

Wake, Awake, For Night Is Flying

"Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme"

Words & Music by Philipp Nicolai, translated by Catherine Winkworth

Sing along with the Dominican Sisters of Mary @ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Qq0SOUyEr8&list=TLPQMDUwOTIwMjBX5tyQfluSWw&index=10>

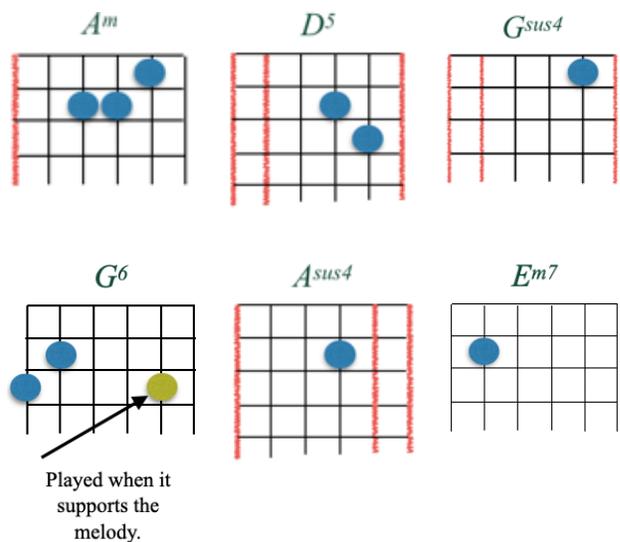


Capo 3rd fret to play the chord patterns on this sheet.

C Am G C D⁵ G
Wake, a - - wake, for night is fly-ing,
C Am G G^{sus4} G⁶ A^{sus4} G
The watchmen on the heights are cry- - - ing;
C Am G⁷ G⁶ C
"Awake, Jerusalem, at last!
Am G C D⁵ G
Midnight hears the welcome voi-ces.
C Am G G^{sus4} G⁶ A^{sus4} G
And at the thrilling cry re - - joi- - - - ces:
C Am G⁷ G⁶ C
Come forth ye vir-gins night is past.
Em⁷ G⁷ G⁶ Am
The Bridegroom comes, awake!
Em⁷ G⁶ C
Your lamps with gladness take!
G⁶ G⁷ C
Alle-lu - ia!
G Am Em⁷ C G⁶ C
And for His marriage feast prepare,
C Am G⁷ G⁶ C
For ye must go to meet Him there."

C Am G C D⁵ G
Now let all the heavens adore Thee,
C Am G G^{sus4} G⁶ A^{sus4} G
And men and angels sing be - - fore Thee,
C Am G⁷ G⁶ C
With harp and cymbal's clearest tone.
Am G C D⁵ G
Of one pearl each shining por-tal,
C Am G G^{sus4} G⁶ A^{sus4} G
Where we are with the choir im - - mor - - - tal,
C Am G⁷ G⁶ C
Of angels round Thy dazzling throne.
Em⁷ G⁷ G⁶ Am
Nor eye has seen nor ear,
Em⁷ G⁶ C
Hath yet attained to hear,
G⁶ G⁷ C
What there is ours,
G Am Em⁷ C G⁶ C
But we re - - joi-ce and sing to Thee,
C Am G⁷ G⁶ C
Our hymn of joy eter-nal - ly.

C Am G C D⁵ G
Zi-on hears the watchmen singing,
C Am G G^{sus4} G⁶ A^{sus4} G
And all her heart new joy is spring - - ing,
C Am G⁷ G⁶ C
She wakes, she rises from her gloom;
Am G C D⁵ G
For her Lord comes down all glorious,
C Am G G^{sus4} G⁶ A^{sus4} G
And strong in grace, in truth vic - to - ri - - ous,
C Am G⁷ G⁶ C
Her Star is ris'n, her Light is come.
Em⁷ G⁷ G⁶ Am
Now come, Thou Blessed Lord,
Em⁷ G⁶ C
O Je-sus, God's own Son,
G⁶ G⁷ C
Alle-lu - ia!
G Am Em⁷ C G⁶ C
We follow till the halls we see,
C Am G⁷ G⁶ C
Where Thou hast bid us sup with Thee.



Another wonderful arrangement of this hymn [in a different key] can be found at "Wake, Awake for Night Is Flying" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3IRu-RZTjYQ>

Scripture and History

Matthew 25: 1-13. “Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise.

The foolish ones, when taking their lamps, brought no oil with them, but the wise brought flasks of oil with their lamps. Since the bridegroom was long delayed, they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

At midnight, there was a cry, ‘Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’ Then all those virgins got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ But the wise ones replied, ‘No, for there may not be enough for us and you. Go instead to the merchants and buy some for yourselves.’

While they went off to buy it, the bridegroom came and those who were ready went into the wedding feast with him. Then the door was locked. Afterwards the other virgins came and said, ‘Lord, Lord, open the door for us!’ But he said in reply, ‘Amen, I say to you, I do not know you.’

Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

Philipp Nicolai, (1556-1608) who wrote “**Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying**” was a German Lutheran pastor, poet, and composer, born at Mengerlinghausen in Waldeck, Hesse, Germany where his father was a Lutheran priest. He is most widely recognized as a hymnodist. In 1583, he was ordained to the Lutheran ministry and was appointed minister at Herdecke. He was subsequently expelled during the Counter-Reformation. In 1588, he became pastor at Altwildungen in Hesse. He graduated with a Doctorate Degree in Theology from the University of Wittenberg in 1594. In 1601, he was elected chief pastor of St. Kathrine’s Church in (*Katharinenkirche*) in Hamburg.



Philipp Nicolai
Image from Wikipedia

He was the author of two famous hymns: “**Wachet auf, fuft uno die Stimme**” (“**Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying**”) and “*Wie schön Leuchtet der Morgenstern*” sometimes referred to as

the King and Queen of Chorales, respectively. These two chorales have inspired many composers, including Johann Sebastian Bach, whose chorale cantatas *Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern, BWV 1*, and *Wachet auf, fuft uns die Stimme, BWV 140*, are based on them.



Catherine Winkworth
Image from memim.com

“**Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying**” was translated into English by by Catherine Winkworth, 1829-1878.

Wikipedia

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