

George Frideric Handel (1685–1759), a German composer who lived and worked in England, was a contemporary of J.S. Bach. He wrote a suite of orchestral movements for a royal boat party in 1717 called *Water Music*, a work that consists of many popular dance styles of the day, including the French folk dance called the *rigaudon*. Handel is most famous today for his *Messiah* and its “Hallelujah Chorus.”

Rigaudon

from *Water Music*

Handel/Monday

Allegro with detached quarter notes

The musical score for the Rigaudon from *Water Music* is presented in two parts, A and B, in bass clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The tempo is marked "Allegro with detached quarter notes".

The score is divided into five systems of music:

- System 1:** Measures 1-4. Both parts start with a *mf* dynamic. A first ending bracket covers measures 3-4, with a box containing the number "4" above measure 4.
- System 2:** Measures 5-10. Part A starts with *f* and Part B with *f*. A first ending bracket covers measures 9-10, with a box containing the number "10" above measure 10.
- System 3:** Measures 11-17. Both parts start with *f*. A first ending bracket covers measures 15-17, with a box containing the number "17" above measure 17. A second ending bracket covers measures 16-17.
- System 4:** Measures 18-23. Both parts start with *sub. p*. A first ending bracket covers measures 22-23, with a *cresc.* marking above measure 23.
- System 5:** Measures 24-29. Both parts start with *f*. A first ending bracket covers measures 28-29, with a *cresc.* marking above measure 29.

Dynamic markings throughout the piece include *mf*, *f*, *sub. p*, and *cresc.* (crescendo). The score also features repeat signs and first/second endings.