



## Water Music - Air

By George Fredric Handel Arranged for guitar by Ted Greene — 1972, March 13 Notation and chord diagrams by Paul Vachon and David Bishop

Ted wrote out a preliminary sketch of this piece on July 12, 1970 in Handel's original key of F, probably working from a string quartet in which he combined the parts onto one staff. However, this version isn't really playable for solo guitar. A couple of years later he then notated his arrangement, this time in the guitar-friendly key of D with the 6th string tuned down to D.

Since Ted didn't provide any chord diagrams or fingerings we're not exactly sure how he would have played it, but some of the voicings can only be played in one position, while others have only a couple of options. I've added "Ted-style" grid diagrams and combined them with the new notation page. At that time (1972) Ted seemed to be having fun with squiggly lines in his notation!

I added some finger numbers to the score in measure 9. This seems to work best for playing the bass line while sustaining the B and D notes. I've also added some finger numbering just below the chord diagrams in measure 10 and 17. This may help a little. The rest should either be pretty much self-explanatory to you, or you'll be able to find a fingering that works for you. Try a couple of the alternate chord voicings or perhaps you'll find another that works as well. Start slowly, but eventually you'll want to build this up to a moderately tempo.

This piece was part of three suites which premiered in a special concert on 7/17/1717, with 50 musicians upon a barge floating down the River Thames—hence the title "Water Music." Commissioned by King George I, he must have thought this was an auspicious day with all those seventeen's in it!

David Bishop also helped with this "compilation" page, and offers these additional comments:

"In measures 4 and 16 Ted has a dominant 7 on beat 2, whereas Handel has a major triad.

In measure 12 Ted has a dominant 7 on beat 2, whereas Handel has a major triad. In measure 13 Ted has a dominant 7 on beat 3, whereas Handel has a major triad. Overall, Ted has stayed true to the original, but has made a few alterations and omissions."

Have fun learning this piece!

-- Paul and David

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Playing order: ● X □ △ ★





