

BATTALIA

Heinrich Biber
Arranged by Brendan McBrien

INSTRUMENTATION

Conductor Score	1
Violin I	8
Violin II	8
Viola	5
Cello	5
String Bass	5

PROGRAM NOTES

Bohemian born Heinrich Biber (1644–1704) was a notable composer as well as one of the greatest violin virtuosos of the Baroque era. He spent most of his professional life working in Salzburg, Austria. *Battalia*, which in Italian means battle, was composed in 1673, some 25 years after the end of The Thirty Years' War (1618–1648) that devastated nearly all of Europe and which no doubt shaped the world in which young Biber grew up. It is a very unusual work from this period as it contains descriptive elements within the music that were rarely heard.



NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

Depicting the sounds of war, this Baroque masterpiece features many special effects including bow tapping, paper under strings, solos for all instruments, and a musical collage that would thrill Charles Ives! A true feast for the ears. This arrangement features six movements from Biber's original eight, ending with a moving tribute to the fallen of war.

The movements are:

I. Sonata – The shouting of commands is heard in the music's rhythmic patterns, ♩ ♩ ♩ – x x x, which sound like "Aten-hut!," "Sir-yes-sir!" In this movement, the players are asked to tap the side of their instruments with the wood of the bow (col legno could be substituted if desired).

II. The Profligate Society of Common Humor – This "musical joke" depicts the soldiers in camp singing popular and folk songs piled one on top of the other in a drunken chorus of regional pride. There are 8 songs in 7 keys: D, C, D, F, A, G, E. "Here all parts are dissonant," writes Biber, "since different songs are being bellowed out at once." Charles Ives would have approved!

III. Presto – The antics and bravura of the troops before battle.

IV. The March – The solo violin portrays the flute or fife, and the solo bass imitates the snare drum through the insertion of a piece of paper under the A string.

V. The Battle – The sounds of cannon and musket fire provided by the basses "snap" pizzicato.

VI. Lament of the Wounded Musketeers – The pitiful cries of the dying and wounded are heard in this solemn tribute to the fallen of war.

Battalia

CONDUCTOR SCORE
Duration - 6:40

I. Sonata
"Gathering of the Troops"

Heinrich Biber
Arranged by Brendan McBrien

Allegro (♩ = 120)

Violins I

Violins II

Viola

Cello

String Bass

pp

f

pp

f

pp

f

pp

f

pp

f

1

2

3

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

pp

f

pp

f

pp

f

pp

f

pp

f

4

5

6

I
Vlns.
II
Vla.
Cello
Str. Bass

7 8 9 *f*

This block contains the first system of a musical score, covering measures 7, 8, and 9. It features five staves: Violins I and II, Viola, Cello, and String Bass. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#). Measure 7 includes a first ending bracket labeled '8'. Measure 9 is marked with a forte dynamic (*f*). A large red watermark is overlaid diagonally across the page.

I
Vlns.
II
Vla.
Cello
Str. Bass

10 11 12

poco rit.

This block contains the second system of the musical score, covering measures 10, 11, and 12. It features the same five staves as the first system. Measure 10 includes a first ending bracket labeled '11'. Measure 12 is marked with a trill (*tr*) and a *poco rit.* (ritardando) instruction. A large red watermark is overlaid diagonally across the page.

14 **A tempo**

Vlns. I
Vlns. II
Vla.
Cello
Str. Bass

13 *pp* 14 *f* 15 *pp* 16

Vlns. I
Vlns. II
Vla.
Cello
Str. Bass

17 *f* arco 18 *f* arco 19 *f* arco

*Strike the side of the instrument with the wood of the bow.

21

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

pp *f* arco arco

pp *f* arco arco

pp *f* arco arco

pp *f* arco arco

pp *f* arco arco

pp 20 *f* 21 22 23

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

pp *f* <>

pp *f* <>

pp *f* <>

pp *f* <>

pp *f* <>

pp 24 *f* 25 26 27

II. The Profligate Society of Common Humor

“Here, everywhere there is clamor, for from such different sounds let them shout their songs with great fervor!”

Animé (♩ = 96)

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Cello

String Bass

Musical score for measures 1-3. The score is in 4/4 time with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The tempo is marked 'Animé' with a quarter note equal to 96 beats per minute. The instruments are Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Cello, and String Bass. Violin II and Viola have 'Solo' markings and a forte 'f' dynamic. Violin I has a 'Solo' marking in measure 3. The Cello and String Bass parts are mostly rests.

1 2 3

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Musical score for measures 4-6. The score continues from the previous page. Violin I has a 'Solo' marking and a forte 'f' dynamic with triplet markings in measure 6. Violin II and Viola have 'Solo' markings and a forte 'f' dynamic. The Cello has a 'Solo' marking and a forte 'f' dynamic. The String Bass part is mostly rests.

4 5 6

7

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

f

Solo

f

Solo

molto legato

7 8 9

Detailed description: This is a page of a musical score for a string ensemble, covering measures 7, 8, and 9. The score is written for five parts: Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), Cello, and String Bass (Str. Bass). The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#), and the time signature is 4/4. Measure 7 begins with a boxed number '7' in the top left. The Vln. I part features a melodic line with triplets and slurs. The Vln. II part has a similar melodic line. The Vla. part provides harmonic support with chords and moving lines. The Cello part has a melodic line with a 'Solo' marking above the first measure. The Str. Bass part has a bass line with a 'Solo' marking above the first measure and a dynamic marking of *f* (forte) below the first measure. Measure 8 starts with a dynamic marking of *f* below the first measure. Measure 9 is marked *molto legato* below the first measure. A large red watermark 'Preview Only' is overlaid diagonally across the entire page.

Vln. I

Musical staff for Violin I, featuring treble clef, key signature of two sharps (F# and C#), and a 3/4 time signature. The staff contains two measures of music. The first measure includes a triplet of eighth notes, a quarter note, and another triplet of eighth notes. The second measure contains two triplet eighth notes followed by a quarter note. A fermata is placed over the final note of the second measure.

Vln. II

Musical staff for Violin II, featuring treble clef, key signature of two sharps, and a 3/4 time signature. The staff contains two measures of music. The first measure has a quarter note, a quarter note, and a quarter note. The second measure has a quarter note, a quarter note, and a quarter note. A fermata is placed over the final note of the second measure.

Vla.

Musical staff for Viola, featuring bass clef, key signature of two sharps, and a 3/4 time signature. The staff contains two measures of music. The first measure has a quarter note, a quarter note, and a quarter note. The second measure has a quarter note, a quarter note, and a quarter note. A fermata is placed over the final note of the second measure.

Cello

Musical staff for Cello, featuring bass clef, key signature of two sharps, and a 3/4 time signature. The staff contains two measures of music. The first measure has a quarter note, a quarter note, and a quarter note. The second measure has a quarter note, a quarter note, and a quarter note. A fermata is placed over the final note of the second measure.

Str. Bass

Musical staff for String Bass, featuring bass clef, key signature of two sharps, and a 3/4 time signature. The staff contains two measures of music. The first measure has a quarter note, a quarter note, and a quarter note. The second measure has a quarter note, a quarter note, and a quarter note. A fermata is placed over the final note of the second measure.

10

11

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12

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

12

13

Vln. I

Musical staff for Violin I, featuring a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The staff contains a melodic line with eighth notes and triplets, with a fermata over the final note of the first measure.

Vln. II

Musical staff for Violin II, featuring a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps. The staff contains a melodic line with eighth notes and a fermata over the final note of the first measure.

Vla.

Musical staff for Viola, featuring a bass clef and a key signature of two sharps. The staff contains a melodic line with eighth notes, a dynamic marking of *f* (forte), and a fermata over the final note of the first measure.

Cello

Musical staff for Cello, featuring a bass clef and a key signature of two sharps. The staff contains a melodic line with eighth notes and a fermata over the final note of the first measure.

Str. Bass

Musical staff for String Bass, featuring a bass clef and a key signature of two sharps. The staff contains a simple bass line with quarter notes and a fermata over the final note of the first measure.

14

15

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Vln. I

Musical staff for Violin I. The staff contains a treble clef, a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#), and a time signature of 3/4. The music consists of a series of eighth notes grouped into four triplets. The first measure of the triplet is marked with a '3' below it. The dynamic markings *ff* and *pp* are positioned below the staff.

Vln. II

Musical staff for Violin II. The staff contains a treble clef, a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#), and a time signature of 3/4. The music consists of a series of eighth notes. The dynamic markings *ff* and *pp* are positioned below the staff.

Vla.

Musical staff for Viola. The staff contains an alto clef (C4), a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#), and a time signature of 3/4. The music consists of a series of eighth notes. The dynamic markings *ff* and *pp* are positioned below the staff.

Cello

Musical staff for Cello. The staff contains a bass clef, a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#), and a time signature of 3/4. The music consists of a series of eighth notes. The dynamic markings *ff* and *pp* are positioned below the staff.

Str. Bass

Musical staff for String Bass. The staff contains a bass clef, a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#), and a time signature of 3/4. The music consists of a series of eighth notes. The dynamic markings *ff* and *pp* are positioned below the staff.

16

17

III. Presto
"Revelries Before Battle"

Allegro (♩ = 132)

Vlns. I
Vlns. II
Vla.
Cello
Str. Bass

f Tutti
f Tutti
f Tutti
f Tutti

+ = L.H. pizz., (3rd finger)

1 2 3

Vlns. I
Vlns. II
Vla.
Cello
Str. Bass

p *f* *p*
p *f* *p*
p *f* *p*
p *f* *p*

4 5 6 7

IV. The March

Violin I

Marcia (♩ = 76)

Solo

f marcato

String Bass

1 2 3

Vln. I

Str. Bass

4 5

Vln. I

Str. Bass

6

Vln. I

Str. Bass

7

*The bass imitates a snare drum by weaving a piece of paper under the A string and over the D and E strings.

Vln. I

Str. Bass

8

Vln. I

Str. Bass

9

Vln. I

Str. Bass

10

Vln. I

Str. Bass

11

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

5 6

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

7 8

unison

f

div.

f

I
Vlns. *mp cresc.*

II
Vlns. *mp cresc.*

Vla.
mp cresc.

Cello
mp cresc.

Str. Bass

9 10

I
Vlns. *ff*

II
Vlns. *ff*

Vla.
ff

Cello
ff

Str. Bass *arco*

11 12

VI. Lament of the Wounded Musketeers

Lento (♩ = 60)

Violins

Musical score for measures 1-3. The score is in 4/4 time with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The tempo is Lento (♩ = 60). The instruments are Violins I and II, Viola, Cello, and String Bass. The dynamics range from *mp* (mezzo-piano) to *p* (piano). The Viola part includes a *div.* (divisi) marking. The String Bass part includes fingerings 1, 2, and 3.

Vlns.

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Musical score for measures 4-8. The score continues from the previous page. The instruments are Violins I and II, Viola, Cello, and String Bass. The dynamics range from *mp* (mezzo-piano) to *p* (piano). The Viola part includes a *p* marking with a *v* (accrescendo) hairpin. The String Bass part includes a *mp* marking.

I Vlns. II Vlns. Vla. Cello Str. Bass

mf mp unison div.

9 10 11 12

I Vlns. II Vlns. Vla. Cello Str. Bass

unison tr p pp molto rit. 3 4 div. 4

mp pp

13 14 15 16