

Dear Pianists,

In this volume you will find a simple piano arrangement of two popular orchestral works of the Baroque era, *Water Music* and *Music for the Royal Fireworks* by George Frederick Handel (1685–1759). There is an interesting background to the composition of the two works. Three royal barge trips took place along the Thames in London, for which Handel provided the accompaniment of the *Water Music*. The work consists of three suites (compositions consisting of a sequence of several dance movements) with 22 movements altogether. After the end of the War of the Austrian

Succession (1741–1748), where the British were among the victors, King George II held a celebration of the peace treaty in London's Green Park in 1749. It was for this occasion that Handel composed his *Music for the Royal Fireworks*, which has six movements and was his second large-scale work for open-air performance, after the *Water Music*. And now let yourselves be enchanted by Handel's wonderful Baroque sounds.

With best wishes,
Hans-Günter Heumann

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