

J.S. Bach - Church Cantatas BWV 128

12.

15. A7 D major C major G major

CORNO I

17. Soprano Alto Tenor Bass

CHORUS

A Line 1. (Mel.: „Allein Gott in der Höh' sei Ehr.“)

Underlying the movement is the first stanza of a chorale by Josua Wegelin (1604–1640) in a 1661 arrangement by Ernst Sonnemann (1630–1670), employing the tune "Allein Gott in der Höh' sei Ehr." The thematic material accompanying the voices (imitative texture in the voices, concertato texture in the instruments) is derived from the chorale's opening phrase, the rising lines symbolic of Christ's initial ascension and the believer's anticipated future ascension. The chorale lines are grouped in pairs (1–2, 3–4, 5–6, 7) with only a few instrumental measures separating the members of each pair. See Martin Petzoldt, *Bach Kommentar* 2:901.

Auf Chri -
Stollen 1 of chorale's bar form.

Auf Christi
Auf Christi Himmelfahrt

Ob I/Vln I

20. G major G major

sti Him - - mel - - fahrt al - -
Himmel-fahrt al - lein, auf Christi Him - - mel-fahrt al - -
al - lein, auf Christi Himmel-fahrt, auf Christi Himmelfahrt al -
Auf Christi Himmel - fahrt, auf Christi Himmelfahrt al -

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22.

lein

The lower voices repeat the text phrase for emphasis.

Ob I/Vln I

Corno I

Corno II (up Bass)

Ob da caccia/Vla

G major

B 25.

Line 2.

ich mei - ne

ich mei - ne Nach - fahrt, mei - ne

ich mei - ne Nach - fahrt grün -

Nach - fahrt grün -

Nach - fahrt grün -

de, ich mei - ne Nach - fahrt grün -

Corno II

Corno I

G major

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29.

The lower voices repeat the text phrase for emphasis.

Ritornello

G7

C major

down 8va
G major

G major

C major

G7

= m. 14b.

C major

G major

= m. 15.

= m. 16.

G major

37.

= m. 17.

G major

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38. C
Line 3.

Stollen 2.

und al - - - len
und al - len Zweifel, Angst und
und al - len Zweifel, Angst und

Ctr. tr. = m. 18.
= m. 19. Ob I/Vln I

40. G major G major G major

Zwei - - fel, Angst und
Pein, und al - len Zweifel, Angst und
Pein, und al - len Zweifel, Angst und
und al - len Zweifel, al - len Zweifel, Angst und

= m. 20 (bass modified). = m. 21,

A minor E minor D7

42.

Pein

Pein, und al - len Zweifel, Angst und Pein
Pein, und al - len Zweifel, Angst und Pein
Pein, und al - len Zweifel, Angst und Pein

The lower voices repeat the text phrase for emphasis.

= m. 22. = m. 23.

G major G major

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44.

D Line 4.

hier -

hiermit stets

hiermit stets überwin -

= m. 24.

D

= m. 25.

46.

G major

mit stets überwin -

hiermit stets überwin -

überwin - de, hier - mit stets ü - ber - win -

de, stets überwin - de, hier - mit stets ü - ber -

= m. 26 (bass modified).

48.

B7

win - de;

de, stets überwin - de, hier - mit stets ü - ber -

de, stets ü - ber - win - de, hier - mit stets ü - ber -

win - de, hier - mit stets ü - ber -

Corno I

E minor G major G7 C major

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50.

win - de;
- de;
win - de; = m. 30 *horns modified.

Ritornello *mf*

down 8va
G major

G major

B(7)

52.

E minor

54.

E minor

E minor

56. B(7)

E

Line 5.

Abgesang of chorale's bar form.

denn
weil
das

denn weil das Haupt im Him - - - mel, im Him - - - mel

denn weil das Haupt im Him - - - mel

denn weil das Haupt im

E tr.

Ob I/Vln I

E minor

E minor

D(7)

E7

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58.

Haupt im Himmel
ist, denn weil das Haupt im Himmel ist, denn weil das Haupt im Himmel
ist, im Himmel ist, denn weil das Haupt im Himmel ist, im Himmel, im Himmel ist, denn weil das Haupt im Himmel ist.

60. A minor A minor

ist,
ist, das Haupt im Himmel ist.
The lower voices repeat the text phrase for emphasis.
ist, das Haupt im Himmel ist,
ist, das Haupt im Himmel ist, Corno I
Corno II (up 8va)

A major D minor 63. A minor F Line 6.

wird
wird seine Glied
wird seine

E7 A minor G major D(7)

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65.

67. G major

69.

B7 E minor

Ritornello *mf*

B(7) E minor E major

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80.

The lower voices repeat the text phrase for emphasis.

len, zu rechter Zeit nach ho len.
ho len, nach ho len, nach ho len.

len, zu rechter Zeit nach ho len.

Corno I Corno II (up 8va)

C major Secco C major G major

Dal Segno

128/2. Recitative Prayer: Come, bring me to thee in heavenly Salem (128/2).

1. TenB r E C A D# F# G G# Omission of von Ziegler 1728 "nichts als." See note.

Chromatic saturation in the vocal part in 6 mm.

Ich bin bereit, komm, hole mich! Hier in der Welt ist [nothing but]

3. D E minor F E7 C#

Jammer, Angst und Pein; hingegen dort, in Salems Zelt, werd' ich verkläret sein. Da

6. G# dim. 7 A# A7 D# dim. E minor C# dim. F#7

sch' ich Gott von An-gesicht zu Ange-sicht, wie mir sein heilig Wort verspricht.

von Ziegler 1728: dich von Angesicht, wie
mir dein heiliges

B minor

B minor

The text alludes to various biblical passages and themes. See note.

Alfred Dürr writes, "The scoring of the third movement—with trumpet added to strings and continuo—signifies that Christ has now entered upon His sovereignty. An extended ritornello of radiant brilliance is then reiterated in the principal section, partly in vocal form but for the most part instrumentally with vocal insertion. A freer second section does not lead back to the expected da capo of the principal section, but changes abruptly to a recitative with string accompaniment on the words 'Wo mein Erlöser lebt . . .'. The final reprise of the instrumental ritornello then follows, giving rise to the overall form: ritornello - vocal section A - vocal section B - recitative - ritornello." See Alfred Dürr, *The Cantatas of J. S. Bach*, translated by Richard Jones (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005), p. 331.

Aria

128/3. **Allegro moderato** ♩ = 84 •Jesus at God's right hand; I will join him there (128/3).



1. Strings Trp
Ritornello *mf*
Figura corta (see note).
Heroic style featuring the figura corta.
D major

This block contains the first three measures of the musical score. Measure 1 starts with a forte dynamic from the strings and trumpet (Trp). Measure 2 begins with a ritornello section in *mf* dynamics, featuring a recurring eighth-note pattern (figura corta). Measure 3 continues the ritornello pattern. Red annotations highlight the trumpet entry in measure 1 and the ritornello pattern in measure 2. A yellow icon with a question mark is located in the top-left corner of the page.

4.

This block contains measures 4 through 6 of the musical score. The instrumentation remains the same, with strings and trumpet providing the rhythmic foundation. The tempo is indicated as Allegro moderato (♩ = 84).

7.

D major

This block contains measures 7 through 9 of the musical score. The key signature changes to D major, indicated by a red label "D major" below the bass staff. The instrumentation and tempo remain consistent with the previous measures.

10.

D major

This block contains measures 10 through 12 of the musical score. The key signature changes back to G major, indicated by a red label "D major" below the bass staff. The instrumentation and tempo remain consistent with the previous measures.

13.

This block contains measures 13 through 15 of the musical score. The instrumentation and tempo remain consistent with the previous measures, continuing the rhythmic patterns established earlier.

This type of aria is called a "Devisenarie" (a term coined by Hugo Riemann) or "motto aria." After the ritornello, the singer presents the first phrase of the aria as a kind of motto. This is followed by a short instrumental bridge before the aria proper begins. The motto sets the tone (and the literary perspective) for the movement.

16. Bass

Bass is often the voice of authority.

Auf, auf, mit hel - lem Schall,
von Zieger 1728: Auf! jubilirt mit

Continuo alone...

D major

D major

19.

mit hel - lem Schall,

auf, auf, mit

Strings

Trp up 8va

D major

D major

22.

hel - lem Schall ver - kün-digt ü - ber-all: mein Je - sus sitzt,

Text painting: The firm position of Christ seated at the right hand of God is depicted with immovable notes.

D major

25.

mein Je - sus sitzt zur Rechten; auf, auf, mit

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28.

hel - lem Schall ver - kündigt ü - ber - all: mein Je - sus sitzt,

E7

A major

31.

mein Je - sus sitzt zur Rechten;

A major

E(7)

34.

auf, auf, mit hel-lem Schall ver-kün-digt ü-ber-

C# minor F#7 B minor

37.

all: mein Je-sus sitzt zur Rech-ten,
Trumpet tacet...

E7

A major

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40.

mein Je-sus sitzt zur Rech-ten, mein Je-sus sitzt zur Rech-

E7

A major

43.

Ten.
Trumpet continues with interjections...

mf

A major

46.

Wer sucht mich an-zu-fech-ten, wer

tr.

p

A major

F#7

49.

sucht mich, mich an-zu-fech-ten, wer sucht mich, mich

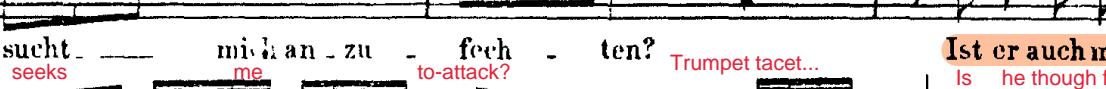
B minor

A7

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von Zieger 1728: Wird er mir gleich weggenommen

55. *weggenommen*



sucht mich an - zu feeh - ten?
seeks me to-attack?

Trumpet tacet...

Ist er auch mir ge -
Is he though from-me taken,

Twice the instruments stop (mm. 57 & 58) then respond to the singer with a rising line, the first violin (at first prefiguring the singer's line, then responding to it). The continuo meanwhile, repeats a descending line (an expansion of the figura corta that has permeated the entire movement). Because figura corta has had a heraldic function throughout the movement, its expanded, descending form suggests the promise of Christ's return (compare the contour of line in the opening movement)..

B minor

Figura corta expanded into a descending line...

B7

Ist er auch mir ge-

Is he though from-me taken,

Twice the instruments stop (mm. 57 & 59), then respond to the singer with a rising line in the first violin (at first prefiguring the singer's line, then responding to it). The continuo, meanwhile, repeats a descending line (an expansion of the figura corta that has permeated the entire movement). Because the figura corta has had a heraldic function throughout the movement, its expanded, descending form suggests the promise of Christ's return (compare the contour of line 7 in the opening movement)..

58. von Zieger 1728: werd ich doch dahin auch

nom - men, ich werd'einst da - hin kom - men,
 Vln I I will one-day to-that-place come,
 {
 sing: Vln I responds with rising scale.

Martin Petzoldt outlines the implications of the text revision (see note).
 Abrupt stop for "sud seeing the Redeem

E minor E7

Martin Petzoldt outlines the implications of the text revision (see note).

Abrupt stop for "suddenly seeing the Redeemer."

Text painting: Vln I responds to singer with rising scale.

61. **Recit.** G# C# B A F# D E

wo mein Er-löser lebt. Mein' Augen werden ihn in grösster Klarheit schauen. O
where my Redeemer lives. My eyes will him in-the greatest clarity see.

"Halo" of strings.
The first 2 lines of this recitative were added to Von Zieger's libretto. The recitative as a whole was

von Zieger 1728: Auge wird

The first 2 lines of this recitative were added to Von Ziegler's libretto. The recitative as a whole was originally intended by the librettist to follow the aria.

von Zieger 1728: Auge wird

Chromatic
saturation in
the vocal part
in 8 mm.

The recitative alludes to various biblical passages and themes (see note).



64.

64.

originally intended by the librettist to follow the aria.

C#(7) F# minor D major E7 A major

G A#

D# B#

könn't ich im Voraus mir ei-ne Hüt-te bauen! Wo - hin?... Vergebener Wunsch! Er
could I ahead-of time for-myself a shelter build! Whither? Useless wish! He

von Zieger 1728: schon allda von Zieger 1728: Jedoch

E# major A# dim 7 F#7 B minor D# dim G#7

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70. This line is added to von Zieger's 1728 version.

(Tempo I)

suche nicht diesel-be zu er - gründen.
seek not the-same to fathom.

The ritornello for the aria returns, as if to introduce a repetition of the singer's opening but the singer remains silent.

west note
"fathom

Strings

三

B minor

D major

Dal Segno

Duet Bach's score assigns the obbligato line to organ, but he apparently changed his mind (see note).

128/4. **Andante** ♩ = 56 • Christ's exaltation to God's right hand unfathomable (128/4).

Ob d'am I 1

Max Reger used the ritornello theme in his 1904 *Variations and Fugue on a Theme by J. S. Bach*, op. 81, for piano.

Ob d'am I 1.

Ritornello *mf*
derived
from vocal line.

B minor

4.

B minor C#7 F# minor F# minor

Musical score for piano, page 10, measures 7 and 8. The score consists of two staves. The top staff uses a treble clef and has a key signature of one sharp (F#). The bottom staff uses a bass clef and has a key signature of one sharp (F#). Measure 7 begins with a forte dynamic. Measure 8 starts with a half note followed by a melodic line. The score is labeled "7." above the first measure and "A7" below the second measure.

The verses just prior to the Gospel reading (Mark 16:12–13) may identify Bach's duet partners: "After this [Jesus] appeared in another form to two of them, as they were walking into the country. And they went back and told the rest [that Jesus had risen], but they did not believe them."

10.

D major

F#7

F#7

Lines 1–3 (3x).

von Zieger 1728: Dein

13. **Alto**

Tenor

Alfred Dürr writes, "Despite the imitative texture of the duet parts, the structure is in essentials predominantly homophonic, since the imitation is largely subordinate to the periodic articulation of the movement. On account of its unabridged da capo form, it is very extensive." See *The Cantatas of J. S. Bach*, translated by Richard Jones (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005), p. 331. The movement is subdued as God's unfathomable omnipotence is humbly contemplated.

Sein' All - macht zu er -

Martin Petzoldt sees Trinitarian symbolism in the 6/8 meter and the three-fold iteration of the first three lines of text. See Bach Kommentar 2:906.

B minor

B minor

hemiola

Continuo alone...

16.

grün den, wird sich kein Mensche fin -

Tenor reaches above alto.

Sein' All - macht zu er - grün - den, wird

Word painting: Drop of a 5th to a longer note emphasized with a trill for "ergründen" (to "fathom").

Ob d'am

B minor E# dim. F# minor C#7 F# minor B7 C#7 F# minor F#7

19.

den, mein Mund ver-stummt und

sich kein Men - sche fin - den,

Ob d'am

B minor B minor C# major F# minor C# major

Martin Petzoldt notes that the self-admonition to hush (expressed at the end of the previous movement) is here depicted with sustained notes and appoggiaturas on "schweigt" ("to become silent") and with breaks in the vocal line at mm. 33–36. See *Bach Kommentar* 2:906.

22.

schweigt, verstummt und schweigt.
mein Mund verstummt und schweigt.

Ritornello

D major F# minor C#7 F# minor (F# minor)

26.

Sein'
Sein' His

Martin Petzoldt sees Trinitarian symbol in the 6/8 meter and the three-fold iteration of the first three lines. See *Bach Kommentar* 2:906.

C#7 F# minor F# minor F# minor

29. Parallel 3rds suggest sweetness.

All - macht zu er - grün - den, wird sich kein Mensche
omnipotence to fathom, will no human

All - macht zu er - grün - den, wird sich kein Mensche

B7 E minor F#7

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Breaks in the vocal line for the self-admonition to "fall silent."

35.

Mund verstummt und schweigt.

mein Mund verstummt und schweigt. Sein'

Ritornello

F#7 B major B7 E minor E minor

39.

Sein' All-macht zu er -

Tenor reaches
above alto.

All - macht zu er - grün - den, wird sich kein Mensche fin -

E minor B minor

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42.

grün - den, wird sich kein Men - sche fin - - den,
den, mein

B minor B7 E minor

45.

mein Mund verstummt und schweigt.
Mund verstummt und schweigt, verstummt und schweigt. Ritornello

E minor F#7 B minor B minor (B minor)

49.

B minor B minor

53.

B minor C#7 F# minor F# minor B7

56.

E minor A7 D major

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73.

ich se - he durch die Ster - - ne,dass
ich

G major

77.

er sich schon von fer - - ne zur Rech - ten Got - tes zeigt,
se - he durch die Ster - - ne,dass er - sich schon von fer - - ne zur

E minor F#7 B minor E7 C#7 F# minor

81.

zur Rechten Got - tes zeigt, zur Rech - ten Got - tes zeigt.
Rech - ten Got - tes zeigt, zur Rech - - ten Got - tes zeigt.

A7 D major D major Da Capo

This is the 4th stanza of 7 in the chorale by Matthäus Avenarius (1625–1692). written before 1662, first printed in 1672. See Petzoldt, *Bach Kommentar* 2:900. The tune was composed by Ahaverus Fritsch (1629–1701).

The concept linking the chorale to the foregoing movements is "ascension to the right hand of God." The addition of independent horn parts lends the movement a regal air suggesting heavenly consummation.

128/5. **Chorale (Mel.: „O Gott, du frommer Gott!“)** •Christ will place me at his right hand (128/5).

Soprano 1. NBA: Alsdenn

The high
tesitura of
the soprano
and the first
horn
descant
suggests
celestial
splendor.

+Ob I
Vln I

+Ob II
Vln II

+Ob da caccia
Vla

(Additional,
independent parts
for the two horns.)

+Corno I
Corno II

Als dann so wirst du mich zu deiner Rechten stel - len und
Als dann so wirst du mich zu deiner Rechten stel - len und
Als dann so wirst du mich zu deiner Rechten stel - len und
Als dann so wirst du mich zu deiner Rechten stel - len und
Als dann so wirst du mich zu deiner Rechten stel - len und
mir, als dei - nem Kind, ein gnädig Urtheil fäl - len, mich brin - gen zu der
mir, als dei - nem Kind, ein gnädig Urtheil fäl - len, mich brin - gen zu der
mir, als dei - nem Kind, ein gnädig Urtheil fäl - len, mich brin - gen zu der
mir, als dei - nem Kind, ein gnädig Urtheil fäl - len, mich brin - gen zu der
Lust, wo dei - ne Herr - lich - keit ich wer - de schau - en an in al - le E - wig - keit.
Lust, wo dei - ne Herr - lich - keit ich wer - de schau - en an in al - le E - wig - keit.
Lust, wo dei - ne Herr - lich - keit ich wer - de schau - en an in al - le E - wig - keit.
Lust, wo dei - ne Herr - lich - keit ich wer - de schau - en an in al - le E - wig - keit.

5. G major C major C major D major G major
10. Soprano in highest range... G major G major A7 D major D major D7 G major G7
C major E7 A major D major G major B7 E minor D7 G major G major