

Erbarm dich mein, o Herre Gott

For William Whitehead and the Orgelbüchlein Project

Richard Brasier

Erbarm dich mein, o Herre Gott, nach deiner
großn Barmherzigkeit. Wasch ab, mach rein mein
Missethat, ich kenn mein Sünd und ist mir leid.
Allein ich dir gesündigt hab, das ist wider mich
stetiglich; das Bös vor dir mag nicht besta[h]n,
du bleibst gerecht, ob urtheilst mich.

Manual: Regal 8', Flute 4'

Pedal: Soft flutes 16', 4'

Traurig

Manual

Pedals

6

12

18

23 **Etwas langsamer**

The musical score consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef and contains a chorale melody with a final fermata. The lower staff is in bass clef and features a split pedal line with staccato notes and a slur over a group of notes. The piece concludes with a final chord in the bass staff.

Composer note

This piece can be used as an effective organ voluntary within the context of a church service, or as a simple study in double pedalling. The chorale theme is represented in the right hand, and the split pedal implies both the heavy burden of sin, and Christ's blood dropping from the cross.

This piece is composed for organs of limited means, but those with access to organs with more advanced functions, such as a split pedalboard, might like to use 32' and 16' flutes in the bass, and a 4' flute in the treble. Organists who might be deterred by the double pedalling are encouraged to play the left hand on an alternative manual, as long as the chorale melody remains prominent.

This piece should be performed in a penitential manner, the pedal staccatos played with a clean attack, and the performer should use the acoustic properties of the building to maximum effect, particularly in a room with a larger acoustic.