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Featuring exceptional musical works for bands requiring flexible instrumentation

### Come, Sweet Death

J. S. Bach
Transcribed by Alfred Reed
Arranged by Kim Benson

C.L. BARNHOUSE COMPANY

# Build-A-Band Series

FLEXIBLE MUSICAL WORKS
FOR CHALLENGING INSTRUMENTATIONS

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### **COME, SWEET DEATH**

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#### **Build-A-Band Series Instrumentation**

1	Full Conductor Score	
4 4 2	C Instruments Part 1  Bb Instruments Part 1  Eb Instruments Part 1	Flute, Piccolo, Violin, Guitar B <sup>b</sup> Clarinet, B <sup>b</sup> Trumpet, B <sup>b</sup> Soprano Saxophone E <sup>b</sup> Alto Saxophone, E <sup>b</sup> Clarinet
3 4 2 2	C Instruments Part 2 B <sup>J</sup> Instruments Part 2 E <sup>J</sup> Instruments Part 2 F Horn Part 2	Flute, Oboe, Violin B <sup>b</sup> Clarinet, B <sup>b</sup> Trumpet E <sup>b</sup> Alto Saxophone, E <sup>b</sup> Horn F Horn
2 3 2 2 4	Viola Part 3 B <sup>J</sup> Instruments Part 3 E <sup>J</sup> Instruments Part 3 F Horn Part 3 Bass Clef Part 3	Viola  B <sup>I</sup> Tenor Saxophone, B <sup>I</sup> Baritone T.C., B <sup>I</sup> Trombone T.C., B <sup>I</sup> Bass Clarinet E <sup>I</sup> Alto Clarinet, E <sup>I</sup> Horn, E <sup>I</sup> Baritone Saxophone F Horn Trombone, Euphonium B.C., Cello, Bassoon
2	B <sup>J</sup> Instruments Part 4 E <sup>J</sup> Instruments Part 4	B <sup>b</sup> Bass Clarinet, B <sup>b</sup> Tenor Saxophone, B <sup>b</sup> Trombone T.C. E <sup>b</sup> Baritone Saxophone, E <sup>b</sup> Alto Clarinet, E <sup>b</sup> Contra Alto Clarinet

2 Tuba Part5 Tuba

Bass Clef Part 4

3 Bass Part 5 String Bass, Electric Bass Guitar, Keyboard Bass Trombone, Baritone B.C., Cello, Bassoon

Bb Bass Part 5 T.C.
 Bb Bass Clarinet, Bb Contrabass Clarinet, Bb Tuba T.C.
 Bb Bass Part 5 T.C.
 Bb Bass Clarinet, Bb Contrabass Clarinet, Bb Tuba T.C.
 Bb Bass Part 5 T.C.
 Bb Bass Clarinet, Bb Contrabass Clarinet, Bb Tuba T.C.

Trombone, Euphonium B.C., Cello, Bassoon

E<sup>▶</sup> Tuba T.C.

3 Mallet Percussion Marimba, Xylophone, Vibraphone, Bells

Timpani Timpani

2 Keyboard Piano, Electric Piano, Synthesizer, Accordion,

Organ

#### **Special Notes About Distributing Parts:**

The *Build-A-Band Series* should be approached by giving careful consideration to the distribution of parts within your group to attain the best possible blend. You should also feel free to adjust dynamic levels, and to instruct any instruments to adjust octaves at your discression. In many cases, reducing or adding to the number of players playing a part can greatly help with balance, and make for a much more musical performance. Remember, the flexiblity in scoring allows you to be creative to enhance the sound of your group.

The cymbal, snare drum and bass drum parts are all included on one part labeled **Percussion Part**, so that they may be performed by either separate players or by one player on a drum set.

The Mallet Percussion Part may be marked for the specific mallet percussion instument but it can be performed by any mallet percussion instrument, and may be doubled if you have multiple players and instruments. For best results, be creative in assigning which instruments play in the different sections of the arrangement.

The optional Timpani part is always playable with 3 timpani.

For repeated sections, in larger ensembles, consider having woodwinds play the first time and brass the second time; or have one player on each part the first time, and all players on the repeat. Another option is having one player on the 1st part as a solo, then having all players on the repeat.

In some of the arrangements which include 16th note runs you will find options to convert some of those runs into 8th notes for players of lesser abilities. This can be done with some or all of the players.

The various instrument parts are written in the octave of the most popular instrument for that part; i.e., C Instrument Part 1 parts are written in the common range for the flute. If you are playing that part on another C instrument such as the oboe, you may have to adjust to a lower octave. In many cases, parts are written in several octaves to help adjust for different instrument ranges.

All of the publications in the *Build-A-Band Series* have been arranged to be playable with any instrumentation as long as each part is used: Part 1, Part 2, Part 3, Part 4, and Bass Part 5. (Please note: In some of these arrangements Part 4 and the Bass Part are the same, making it possible to play those arrangements with only 4 parts.)

#### **About the Arranger**



Kim Benson has been an Iowa Bandmaster since 1988 and has taught in school districts both large and small, encouraging students from beginning band to college level to strive for excellence in all they do. Throughout her career, Kim has worked with respected programs in the areas of Concert, Jazz, and Marching Band. She has had a positive impact on many students and colleagues as a guest conductor, clinician, adjudicator, consultant, and mentor. Kim holds a Bachelor of

Music Education Degree from Northern State College in Aberdeen, SD. Her professional affiliations include: Iowa Bandmasters Association, National Association for Music Education, National Band Association, Jazz Educators of Iowa and Percussive Arts Society. She maintains her personal musicianship by performing with a variety of community groups. Today, Kim Benson puts her expertise gained in public education to work for the C.L. Barnhouse Company as Vice President, Editorial, and Production with an emphasis on young band, jazz, and percussion. Mrs. Benson continues to be active as a guest conductor, clinician, consultant, and mentor.

#### **Program Notes**

**Come, Sweet Death** (Komm', Susser Tod) is one of a group of 69 so-called "Sacred Songs and Airs" attributed to J.S. Bach, originally published in 1736.

For all of its apparent simplicity of musical construction (a small, two-part song form, played through twice), this music is deeply moving and of great expressiveness, culminating in an exalted singing line that perhaps signified for the deeply religious Bach the willing embrace of death as the final deliverance from earthly strife, and entrance into eternal glory. In the present realization for winds from the original figured bass, Bach's harmonic intentions have been faithfully adhered to throughout, and except for specific choices of voicings and instrumental colors, very little has been added to one of the most lyrically expressive of all Bach's many creations.

#### **Note to Conductor**

A very sustained singing legato line must be maintained in every part throughout the performance of this music...most especially in the long, sweeping melodic lines, and the final ritardando. The quality of tone must never be permitted to fall off or dwindle away, even in a long decrescendo; instead, there must be a sonorous, warm, "glowing" color in each instrument, regardless of whether it is playing the main melodic line, one of the inner parts, the bass line, or merely a single sustained tone. Also, very important in this piece is the highly melodic bass line, one of the most lyrical and moving in all of the many setting of chorale melodies that Bach has written.

A relaxed, unhurried, yet not dragging, rhythmic flow is vital to a successful performance of this singing, elegiac music, and some degree of rubato, judiciously applied, may be employed to bring out the flow of the lines and the inner harmonic richness of the lower parts. Greater clarity of rhythmic execution will be obtained by sub-dividing certain beats in several measures, and even in whole measures together (as for instance, the 4/4 bar three measures from the end, where the intricate chain of suspensions must be given time to sound clearly in the listener's ear.) Such decisions must be left to the taste and judgment of the conductor, however, depending on their own feelings about the proper interpretation of this music. (Notes written by Alfred Reed, 1976)

I hope this Build-A-Band Series edition of **Come**, **Sweet Death** is a rewarding and musical experience for your group.

Sulf-ensur\_



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