

Richard Wagner

Lohengrin

Theme from the Prelude for Act III

presented in all keys covering the range of the U-Bass

Setting for the Kala UBass (or potentially for any bass tuned to EADG) by Klaus Smedegaard Bjerre (2012)

As told in other contexts a tiny contrabass instrument in form of the fretted Kala U-Bass entered my home in late July of 2012. It is shaped and sized close to a baritone ukulele. It is its special strings and its electrical amplification that make it sound astonishingly similar to a plucked upright bass. Its 21" scale is much kinder on my hands than is my upright bass, so since then it has been followed by a fretless version also.

The most popular Wagner-show-off theme for low brass players is The Ride of the Valkyries, but this theme from Lohengrin isn't bad either. On the brasses this editor has used the method of transposing a given melody through all keys over the full range of the instrument with the purpose of smoothening phrasing and intonation across troubled shifts of partials and fingerings or slide positions.

Transposing on a string instrument with equidistant strings, here fourths, is easier if the player chooses the right positions for each phrase. The tablature notation strives to be helpful in this matter.

As an etude for getting around the full range of the acoustic U-Bass this Wagner-theme first is presented in the original key of G major, and then in chromatic increments up to B major, since from F# major and in chromatic increments down to G major. There are 17 presentations in total. Players of solid body U-Basses or other basses with access to extended high ranges will know how to move the fingering patterns up their fingerboards in chromatic increments.

As long as the range is reasonable for close double stops, an optional third is added to the last note.

The last 2 presentations need their first note to be played octave up on 4-string instruments. The not so secret agenda behind going all the way down to G major an octave below Wagner's original string bass notation is about providing an option for the really heavy stunt of letting two basses play this theme in octaves (but for the first note).

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Kala U-Bass
(or any bass tuned to
EADG)

Lohengrin

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in all keys covering the range of the U-Bass

Richard Wagner 1850
Edited 2012 by
Klaus Smedegaard Bjerre

Very lively

5

8

9

13

15

Very lively 19

22

23

27

28

31

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Very lively **37**

Musical notation for measures 37-41. The system includes a bass staff with a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The bass staff contains notes with stems and beams, including triplets. Below the bass staff is a tablature staff with fret numbers (7, 6, 9, 7, 6, 9, 7, 9, 7, 6, 11, 9, 12, 11, 9, 11, 9, 12, 11, 12, 11) and a '3' indicating a triplet.

45

49

Musical notation for measures 45-49. The system includes a bass staff with a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps. The bass staff contains notes with stems and beams, including triplets. Below the bass staff is a tablature staff with fret numbers (9, 14, 12, 11, 14, 14, 13, 11, 13, 14, 14, 13, 11, 13, 14, 13, 11, 14, 10, 11, 9, 12, 11, 12, 9) and a '3' indicating a triplet.

Very lively **55**

Musical notation for measures 51-55. The system includes a bass staff with a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps. The bass staff contains notes with stems and beams, including triplets. Below the bass staff is a tablature staff with fret numbers (9, 9, 8, 7, 9, 9, 8, 7, 10, 8, 7, 8, 7, 10, 8, 10, 8) and a '3' indicating a triplet.

59

63

Musical notation for measures 58-63. The system includes a bass staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (Bb). The bass staff contains notes with stems and beams, including triplets. Below the bass staff is a tablature staff with fret numbers (7, 12, 10, 13, 12, 10, 12, 10, 13, 12, 13, 12, 10, 15, 13, 12, 15, 15, 14, 12, 14) and a '3' indicating a triplet.

67

Musical notation for measures 64-67. The system includes a bass staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The bass staff contains notes with stems and beams, including triplets. Below the bass staff is a tablature staff with fret numbers (15, 15, 14, 12, 14, 15, 14, 12, 15, 11, 12, 10, 13, 12, 13, 10, 10, 10, 9, 8, 10, 8, 8) and a '3' indicating a triplet.

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Very lively 73

Musical notation for measures 73-77. The system includes a bass staff with a treble clef and a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The bass staff contains a melodic line with triplets and slurs. Below it is a tablature staff with fret numbers: 9 8 11, 9, 8 9, 8 11, 9 11 9, 8, 13 11 14, 13, 11 13, 11, 14, 13 14. Measure numbers 73, 77, and 81 are indicated in boxes.

Musical notation for measures 79-85. The system includes a bass staff with a treble clef and a key signature of three sharps. The bass staff contains a melodic line with triplets and slurs. Below it is a tablature staff with fret numbers: 13, 11, 16 14 13, 16, 16 15 13 15, 16, 16 15 13 15, 16, 15 13, 16, 12, 13, 11, 14. Measure numbers 79, 81, and 85 are indicated in boxes.

Musical notation for measures 86-91. The system includes a bass staff with a treble clef and a key signature of three sharps. The bass staff contains a melodic line with triplets and slurs. Below it is a tablature staff with fret numbers: 13 13, 14 11, 11 10 9, 11, 8, 8, 4 3 6, 4, 3 4, 3, 6, 4 6, 4. Measure numbers 86 and 91 are indicated in boxes. The tempo marking "Very lively" is present above measure 91.

Musical notation for measures 94-99. The system includes a bass staff with a treble clef and a key signature of three sharps. The bass staff contains a melodic line with triplets and slurs. Below it is a tablature staff with fret numbers: 3, 8 6 9, 8, 6 8, 6, 9, 8 9, 8, 6, 11 9 8, 11, 11 10 8 10. Measure numbers 94, 95, and 99 are indicated in boxes.

Musical notation for measures 100-103. The system includes a bass staff with a treble clef and a key signature of three sharps. The bass staff contains a melodic line with triplets and slurs. Below it is a tablature staff with fret numbers: 11, 11 10 8 10, 11, 10 8, 11, 7, 8, 6 9, 8, 9 6, 6, 6 5 4, 6, 4, 4. Measure numbers 100 and 103 are indicated in boxes.

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Very lively 109

113

Musical notation for measures 109-113. The top staff is a bass clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The bottom staff shows fingerings for the strings (T, A, B) and includes triplets and slurs.

117

121

Musical notation for measures 116-121. The top staff is a bass clef with a key signature of one flat. The bottom staff shows fingerings for the strings (T, A, B) and includes triplets and slurs.

Very lively 127

Musical notation for measures 123-127. The top staff is a bass clef with a key signature of one flat. The bottom staff shows fingerings for the strings (T, A, B) and includes triplets and slurs.

131

135

Musical notation for measures 130-135. The top staff is a bass clef with a key signature of two sharps (D major). The bottom staff shows fingerings for the strings (T, A, B) and includes triplets and slurs.

139

Musical notation for measures 137-139. The top staff is a bass clef with a key signature of two sharps. The bottom staff shows fingerings for the strings (T, A, B) and includes triplets and slurs.

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Very lively 145

149

Musical notation for measures 145-149. The system consists of a bass staff and a tablature staff. The bass staff is in 3/4 time with a key signature of two flats. It features a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, including triplets. The tablature staff shows fingerings for the strings, with numbers 3, 6, 5, 8, 6, 5, 6, 5, 8, 6, 8, 6, 5, 3, 6, 5, 3, 6, 5, 6, 5.

153

157

Musical notation for measures 152-157. The system consists of a bass staff and a tablature staff. The bass staff continues the melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, including triplets. The tablature staff shows fingerings for the strings, with numbers 3, 8, 6, 5, 8, 8, 7, 5, 7, 8, 8, 7, 5, 7, 8, 7, 5, 8, 4, 5, 3, 6, 5, 6, 3.

Very lively 163

Musical notation for measures 159-163. The system consists of a bass staff and a tablature staff. The bass staff shows a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, including triplets. The tablature staff shows fingerings for the strings, with numbers 3, 3, 2, 1, 3, 9, 9, 5, 4, 7, 5, 4, 7, 5, 7, 5.

167

171

Musical notation for measures 166-171. The system consists of a bass staff and a tablature staff. The bass staff shows a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, including triplets. The tablature staff shows fingerings for the strings, with numbers 4, 4, 2, 5, 4, 2, 4, 2, 5, 4, 5, 4, 2, 7, 5, 4, 7, 7, 6, 4, 6, 7, 7, 6, 4, 6.

175

Musical notation for measures 173-175. The system consists of a bass staff and a tablature staff. The bass staff shows a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, including triplets. The tablature staff shows fingerings for the strings, with numbers 7, 6, 4, 7, 3, 4, 2, 5, 4, 5, 2, 2, 3, 2, 6, 5, 7, 5, 5.

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Very lively 181

185

Musical notation for measures 181-185. The system includes a bass staff with a treble clef and a bass staff with a bass clef. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The time signature is 3/4. The bass staff contains a series of notes with fingerings (1-4) and triplets (3). The treble staff contains a series of notes with slurs and triplets (3).

188

189

193

Musical notation for measures 188-193. The system includes a bass staff with a treble clef and a bass staff with a bass clef. The key signature has two flats. The time signature is 3/4. The bass staff contains a series of notes with fingerings (1-6) and triplets (3). The treble staff contains a series of notes with slurs and triplets (3).

195

Very lively 199

Musical notation for measures 195-199. The system includes a bass staff with a treble clef and a bass staff with a bass clef. The key signature has two flats. The time signature is 3/4. The bass staff contains a series of notes with fingerings (1-6) and triplets (3). The treble staff contains a series of notes with slurs and triplets (3).

202

203

207

Musical notation for measures 202-207. The system includes a bass staff with a treble clef and a bass staff with a bass clef. The key signature has two flats. The time signature is 3/4. The bass staff contains a series of notes with fingerings (1-8) and triplets (3). The treble staff contains a series of notes with slurs and triplets (3).

209

211

Musical notation for measures 209-211. The system includes a bass staff with a treble clef and a bass staff with a bass clef. The key signature has two flats. The time signature is 3/4. The bass staff contains a series of notes with fingerings (1-8) and triplets (3). The treble staff contains a series of notes with slurs and triplets (3).

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Very lively 217 221

224 225 229

Very lively 231 235

238 239 243

245 247

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Very lively 253 257

260 261 265

Very lively 271

275 279

282 283

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Very lively 289 293

296 297 301

304