

German traditional

Es ritten drei Reiter

Arranged for the 10-piece brass ensemble format (4 trumpets-horn-4 trombones-tuba) by Klaus Bjerre (2004).

This traditional is part of the huge German cultural heritage and can be found in diverse variations from various areas of the large German speaking area. Even in my country it, with a new text, has found use as part of a party medley celebrating birthdays and the like.

The tune can be played on natural horn and on natural trumpet, which is reflected in this arrangement. The horn is treated as natural horn in F. The trumpets are treated like natural trumpets in low F, even if a natural trumpet of this low pitch hardly ever was used in orchestral contexts. In some passages, where the piccolo trumpet is involved, the trumpet section is treated like natural trumpets in high F. The trombones and the tuba are treated diatonically.

It has been the intention to keep this setting close to the style of the tune. Hence it has been the intention not to employ musical elements, which could not have been found in orchestral scores around the end of the era of the natural horn. A quote from a composer loving the natural horn has been hidden in the accompaniment.

However there have been experimented a bit with the voicing of the parts. In one of the 3 verses the tuba plays the lead above the trombones. For some bars the horn even goes below most of these instruments. These octave indications shall be followed, if the harmonic structure shall work. Especially the tuba part should not be transposed down an octave, nor should it be swapped with any of the trombone parts. (This arranger knows common tuba crimes, as he has committed most of them himself, so an emphasised *loco* indication has been placed in the tuba part).

This present arrangement is a further development of an arrangement for brass quintet. The structure has been kept, but new musical events have been introduced. The 1st trombone still has functions as “2nd horn”, as “2nd tuba”, and as an *obligato* soloist exploiting the low range of the no-valve trombone. Some of its bass functions have been transferred to the bass trombone. As have some of the tuba line, which has freed the tuba up to fulfil new functions, which take it to its extreme low range. Despite the high soloing of the part, it has been written with a CC-instrument in mind.

The most of the way the soloists carrying the melody have not been doubled. There are two exceptions. If the piccolo trumpet solo cannot be given enough weight of sound, then the horn may play the *8vb* doubling written in the cue notes. While the horn plays a solo phrase against the *tutti*, it has been doubled in the 3rd trombone.

Due to the denser texture some alternative cue notes have been removed from the horn part. In general this version for the 10-piece brass format is more demanding than the brass quintet version.

A set of substitute parts for Bb and Eb instruments as found in the British brass band has been added, but the Eb cornet and BBb tuba parts will need very strong players. The Eb tuba would be a better alternative for the latter.

This arrangement can be used free of charge, but reports on readings and performances would be nice.