

Krakow Trumpet Signal

"Hejnal Mariacki"

Trumpet in D

Freely (ca. ♩ = 80)

ff heroically, molto marcato

Every hour a golden trumpet shows, above Krakow's central Grand Square, in the west window just below the spire of the higher municipal tower of the Basilica of the Virgin Mary's. Then a characteristic trumpet signal, known and dear to every Pole, resounds all over the city's Old Town historical district. Suddenly the melody comes to an abrupt end. Next it is played towards the east, the south and the north. At noon the whole ritual is broadcast by the Polish radio.

The Krakow signal, or Hejnal Mariacki, dates back to the Middle Ages when it was announcing the opening and the closing of the city gates. The trumpeter also played it to alarm his fellow citizens whenever he saw a fire or the enemy forces.

The melody's abrupt ending is said to commemorate a trumpeter shot through his throat by a Tatar archer in 1241.

This Transcription of the melody is taken from an LP by trumpeter Don Smithers entitled: "The Trumpet Shall Sound" (Philips 6500 926)

It is played at the beginning of the album, and then at the very end, up one octave.

The fanfare should be performed very freely. Rhythmically, this transcription is just an approximation of what is played. As a general rule the fast notes (16th's & triplets) are rushed or compressed and the long notes are held longer than the indicated values.

It is a heroic fanfare, played at a full dynamic with every note heavily accented.