

Org.

Ped.

92

Org.

Ped.

95

Org.

Ped.

97

Org.

Ped.

Sw.

f

103 **Freely, with motion** ♩=52

Org. Sw. [*p legato* -Reeds -Pr

Ped. Soft Fl, Str. 16' 8' Sw *p*

109 *rit.*

Org.

Ped.

112

Org. *ppp*

Ped. *ppp*