

# Prelude to "Lohengrin"

Wagner at first called this Prelude an "Instrumental Introduction"; but afterward changed the designation to "Vorspiel", i. e., Prelude. A condensed explanation of the meaning which he himself intended this prelude to convey is as follows:— The opening of the prelude is like thin, white clouds, floating in a serene sky, and scarcely discernible from the ethereal blue surrounding them. But suddenly the violins sound, as from the farthest distance and in continued *pianissimo*, the Grail motive, and at once the clouds take form and motion. Our inner eye discerns a group of angels descending from the height of heaven, and carrying in their midst the holy vessel. Sweetest harmonies float around them, gradually increasing in warmth and variety, till at last, with the *fortissimo* of the full orchestra, the sacred mystery in all its overpowering splendor is revealed to our enchanted eyes. After this climax of religious ecstasy the harmonious waves begin to recede, and, with their ebbing motion, the angels return gradually, as they came, to their celestial abode.

Langsam. (Slowly.)

natural.

Four Solo Violins.

Musical score for Four Solo Violins. The score is written in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a common time signature (C). It consists of four staves. The first two staves are marked with a dynamic of *p* (piano). The third staff is marked with a dynamic of *p* and includes the instruction "\* In Harmonics." The fourth staff is marked with a dynamic of *p* and includes the instruction "G String." The score features a variety of musical notations, including slurs, accents, and dynamic markings. Above the first two staves, there are markings for "8<sub>0</sub>" and "8", and a "natural." marking above the fourth staff. The score is divided into measures by vertical bar lines.

The remaining Violins in four equally divided groups

Musical score for The remaining Violins in four equally divided groups. The score is written in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a common time signature (C). It consists of four staves. The first two staves are marked with a dynamic of *pp* (pianissimo) and a *p* (piano) dynamic. The third and fourth staves are marked with a dynamic of *p* (piano). The score features a variety of musical notations, including slurs, accents, and dynamic markings. Above the first two staves, there are markings for "1" and "1". The score is divided into measures by vertical bar lines.

First system of musical notation, featuring four staves. The music is written in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The notation includes eighth and sixteenth notes, often grouped in beams. Dynamics include *p* (piano) and *dim.* (diminuendo). Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1, 2, and 3. There are also slurs and accents over the notes.

Second system of musical notation, continuing the piece. It features four staves with treble clefs and a key signature of two sharps. The notation includes eighth and sixteenth notes, often grouped in beams. Dynamics include *dim.* and *p*. There are also slurs and accents over the notes.

Third system of musical notation, continuing the piece. It features four staves with treble clefs and a key signature of two sharps. The notation includes eighth and sixteenth notes, often grouped in beams. Dynamics include *dim.*, *pp* (pianissimo), and *tremolo*. There are also slurs and accents over the notes.

\* From here on all Violins in their general order of stands, in equal parts.

The first system consists of four staves of music. The top staff features a complex melodic line with various ornaments and fingerings (3, 2, 1, 1, 2, 0/4, 3, 1, 2). The second, third, and fourth staves provide harmonic accompaniment. The second staff includes the instruction *(constantly p)*. The third staff also includes *(constantly p)*. The fourth staff has a *4* marking above the first measure.

The second system consists of four staves. The top staff continues the melodic line with ornaments and fingerings (0/4, 4, 2, 3, 1, 4, 2). The second staff includes the instruction *constantly p*. The third and fourth staves provide accompaniment. The third staff has a *2* marking above the second measure.

The third system consists of four staves. The top staff has ornaments and fingerings (1, 0/3, 3). The second staff includes the instruction *restez.* followed by a fermata and the dynamic *p*. The third and fourth staves provide accompaniment. The third staff has a *p* dynamic marking. The fourth staff has a *p* dynamic marking.

*p* *constantly p* *constantly p*

*p* *p*

*1st Violin.*

*2nd Violin.*

*tr*

*trem.*

*ff*

3 *p*

*p*

*p* *very sustained*

*restez*

*più p*

*p*

G String.

*pp*

In harmonics.  
Grouping of the Violins as at the start. \* 80

*pp* *p* *p* *p* *pp*

*pp* *p* *p* *p* *pp*

*pp* *p* *p* *p* *pp*

*pp* *p* *p* *p* *pp*

*pp* *p* *p* *p* *pp*

*pp* *pp* *pp* *pp*

*pp* *pp* *pp* *pp*

*pp* *pp* *pp* *pp*

*pp* *pp* *pp* *pp*

*pp* *pp* *pp* *pp*