Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme

BWV 645

à 2 Clav. et Pedal, Canto Fermo in Tenore.

J.S. Bach

ARRANGED FOR GUITAR BY
David Harvey
Here’s a challenging solo arrangement, along with an accessible ensemble version, of one of Bach’s organ masterpieces. Surprisingly, apart from the transposition from E♭ to the more guitar-friendly D major, the arrangement is almost entirely faithful to the original.

A clean text is provided first, followed by a version with fingering. It’s worth spending time on the ornamentation, in particular there are three distinct ways of tackling the upper mordents:

– slurred, on a single string (indicated with a slur above the fingering indications)
– cross-string, played with individual RH fingers (indicated above the LH fingerings, which in turn are separated with ’/’)
– cross-string, played by stroking the first pair of notes with one RH finger, the second pair with a different finger (i - m - above the LH fingering). Both strokes should be played with a light *apoyando*, and with a gentle accent on the final (main) note of the ornament

The version in open score can be tackled in many ways - three guitars, or doubled in a guitar ensemble, as a duet (with a melody instrument taking either the top line or the chorale melody in the middle part) or with a mixed group (try pizzicato cello or bass for the bass line).

DH, November 2014

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J.S. Bach
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Arranged for guitar by David Harvey
(suggested fingering)
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J.S. Bach
BWV 645
Arranged for guitar by David Harvey
(trio/open score)
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