

PluralSax presents

The Valkyrie

by

Richard Wagner - 1870

arr. B.J. Tordoff

for saxophone choir



Full Score



'Ride of the Valkyries' by William T. Maud

The opening of the third act of Wagner's "Die Walküre" has become one of his best known and most played pieces. It depicts the Valkyries riding down to meet on a mountain-top ready to gather warriors fallen in battle and carry them back to Valhalle.

The 'Ride of the Valkyries' became instantly popular but Wagner forbade its performance outside of the Opera itself. His publisher, however, had other ideas and despite his objections published and sold it as a stand-alone piece. Wagner relented on his embargo once the complete 'Ring' opera cycle had been performed and it has been a staple of the orchestral repertoire ever since.

The distinctive opening features high trilling in the upper parts then the gradual arrival of the syncopated bass-line in the lower parts. The texture thickens with more layers of runs and trills before the main theme rings out in the tenor section. This is then carried into the lower parts. The first call from the Valkrie Gerhilde and the answer from Helmwiges are taken by the sopranos before we return to the main theme.

This arrangement for full saxophone choir was created specially for Whittlesey Saxophone Choir as an opener for their first proper concert in 2025. It is a faithful translation of just the first part of the movement from the orchestral original.

Approximate running time: 2'30"

The Valkyrie

Richard Wagner - 1870
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Lively (♩ = 100)

The musical score is arranged for a vocal ensemble and C Melody. It consists of 14 staves. The vocal parts are Soprillo, Sopranino, Soprano I, Soprano II, Alto I, Alto II, Alto III, Tenor I, Tenor II, Tenor III, Baritone I, Baritone II, Bass, and Contrabass. The C Melody part is in a lower register. The music is in 3/8 time and begins with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The tempo is marked 'Lively' with a quarter note equal to 100 beats per minute. The score shows the first four measures of the piece. The Soprano and Alto parts have some melodic activity, with several measures marked with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The C Melody part is mostly silent, with some notes in the first measure.

This musical score is for a 12-part ensemble. The parts are arranged vertically as follows: S1 (top), Sn (Snare Drum), S1 and S2 (two parts), A1, A2, A3, C (Cymbal), T1, T2, T3 (three parts), B1, B2, Bs, and CB (bottom). The score is divided into three measures. The Snare Drum part (Sn) features a complex rhythmic pattern in the first measure, followed by rests in the second and third measures. The A1, A2, and A3 parts have intricate melodic and rhythmic lines, with A1 and A3 featuring long, sweeping phrases. The B1 and B2 parts enter in the second measure with a *p cresc.* marking and play a melodic line. The other parts (S1, S2, C, T1, T2, T3, Bs, CB) are mostly silent, indicated by rests.

7

SI

Sn

S1

S2

A1

A2

A3

C

T1

T2

T3

B1

B2

Bs

CB

f

f

This musical score is for a 12-part ensemble. The parts are arranged vertically from top to bottom: Snare Drum (Sn), Snare Drum 2 (S2), Snare Drum 1 (S1), Alto Saxophone 1 (A1), Alto Saxophone 2 (A2), Alto Saxophone 3 (A3), Clarinet (C), Trumpet 1 (T1), Trumpet 2 (T2), Trumpet 3 (T3), Baritone Saxophone (Bs), and Contrabass (CB). The score is in 4/4 time and features a key signature of one sharp (F#). The music is divided into three measures. The first measure shows the Snare Drum and S1/S2 parts playing a continuous sixteenth-note pattern, while the woodwinds and brass parts are mostly silent. The second measure continues this pattern. The third measure features a dynamic shift to *mf* for the Snare Drum and S1/S2 parts, and *f* for the Clarinet, Trumpets, Baritone Saxophone, and Contrabass. The woodwinds and brass parts enter in the third measure with specific rhythmic patterns.

13 **A**

SI *mf*

Sn *mf*

S1 *mf*

S2 *mf*

A1 *mf*

A2 *mf*

A3 *mf*

C

T1

T2

T3

B1 *mf*

B2 *mf*

Bs *mf*

CB *mf*

3

This page of a musical score, numbered 8, contains 15 staves of music. The staves are labeled as follows from top to bottom: S1, Sn, S1, S2, A1, A2, A3, C, T1, T2, T3, B1, B2, Bs, and CB. The score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The music is divided into two systems by a double bar line. The first system (measures 1-4) features a complex texture with rapid sixteenth-note passages in the string staves (S1, S2) and woodwinds (A1, A2, A3). The woodwinds include triplets and slurs. The brass and percussion parts (C, T1, T2, T3, B1, B2, Bs, CB) provide a rhythmic and harmonic foundation with various note values and rests. The second system (measures 5-8) continues the intricate patterns, with the strings and woodwinds maintaining their active roles while the brass and percussion parts provide sustained accompaniment. The notation includes various musical symbols such as slurs, ties, and dynamic markings.

This musical score page, numbered 9, contains measures 17 through 20. It is arranged for a string quartet (S1, S2, A1, A2, A3) and woodwinds (C, T1, T2, T3, B1, B2, Bs, CB). The woodwinds are in the key of D major, while the strings are in the key of C major. The score features complex rhythmic patterns, including sixteenth-note runs and syncopated rhythms. The strings play a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes, while the woodwinds provide harmonic support with various note values and rests. The woodwinds (C, T1, T2, T3) play sustained notes, while the reeds (B1, B2, Bs, CB) play rhythmic patterns. The strings (S1, S2, A1, A2, A3) play a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes, with some measures featuring sixteenth-note runs. The woodwinds (C, T1, T2, T3) play sustained notes, while the reeds (B1, B2, Bs, CB) play rhythmic patterns. The strings (S1, S2, A1, A2, A3) play a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes, with some measures featuring sixteenth-note runs. The woodwinds (C, T1, T2, T3) play sustained notes, while the reeds (B1, B2, Bs, CB) play rhythmic patterns.

19

SI

Sn

SII

S2

A1

A2

A3

C

T1

T2

T3

B1

B2

Bs

CB

p

f

mf

21

Sn

S1

S2

A1

A2

A3

C

T1

T2

T3

B1

B2

Bs

CB

piu f

piu f

piu f

piu f

This musical score is for a 12-piece ensemble. The instruments are arranged in the following order from top to bottom: S1, Sn, S1, S2, A1, A2, A3, C, T1, T2, T3, B1, B2, Bs, and CB. The score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The music is divided into two systems, each containing two measures. The first system begins at measure 23. The S1 parts feature a melodic line with eighth-note runs and triplets. The Sn part has a similar eighth-note pattern. The A1, A2, and A3 parts play a rhythmic accompaniment with eighth notes and triplets. The C, T1, T2, and T3 parts provide a harmonic foundation with sustained notes and some triplet figures. The B1, B2, Bs, and CB parts play a steady eighth-note accompaniment. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, ties, and triplet markings.

25

SI

Sn

S1

S2

A1

A2

A3

C

T1

T2

T3

B1

B2

Bs

CB

p

ff

p

ff

p

ff

B

This musical score is for a brass band, covering measures 27 through 30. The score is written for 12 parts: Snare Drum (Sn), two Soprans (S1, S2), three Altos (A1, A2, A3), Cornet (C), three Tenors (T1, T2, T3), Baritone 1 (B1), Baritone 2 (B2), Bass (Bs), and Cymbal (CB). The music is in a key with one sharp (F#) and a common time signature. The score features complex rhythmic patterns, including sixteenth-note runs and syncopated rhythms. A large bracket labeled 'B' spans the first two measures. The brass parts (S1, S2, A1, A2, A3, C, T1, T2, T3, B1, B2, Bs, CB) play a melodic line with various articulations, while the Snare Drum and Cymbal provide a rhythmic accompaniment.

29

The musical score for page 15, starting at measure 29, is arranged for a large ensemble. The staves are labeled as follows:

- S1 (Soprano 1):** Features a melodic line with eighth notes and rests, including a triplet in the second measure.
- Sn (Soprano 2):** Features a melodic line with eighth notes and rests, including a triplet in the second measure.
- S1 (Soprano 3):** Features a melodic line with eighth notes and rests, including a triplet in the second measure.
- S2 (Soprano 4):** Features a melodic line with eighth notes and rests, including a triplet in the second measure.
- A1 (Alto 1):** Features a melodic line with eighth notes and rests, including a triplet in the second measure.
- A2 (Alto 2):** Features a melodic line with eighth notes and rests, including a triplet in the second measure.
- A3 (Alto 3):** Features a melodic line with eighth notes and rests, including a triplet in the second measure.
- C (Chorus):** Features a melodic line with eighth notes and rests, including a triplet in the second measure.
- T1 (Tenor 1):** Features a melodic line with eighth notes and rests, including a triplet in the second measure.
- T2 (Tenor 2):** Features a melodic line with eighth notes and rests, including a triplet in the second measure.
- T3 (Tenor 3):** Features a melodic line with eighth notes and rests, including a triplet in the second measure.
- B1 (Bass 1):** Features a melodic line with eighth notes and rests, including a triplet in the second measure.
- B2 (Bass 2):** Features a melodic line with eighth notes and rests, including a triplet in the second measure.
- Bs (Bass 3):** Features a melodic line with eighth notes and rests, including a triplet in the second measure.
- CB (Bass 4):** Features a melodic line with eighth notes and rests, including a triplet in the second measure.

The score includes various musical notations such as treble clefs, key signatures (one sharp), time signatures (4/4), and dynamic markings (p, mf, f). It also features numerous rests and slurs.

31

Sn

S1

S2

A1

A2

A3

C

T1

T2

T3

B1

B2

Bs

CB

ff

ff

ff

ff

3

33

This musical score is arranged for 17 instruments, organized into four systems. The instruments are: S1 (Soprano 1), Sn (Snare Drum), S1 (Soprano 1), S2 (Soprano 2), A1 (Alto 1), A2 (Alto 2), A3 (Alto 3), C (Clarinet), T1 (Trumpet 1), T2 (Trumpet 2), T3 (Trumpet 3), B1 (Baritone 1), B2 (Baritone 2), Bs (Bass), and CB (Cymbal). The score begins at measure 33. The S1 parts feature melodic lines with trills and triplets. The Sn part has a rhythmic pattern with accents. The A parts play melodic lines with slurs and triplets. The C, T, and B parts provide harmonic support with sustained notes and rhythmic patterns. The Bs and CB parts play a steady bass line with accents. The score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#).

This musical score page, numbered 18, contains measures 35 through 42. It is arranged for a string quartet (S1, S2, A1, A2, A3) and woodwinds (C, T1, T2, T3, B1, B2, Bs, CB). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The score features complex rhythmic patterns, including sixteenth-note runs and triplets, as well as dynamic markings such as *ff* (fortissimo) and *f* (forte). The woodwind parts (C, T1, T2, T3) play sustained chords with some melodic movement, while the strings play intricate rhythmic figures. The string parts (S1, S2, A1, A2, A3) are highly active, with S1 and S2 featuring rapid sixteenth-note passages and triplets. The woodwinds (C, T1, T2, T3) provide harmonic support with sustained chords and some melodic lines. The brass parts (B1, B2, Bs, CB) play rhythmic patterns, with B1, B2, and Bs marked *ff* and CB marked *f*. The score concludes with a double bar line at the end of measure 42.

37 **C**

Sn

S1

S2

A1

A2

A3

C

T1

T2

T3

B1

B2

Bs

CB

mf

mf

mf

3

39

Sn

S1

S2

A1

A2

A3

C

T1

T2

T3

B1

B2

Bs

CB

f

piu f

piu f

piu f

piu f

This page of a musical score, numbered 21, contains 12 staves of music. The staves are labeled as follows from top to bottom: S1 (41), Sn, S1, S2, A1, A2, A3, C, T1, T2, T3, B1, B2, Bs, and CB. The score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The music features a variety of rhythmic patterns, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests. Several staves (S1, S2, A1, A2, A3, B1, B2, Bs, CB) include slurs and accents. A triplet of eighth notes is marked with a '3' in the S1 staff. The notation is dense, with many notes beamed together, particularly in the upper staves.

43

SI

Sn

S1

S2

A1

A2

A3

C

T1

T2

T3

B1

B2

Bs

CB

45 **D**

SI *p* *fp*

(solo - Gerhilde) *f* *tr*

S2 *p* *fp*

A1 *p* *cresc.* *f*

A2 *p* *f*

A3 *p cresc.* *f*

C

T1 *fp* *fp* *f*

T2 *fp* *fp* *f*

T3 *fp* *fp* *f*

B1

B2

Bs

CB *mf*

48

SI

Sn

S1

S2

A1

A2

A3

C

T1

T2

T3

B1

B2

Bs

CB

f

p

mf

cresc.

mf³

Detailed description: This is a page of a musical score for a large ensemble, starting at measure 48. The score is arranged in a vertical stack of staves. The instruments are: SI (Soprano I), Sn (Snare Drum), S1 (Soprano II), S2 (Soprano III), A1 (Alto I), A2 (Alto II), A3 (Alto III), C (Clarinet), T1 (Trumpet I), T2 (Trumpet II), T3 (Trumpet III), B1 (Baritone I), B2 (Baritone II), Bs (Bassoon), and CB (Cornet/Bass). The key signature is one sharp (F#). The Snare Drum part features a complex rhythmic pattern with accents and dynamic markings of *f* and *p*. The woodwinds and strings have melodic lines with various dynamics including *f*, *p*, *mf*, and *mf³*. The brass parts (A1, A2, A3, T1, T2, T3, B1, B2, Bs, CB) play sustained notes with dynamic markings of *f* and *p*. The Clarinet part (C) has a melodic line with dynamics of *f* and *p*. The Soprano parts (SI, S1, S2) have melodic lines with dynamics of *f* and *p*. The Baritone parts (B1, B2) have melodic lines with dynamics of *f* and *p*. The Bassoon part (Bs) has a melodic line with dynamics of *f* and *p*. The Cornet/Bass part (CB) has a melodic line with dynamics of *f*, *p*, *mf³*, and *mf*. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, accents, and dynamic markings.

51

Score for page 51, featuring vocal parts (S1, S2), woodwinds (A1, A2, A3, C, T1, T2, T3), brass (B1, B2, Bs), and a double bass (CB). The score includes dynamic markings such as *fp*, *f*, *p*, *mf*, and *mf*³, along with performance instructions like *tutti* and *solo - Helmwiges*.

54

Sn
mf

S1
mf

S2

A1
p

A2
p

A3
mf

C

T1
p *f*

T2
p *f*

T3
f *p* *f*

B1
f *p* *f*

B2
f *p* *f*

Bs
f

CB
f

59 **E**

S1 *ff*

S2 *ff* (tutti)

A1 *ff*

A2 *ff*

A3 *ff*

C

T1

T2

T3

B1 *ff*

B2 *ff*

Bs

CB

61

Sn

S1

S2

A1

A2

A3

C

T1

T2

T3

B1

B2

Bs

CB

63

Sn

S1

S2

A1

A2

A3

C

T1

T2

T3

B1

B2

Bs

CB

65

Sn

S1

S2

A1

A2

A3

C

T1

T2

T3

B1

B2

Bs

CB

ff

ff

ff

Detailed description of the musical score: The page contains 13 staves of music. The top staff is labeled 'Sn' and contains a snare drum part with a complex rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes, including a triplet. The next two staves are labeled 'S1' and 'S2' and contain similar rhythmic patterns. The following three staves are labeled 'A1', 'A2', and 'A3' and contain patterns of eighth and sixteenth notes, some with triplets. The next staff is labeled 'C' and contains a pattern of eighth notes. The following three staves are labeled 'T1', 'T2', and 'T3' and contain patterns of eighth notes, with a forte (*ff*) dynamic marking at the end of the section. The final three staves are labeled 'B1', 'B2', 'Bs', and 'CB' and contain patterns of eighth notes, also with a forte (*ff*) dynamic marking at the end. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 4/4.

67

Sn

S1

S2

A1

A2

A3

C

T1

T2

T3

B1

B2

Bs

CB

ff

ff³

ff

69

Sn
ff

S1
ff ³

S2
³

A1

A2

A3
³

C

T1

T2
ff

T3
ff

B1

B2

Bs
ff

CB

71

Sn

S1

S2

A1

A2

A3

C

T1

T2

T3

B1

B2

Bs

CB

ff

ff

ff

3

This musical score is for a 15-part ensemble. The instruments are arranged in the following order from top to bottom: S1, Sn, S1, S2, A1, A2, A3, C, T1, T2, T3, B1, B2, Bs, and CB. The score begins at measure 73. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is common time (C). The S1 parts feature melodic lines with triplets and slurs. The Sn part has a rhythmic pattern with triplets. The A1, A2, and A3 parts play similar melodic lines. The C, T1, T2, and T3 parts provide harmonic support with chords and rhythmic patterns. The B1, B2, Bs, and CB parts play a consistent rhythmic pattern. The score concludes with a double bar line.