

# Wake, Awake, For Night Is Flying

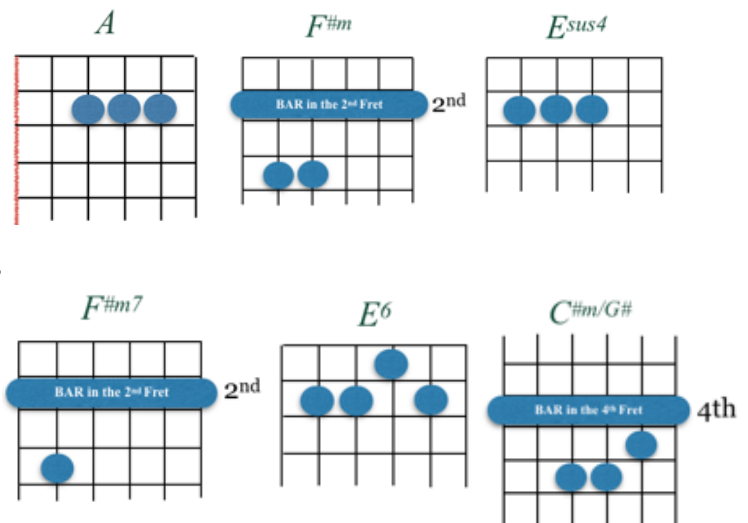
"Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme"

Words & Music by Philipp Nicolai, translated by Catherine Winkworth

A F#m E A D E  
Wake, a - - wake, for night is flying,  
A F#m E Esus4 E F#m7 E  
The watchmen on the heights are cry- - - ing;  
A F#m D E A  
"Awake, Jerusa-lem, a- - rise!"  
F#m E D F#m E  
Midnight hears the welcome voi- - - ces.  
A F#m E Esus4 E F#m7 E  
And at the thrilling cry re - - joi- - - ces:  
A F#m D Esus4 F#m7  
"Where are the vir-gins pure and wise?  
A D F#m7 Esus4 F#m  
The Bridegroom comes, a - - - wake!  
A D F#m7 Esus4 A  
Your lamps with glad- ness take!  
E E6 D A  
Al-le- lu-ia!  
E D E7 F#m A Esus4 F#m  
With bri-dal care and faith's bold prayer,  
A D F#m D E A  
To meet the Bridegroom, come prepare."

A F#m E A D E  
Lamb of God the heavens adore you,  
A F#m E Esus4 E F#m7 E  
The saints and angels sing be - - fore you,  
A F#m D E A  
With harp and cymbal's clearest tone.  
F#m E D F#m E  
Of one pearl each shining por- - - tal,  
A F#m E Esus4 E F#m7 E  
Where, joining with the choir im - - mor- - - tal,  
A F#m D Esus4 F#m7  
We gather round your radiant throne.  
A D F#m7 Esus4 F#m  
No eye has seen that light,  
A D F#m7 Esus4 A  
No ear the e - - choed might,  
E E6 D A  
Of your glory.  
E D E7 F#m A Esus4 F#m  
Yet there shall we in victo - - ry,  
A D F#m D E A  
Sing shouts of joy e - - ternally.

A F#m E A D E  
Zion hears the watchmen singing,  
A F#m E Esus4 E F#m7 E  
And in her heart new joy is spring - ing,  
A F#m D E A  
She wakes, she rises from her gloom;  
F#m E D F#m E  
For her Lord comes down all-glori - - ous,  
A F#m E Esus4 E F#m7 E  
And strong in grace, in truth vic - - tori - - - ous,  
A F#m D Esus4 F#m  
Her Star is ris'n, her Light is come.  
A D F#m7 Esus4 F#m  
"Now come, Thou Blessed One,  
A D F#m7 Esus4 A  
Lord Je-sus, God's own Son,  
E E6 D A  
Sing hosanna!  
E D E7 F#m A Esus4 F#m  
We an-swer all in joy your call,  
A D F#m D E A  
We follow to the wedding hall."



# 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, fußt uns 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, fußt uns die Stimme*, BWV 140, are based on them.



Catherine Winkworth  
Image from [memim.com](http://memim.com)

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

Wikipedia

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