

# J.S. Bach - Church Cantatas BWV 41

Introduction & updates at melvinunger.com.

NBA I/4; BC A22

New Year/Circumcision and Name of Jesus (BWV 143, 190, 41, 16, 171, 248-IV)

\*Gal. 3:23-29 (Through faith we are heirs of the promise)

\*Luke 2:21 (Circumcision and naming of Jesus)

Librettist: Unknown

FP: 1 January 1725 (St. Nicholas in the morning and St. Thomas at afternoon Vespers). Part of Bach's chorale cantata cycle.

The cantata is based on the chorale of the same name (see side note).

Festive Instrumentation:  
 Tromba I, II, III  
 Timp.  
 Ob I, II, III  
 Vln I, II  
 Vla  
 Vioiloncello piccolo  
 SATB  
 Continuo, Organo

Section 1.  
 Phrases 1-4  
 = 5-8: "Freely polyphonic choral texture, incorporated in a thematically independent, concerted orchestral texture for three trumpets and drums, three oboes, strings and continuo."  
 Dürr/Jones  
 150

Form: Chorus/fantasia - Aria (S) - Recit (A) - Aria (T) - Recit (B) - Chorale. The underlying chorale has only 3 stanzas (see side note), so that the librettist had considerable freedom in developing poetry for the intervening movements. Bach used it in Cantatas 190, 41, 171 (all for New Year's Day) and in as a self-standing chorale (BWV 362).

The 14 lines of the chorale are expanded to 16 by repeating the last two lines to a repeat of the opening melody (this was apparently customary in Leipzig—see note below). Movement 1 sets this long text in 4 sections (starting mm. 1, 103, 119, 183, respectively), the 14 lines "sung throughout by the soprano in long notes, line-by-line, interrupted by [instrumental] episodes. See side note for Alfred Dürr's layout of Bach's form. Fore-imitation of the cantus firmus is reserved for section 3.

## J.S. Bach

### Cantata No. 41

#### Jesu nun sei gepreiset

(Chorale Vs. 1)

•New Year: Thanks for old year; prayer for new (41/1).

(Coro.)

41/1. (Allegro moderato  $\text{♩} = 72$ )

1.



C major (for significance, see side note).

The ebullient movement is permeated by the figura corta (suggesting joy), especially prominent in trumpets and timpani and by descending octave scales in the bass (suggesting finality).

Trp I & II

3.



Repeatedly, the "bass function" is given briefly to the unison strings while the continuo bass is silent, then the line is completed with a descending scale by the continuo, suggesting finality (perhaps indicative of bringing the old year to a successful conclusion as referenced in the text).

5.



E minor

A minor

A minor

G7  
 Timp plays figura corta with Trp III.

Timp plays figura corta with Trp III.

C major

figura corta continues in Trp II, Trp III, strings (see full score).

C major

C7 F major

J.S. Bach - Church Cantatas BWV 41

Stollen 1 of chorale's bar form.  
Chorale phrase 1.  
Choir begins before ritornello is finished.

11. Soprano.

**A**

Alto.

Tenore.

Basso.

(C)OR(O)

11. (D7) G major G7 C major C major

Trumpets  
and  
timpani  
play  
repeated  
figura  
corta. See  
full score  
to see  
instances  
not evident  
here.

13.

su, nun sei ge su, —  
figura corta su, — nun  
— su, nun sei ge prei set, Je — su, —  
Trps Timp

C7 F major (G7) C major C7

15. -Trumpets & Timpani

prei — set  
nun sei — ge prei — set  
sei — ge prei — set  
nun sei — ge prei — set  
Trp I & II

F major B-flat major B-flat major

J.S. Bach - Church Cantatas BWV 41

17.

harmonic ambiguity      E dim.      A minor

19.

G major      G7      C major

Trumpets and timpani play repeated figura corta. See full score.

B 21. Chorale phrase 2.

zu die - sem neu - zu die - sem neu - zu die - sem neu - en Jahr', zu die - sem neu - en Jahr'

Trumpets and timpani play repeated figura corta. See full score to see instances not evident here.

G major      D7      G major      E7      A minor      (D7)      D7

en Jahr' - - - en Jahr' - - - die - sem neu - en Jahr', zu die - sem neu - en Jahr' - - - en Jahr'

cresc.      Ritornello

G major      G7      C major      C7      F major      C major

J.S. Bach - Church Cantatas BWV 41

26.

C7      F major      D major

28.

D7      G major      G major      G7      C major

Trumpets play repeated 8ths (see full score).

31.

F major      B minor      E minor

33.

E minor      D7      L.H.

Chorale phrase 3.

C35.

für dein' Güt,  
für dein' Güt', uns be - wei - set,  
für dein' Güt', uns be - wei -  
für dein' Güt', uns be - wei -

R.H.      L.H.      cresc.

G major

Trumpets and timpani play repeated figura corta. See full score to see instances not evident here.

J.S. Bach - Church Cantatas BWV 41

37.

-Trumpets and timpani

uns be - wei -  
für dein' Güt, uns be - wei - set, uns be -  
set, uns be - set, uns be -

G major      E7      A minor      C(7)

39.

Trumpets and timpani play repeated figura corta. See full score to see instances not evident here.

Ritornello

Trp I, II  
L.H.

wei - set  
Trp I, II  
L.H.  
Ritornello

F major      D(7)      G minor      G minor

D 42.

Chorale phrase 4.

in al - ler  
in al -  
in al -

in      Trumpets and timpani play repeated figura corta. See full score.

D      p cresc.

G minor      E(7)      A minor      G7      C major



44.

Noth und Gfahr,

ler Noth, in aller Noth und Ge-fahr,

ler Noth, in aller Noth und Ge-fahr,

ler Noth und Ge-fahr,

**Inflected notes (F minor and G minor) for "Noth" (trouble)**

**Music of mm. 1–45 is repeated for the second Stollen (chorale phrases 5 to 8) of the chorale's bar form.**

Trumpets and timpani play repeated figura corta. See full score to see instances not evident here.

**Ritornello**

G minor C7 F minor C major

47. Trp I, II

C7 F major

E minor A minor

52.

Trumpets and timpani play repeated figura corta. See full score.

A minor G7 C major

55.

C7 F major (D7) G major G7 C major

J.S. Bach - Church Cantatas BWV 41

Stollen 2 of chorale's bar form.  
Chorale phrase 5 (same music as for phrase 1).

**E** 57.

dass      wir      ha - - - ben  
dass wir ha - ben er - le  
dass wir ha - ben er - le  
dass wir ha - ben er - le      bet,  
**E**

C major      C7      F major      (G7)

60.

er - - - le - - - bet  
bet, dass wir ha - ben er - le - - - bet  
bet, - - - dass wir ha - ben er - le - - - bet  
dass - - - wir ha - ben er - le - - - bet  
Trp I, II

C major      C7      F major      B-flat major      B-flat major

62.

harmonic ambiguity      E dim.      A minor

64.

G major      G7      C major

Trumpets and timpani play repeated figura corta. See full score.

J.S. Bach - Church Cantatas BWV 41

**F 66.** Chorale phrase 6 (same music as for phrase 2).

die neu', fröh - li -  
die neu', fröh -  
die neu', fröh - liche  
die neu', fröh -

Trumpets and timpani play repeated figura corta. See full score.

F G major D7 G major E7 A minor (D7) D7

che Zeit,  
li che Zeit,  
Zeit, die neu', fröh - li che Zeit,  
liche Zeit, Ritornello same as m. 25ff.

G major G7 C major C7 F major C major

C7 F major D major D7

Trumpets play repeated 8ths (no timp.).

G major G major G7 C major

J.S. Bach - Church Cantatas BWV 41

76.

F major

B minor

E minor

78.

Trumpets and timpani play repeated figura corta. See full score.

L.H.

E minor

D7

G 80. Chorale phrase 7 (same music as for phrase 3).

die vol - ler Gna - -

die vol - - ler Gna - de,

die vol - -

die vol - -

G

R.H.

cresc.

L.H.

G major

-Trumpets & timpani

83.

de schwe - - bet

ler Gna.de schwe - - bet

ler Gna.de schwe - - bet

ler Gna.de schwe - - bet

Trp I, II

L.H.

E7

A minor

C(7)

F major

J.S. Bach - Church Cantatas BWV 41

85.

D(7)      G minor      G minor      E(7)

Chorale phrase 8 (same music as for phrase 4).

88.

und ew' - - ger Se - - lig -  
und ew' - - - - - - - - - -  
und ew' - - - - - - - - - - ger, ew'  
und ew' - - - - - - - - - -

p cresc.

A minor      G7      C major      G minor

Trumpets and timpani play repeated figura corta. See full score to see instances not evident here.

90.

keit;  
- ger Se lig - keit;  
- ger Se lig - keit;  
- ger Se lig - keit;

f

C7      F minor      C major

Ritornello same as m. 46ff.

# J.S. Bach - Church Cantatas BWV 41

Trp I, II

93. C7 F major

96. E minor A minor A minor

98. G7 C major C7

101. F major (D7) G major G7 C major

Trumpets and timpani play repeated figura corta. See full score.

I Adagio. Section 2. Chorale phrases 9–10: "Slower ("adagio"), dynamically more subdued section ("in godly stillness"); homophonic choral texture with figurative accompanying orchestra." Dürr/Jones 150.

Abgesang of chorale's bar form.  
Chorale phrase 9.

The "peace and quiet" experienced in the old year is portrayed with bassetto technique (see below and side note). Harmonically, the music progresses downward (or flatward) in 5ths from E to C. This progression appears to represent the completion of the old year, as referenced in the text.

Text painting: Prayer to live in peace and quiet is depicted by adagio tempo, homophonic vocal writing with sustained notes, bassetto texture, and reduced instrumentation.

I Adagio. Strings (Instrumental groups are layered in).

dass wir in gu - ter Stil - - le

Oboes respond imitatively, accompanied by strings.

C major E major A minor A7

Bassetto texture (removing continuo support) is often used by Bach to depict something heavenly, unearthly, incomprehensible, or without foundation. See side note.

J.S. Bach - Church Cantatas BWV 41

109.

gu - ter Stil -

D minor Chorale phrase 10. D major D7

114.

das alt' Jahr hab'n er - fü -

das alt' Jahr hab'n er - fü -

das alt' Jahr hab'n er - fü -

le das alt' Jahr hab'n er - fü -

+Trip & Timp.

G minor G major C major

K Presto. (d = 168)

119.

let. Chorale phrases 11 & 12. NBA always: itztund

let. Wir wollen uns dir er - ge - ben jetz - und und im. mer - dar, jetzund und +Ob III, Vla

let. Wir wollen uns dir er - ge - ben jetz - und und im. mer -

Wir wollen uns

C major F major

K Presto.

14 entries of the subject (including the cantus firmus entry and counting the T/B entry as a single entry). Given the vow in the text to serve God evermore, this number perhaps alludes to completion (7+7). See side note for more.

C major (F major)

J.S. Bach - Church Cantatas BWV 41

129. +Trp I, Ob I, Vln I

Wir woll'n uns  
— wir wollen uns dir er - ge - ben jetz und und im - - - mer-dar,  
dir er - ge - ben jetz und und im - - - mer-dar, und im - - - mer-dar, jetz und und  
im - - - mer-dar, und im - - - mer-dar, wir wol - len uns dir er - ge - ben jetz und und

G7      D7      E7      A minor      A7      D major      A minor      A minor

134. G major

dir er - - ge - - - ben

wir wol - len uns dir er. ge - - ben jetz - und und im - merdar, jetz - und und im -

im - - mer - dar,

wir wol - len uns dir er - - ge - - ben jetz - und und im -

im - - mer - dar, wir wol - len uns dir er - - ge - - ben jetz - und und im -

J.S. Bach - Church Cantatas BWV 41

139.

jetz - und und  
dar, jetzund und im.mer.dar, jetz - und und im.mer. dar, jetz.und und im.mer.dar, jetz - dar, jetzund und im.mer.dar, jetz - und und im.mer. dar, jetz.und und im.mer.dar, und - mer.dar, jetz - und und im.mer. dar, jetz.und und im.mer.dar, jetz - und und im.mer.  
B-flat major B-flat major F# dim.7 G major A7 D minor D7 G minor D minor

144.

im - mer - - dar,  
und und im.mer.dar, im - mer - dar, wir wol - len uns dir er - ge - - ben jetz.und und im - - mer.dar, wir wollen uns dir er - ge - - ben,wir wollen uns dir er - ge - dar, und im`mer.dar,wir wollen uns dir er - ge - - ben jetzund und im.mer.dar,jetz -  
A7 D minor D7 G major G minor

149.

not replicated at end of music for chorale phrases 13 & 14.

im - - - mer.dar, jetz.und und im.mer. - dar, - ben jetz.und und im - - - mer. - dar, - be - hü - te Leib,Seel' und und im.mer. - dar, - jetz.und und im.mer. - dar, - be -  
G minor C# dim.7 D minor

**L**

Music repeats: 14 entries of the subject (including the cantus firmus entry and counting the T/B entry as a single entry).

Chorale phrases 13 & 14 (same music as for phrases 11 & 12: mm. 153-181=120-148).  
M. 120 has C-natural.

J.S. Bach - Church Cantatas BWV 41

154.

be . hü . te Leib, Seel' und Le . ben hin.fort durchs  
 Le . ben hin.fort durchs ganze Jahr, hin.fort durchs gan . . ze Jahr, hin.fort durchs  
 hü . te Leib, Seel' und Le . ben hin.fort durchs ganze Jahr, durchs ganze Jahr, be . hü . te Leib,

(D minor) (F major) F major

159.

gan . ze Jahr, hin . fort durchs gan . . ze Jahr, be . hü . te Leib, Seel' und Le .  
 gan . ze Jahr, hin . fort durchs gan . ze Jahr, be . hü . te Leib, Seel' und Le . . . ben hin .  
 Seel' und Le . ben hin . fort durchs gan . ze Jahr, durchs gan . ze Jahr, durchs gan . ze Jahr,

G major D7 E7 A minor

164.

be . hü t' Leib, Seel' und Le . . .  
 ben hin.fort durchs gan . . ze Jahr, be . hü . te Leib, Seel' und Le .  
 fort durchs gan . ze Jahr, durchs gan . ze Jahr, hin.fort durchs gan . . ze Jahr, be .  
 be . hü . te Leib, Seel' und Le . ben hin.fort durchs gan . . ze Jahr, be . hü . te Leib,

A7 D major G major A minor A minor C major F major

J.S. Bach - Church Cantatas BWV 41

169.

ben  
ben hin - fort durchs gan - ze Jahr, hin - fort durchs gan - ze Jahr, hinfort durchs gan - ze Jahr, hin -  
hü - te Leib, Seel' und Le - ben hin - fort durchs gan - ze Jahr, hinfort durchs gan - ze Jahr, hin -  
Seel' und Le - ben hin - fort durchs gan - - - ze Jahr, hin - fort durchs gan - ze

F major                      B-flat major                      B-flat major

174.

hin - fort durchs gan - ze Jahr,  
fort durchs gan - ze Jahr, hinfort durchs gan - ze Jahr, hin - fort durchs gan - ze Jahr, durchs ganze  
fort durchs gan - ze Jahr, hinfort durchs gan - ze Jahr, durchs gan - ze Jahr, be - hü - te Leib,  
Jahr, hin - fort durchs gan - ze Jahr, hin - fort durchs gan - ze Jahr, durchs gan - ze Jahr, be - hü - te Leib,

F# dim.7 C major A7 D minor      D7 G minor D minor      A7 D minor D7

179. G major D minor

Text painting: Sustained note for "whole year."

Jahr, be - hü - te Leib, Seel' und Le - - ben hin.fort durchs gan - - ze  
 Seel' und Le - - ben, be - hü - te Leib, Seel' und Le - . ben durchs gan - ze  
 Seel' und Le - - ben hin.fort durchs gan - ze Jahr, hin - fort durchs gan - ze

G major D minor

deviates from m. 149

J.S. Bach - Church Cantatas BWV 41

183.

**Tempo I.**

Section 4 Coda.

Rounding-off with a repeat of the last two [text] lines to the music (modified) of lines 1–2 = 5–6. In Leipzig it was apparently customary to repeat the last 2 text phrases "to a reprise of the beginning of the melody." See Alfred Dürr/Jones, 150. "Freely polyphonic choral texture, incorporated in a thematically independent, concerted orchestral texture."

Jahr,

Jahr,

Jahr,

**Tempo I.**

Trp I, II

Obs.  
Str.

Ritornello

D major

D7

G minor

C major

186.

M 188.

Chorale phrases 13 & 14 repeated. Choir begins before ritornello is finished (as in m. 12). In Leipzig it was apparently customary to repeat the last 2 text phrases "to a reprise of the beginning of the melody." See Alfred Dürr/Jones, 150.

be - - - hüt' Leib,

be - hüt' Leib, Seel',

be - hüt' Leib, Seel', Trumpets and timpani play repeated figura corta. See full score.

M

be - hüt' Leib,

Seel',

be - hüt' Leib,

C major

C7

F

F major

F

J.S. Bach - Church Cantatas BWV 41

-Trumpets and Timpani

190.

Seel' und Le -  
Leib, Seel' und Le -  
Leib, Seel' und Le -  
Seel' und Le - ben, Leib, Seel' und

(G7) C major C7 F major

192.

ben  
ben  
ben  
Le - ben -

Trp I, II

B-flat major E minor A minor

195.

Trumpets and timpani play repeated figura corta. See full score to see instances not evident here.

G major G7 C major

J.S. Bach - Church Cantatas BWV 41

N<sub>197.</sub>

Rising series of entries suggests extension of protective blessing throughout the year, as referenced in the text.

hin fort durchs gan  
hin fort durchs gan  
hin fort durchs gan  
ze Jahr, hin  
hin fort durchs gan

N

p

G major      E major      A minor      D7

200.

ze Jahr!  
ze Jahr!  
fort durchs gan ze Jahr, hin fort durchs gan ze Jahr!  
ze Jahr!

cresc.

Ritornello

G major      G7      C major      Trp I, II      C major

202.

C7      F major

205.

B-flat major      E minor      A minor

# J.S. Bach - Church Cantatas BWV 41

207.

D minor      G major G7

209.

C major      Trumpets and timpani play repeated figura corta. See full score.      C7      F major

211.

D7      G major G7      C major      C major

The instrumentation of 3 oboes with the 6/8 meter suggests a pastoral setting; the galant, scalar writing suggests a new style/year and perhaps continued passage of time; the rhyme scheme (ABBCCA), da capo form, and modulations from tonic to dominant and back reflect the text (that the end of the year be like the beginning).

(Moderato  $\text{d} = 80$ )

41/2. 1.

3 Oboes      First 6 notes of Ob I are reminiscent of opening chorale phrase.

G major      Ritornello theme derived from vocal melody. The style is galant: a cantabile melody dominates throughout.

6.

D major      D7      E7      A minor      D# dim.7      B7

Includes references to Chorale vs. 2 (see note at 41/1).  
• New Year: Prayer to end year as well as it is begun (41/2).

12. Soprano.

Verbatim from Chorale stanza 2.

Lass uns, o höchster Gott, das Jahr voll.

E minor      D7      G major      G major      G major

The 7-bar length of the phrase is somewhat unusual. Since the number 7 represents perfection or fulfillment in the bible (see note at 41/1, m. 119), this phrase length

may represent the happy completion of the coming year as referenced in the text. The galant style alludes to the "newness" of the coming year.

18.

brin - gen, da - mit das En - de so, — wie dessen An - fang sei! —

A minor      G major      D major      D major      D7

24.

E7      A minor      D# dim.7      B7      E minor      D7      G major

30.

Lass uns, o höchster Gott, das Jahr voll-brin - gen, da - mit das En - de

G major      G major

35.

so, — wie dessen An - fang sei, — lass uns, o höchster

A7      D major      D7      G major      G# dim.7

41.

Gott, das Jahr voll-brin - gen, da - mit das En - de so, — wie dessen An - fang

E7      A minor      D7      G major      G7      C major      D7

J.S. Bach - Church Cantatas BWV 41

46.

sei,— lass uns, o höchster Gott, das Jahr voll brin gen, da—

G major

52.

mit das En.de so,— wie dessen An.fang sei,— da—

G major G major G7

58.

mit das En.de so, wie dessen An — fang sei!

C major D7 G major G major G major

64.

G major A7 D major

69.

D major D7 E7 A minor B7 E minor D7

# J.S. Bach - Church Cantatas BWV 41

## B Section

Allusion to Psalm 119:173a: "Las mir deine Hand beystehen..." (Luther1545).

74.

The B section introduces contrast by turning to the relative minor and giving the oboes a more interactive role. The 3 oboes act in response to the singer, letting the text phrases take prominence (especially in the "Hallelujah" melismas), as if to signify God's hand "standing by" as requested by the singer.

Es ste-he dei-ne Hand uns bei, dass

G major                              G major                              E minor                              E minor

79.

künftig, bei des Jah-res Schluss,wir bei des Se-gens Ü-berfluss,wie jetzt ein Hal-

A7                                      D major                              A# dim.7                              B minor

Melismas for singing a "hallelujah."

84.

le lu ja sin gen

B minor                              B minor                              B minor                              B7

89.

es

E minor                              A# dim.7                              B minor                              B minor

J.S. Bach - Church Cantatas BWV 41

95.

ste-he de-i-ne Hand uns bei, dass künftig, bei des Jah-re-Schluss,wir bei des Se-gens

B minor      E7      A minor      A minor      D# dim.7

100.

Ü-berfluss, wie jetzt ein Hal-le-lu-ja

E minor      E7      A minor      B7      E minor

104.

sin-gen, ein Hal-

E minor      E minor

108.

le-lu-ja sin-gen.

E minor      f      mf

Dal Segno.  
E minor

In the book of Revelation the revealed Christ refers to himself as the Alpha and Omega. Since Luther's German bible translates "the Alpha and the Omega" as "das A and das O," the phrase has become associated with the numbers 1 and 14 (Since "I" and "J" were used interchangeably by scribes and count as the same letter, "O" becomes the fourteenth letter.) Perhaps the 14-measure length of this recitative was prompted by that association. For more see note at 41/1, section 3 (m. 119).

Secco

41/3. **Recitativo.** Includes references to Chorale Vs. 2 (see note at 41/1).

1. Alto.

•God's sovereignty is Alpha and Omega in weal & woe (41/3).

NBA: Ach!

Keyword "Hand" links to foregoing aria.

E7      Chorale stanza 2 has "Dein' Segen zu uns wende..."

A minor

C major

C seems to have represented Christ for Bach (i.e., the Alpha and Omega). See side note at movement 1.

4.

und das En-de sein. Das Lebenträgest du in deiner Hand, und uns-re

C major

B-flat major

A major

7.

Ta.ge sind bei dir ge.schrieben; dein Au.ge sieht auf Stadt und Land; du

NBA: steht

D minor

D7

9.

zählst un-ser Wohl und ken-nest un-ser Lei-den, ach! gieb von Bei-dem, was

G# dim.7

G# dim.7

A7

12.

dei-ne Weisheit will, wo zu dich dein Er-bar-men an - ge-trieben.

NBA: worzu

D# dim.7

E minor

A minor

F major

D# dim.7

E minor

E minor

# J.S. Bach - Church Cantatas BWV 41

The virtuosic obbligato line is characterized by large leaps, a wide range (almost 3 octaves) and passages of 32nd notes. As indicated by the text of the "motto" opening (which the tenor sings in calm, largely scalar gestures, the obbligato appears intended to represent the all-encompassing peace ("der edle Frieden") previously granted.

**Aria.** Includes references to Chorale Vs. 2 (see note at 41/1). •Prayer: Add spiritual blessings to our temporal ones (41/4).

**Adagio. (♩ = 100.)**

41/4 **Mel. mare.** ♩ = 100.

**Bach sets the poem, with its rhyme scheme of AAB-CCB as a da capo aria.**

The range of the obbligato spans almost 3 octaves (see full score).

**10. Tenore.**

Trio texture: Violoncello piccolo, Tenor, Continuo.

Chorale stanza 2 has "Gib Fried an allem Ende"

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.

J.S. Bach - Church Cantatas BWV 41

12.

- den für un - sern Leib und Stand be - schie - den,  
NBA: vor

F major      E major      A minor

14.

wo - fer-ne du den ed - len Frie -

B minor      G# dim.7      A minor      A minor      G7      C7

16.

- den, den ed - len Frie - den für un - sern Leib und Stand be - schie - den, so  
*p*

F major      B dim.      C major      G7      C major

19. Phrase taken verbatim from Chorale stanza 2.

lass der See-le doch dein se - lig ma - chend Wort,

C major      C major

J.S. Bach - Church Cantatas BWV 41

21.

wo - fer ne du den ed - len Fri -

C major      E major      A minor      G7      C7

23.

den,      den      ed - len Fri -      den für un - sern

F major      B-flat major      A major      D minor      G minor      C7      F major      (E major)      A minor

25.

Leib und Stand be - schie - den, so lass der See - le \_ doch dein se - lig machend Wort.

A minor

28.

A minor      G7      C7      F major      B dim.      E7

30.

A minor      G7      C major      C major

J.S. Bach - Church Cantatas BWV 41

32.

A7      D minor      A minor      B7      E major

34.

E7      A minor      F major      G7 C major

36.

E7      A minor      D minor      B-flat major      E7      A minor

38. B Section presents the second half of the poem in 3 statements.

Melismas for rhyming words "begegnet" and "gesegnet" of the couplet.

Wenn uns dies Heil be - geg - net, so sind wir hier ge - seg - - net und

D# dim.7      E minor      B7      E minor      D(7)

A minor      Florish also for "elect," reflecting the juxtaposition of "blessed ones" with "elect ones" ("we are blessed here and elect ones over there").

41.

Aus.er.wähl.te dort, wenn

G major      G major      G major

J.S. Bach - Church Cantatas BWV 41

43.

uns dies Heil be - geg - net, so sind wir hier ge - seg - - net und

C# dim.7      A7      D minor      E major      E7      A minor

45.

Aus-er-wähl-te dort, wenn uns dies Heil be - geg - net, so

B7      E minor      E minor

Reference to being God's "elect" links to the following recitative (m. 11).

47.

sind wir hier ge - seg - - net und Aus - er-wähl - te dort!

E minor      Secco      E minor      E minor      E7

Dal Segno.

Chromatic saturation in the vocal part in 9 mm. (to the end of the line from the German litany). The unsettled harmonies reflect the disturbing influence of Satan, as referenced in the text.

41/5. Recitativo. Basso.

1. Doch weil der Feind bei Tag und Nacht zu unserm Schaden

Includes references to Chorale Vs. 2 (see note at 41/1).  
• Prayer: Defeat Satan who seeks to harm thine elect (41/5).

D      F      E      C      G      B-flat      A

Doch weil der Feind bei Tag und Nacht zu unserm Schaden

G major      G7      C7

Chorale stanza 2 has "Die Teufel mach zuschanden."

3.

wacht und uns-re Ru-he will zer-stö-ren, so wol-lest du, o

C# major      B major      F# major      C7      G major      D7      A major

Harmonic progression descending (flatward) in the circle of fifths from A-flat major to E-flat major may signify "the treading down" of Satan, as referenced in the text.

J.S. Bach - Church Cantatas BWV 41

5.

Her-re Gott, er-hö-ren, wenn wir in hei-li-ger Ge-meine be-ten: den

(Coro.)

**Allegro.** ( $d=80$ ) SATB (representing the congregation) sing a line from Luther's German translation of the litany (see side notes, compare also BWV 18). The line alludes to Romans 6:20: "The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet."

Soprano.

7. Alto.

Tenore.

Den Sa-tan un-ter uns-re Fü-sse tre-ten.

A-flat E-flat

Chorale stanza 2 has "Die Teufel mach zuschanden."

Sa-tan un-ter unsre Füsse tre-ten. So bleiben wir zu deinem

**Allegro.**

B-flat 7 E-flat major/ G minor F7 B-flat major

Bustling bass line presumably depicts "trampling Satan underfoot," as referenced in the line from the litany.

11.

Ruhm dein aus-er-wähltes Hei-ilig-thum, und kön-nen auch nach

NBA: Eigentum  
Reference to God's "elect possession" links to final line of previous aria.

C major C7 A major D7

The final line, with its key words "cross" (cross-bearing) and "depart," links to the following chorale. The last text phrase is reminiscent of the Nunc dimittis (Luke 2:29-30: "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word; for mine eyes have seen thy salvation....").

13.

Kreuz und Lei-den zur Herr-lich-keit von hin-nen scheiden.

F# dim.7 B dim.7 G7 C major C major

# J.S. Bach - Church Cantatas BWV 41

## 41/6. Choral. (Mel: „Jesu, nun sei gepreiset“) (Vs. 3)

•New Year: Committing year to God in praise & faith (41/6).

Soprano. 1/11.

+Ob I Dein ist al - lein die Eh - re, dein ist al - lein der  
Vln I bis wir fröhlich ab - schei - den ins e - wig' Him - mel .

Alto.

+Ob II Dein ist al - lein die Eh - re, dein ist al - lein der  
Vln II bis wir fröhlich ab - schei - den ins e - wig' Him - mel .

Tenore.

+Ob III Dein ist al - lein die Eh - re, dein ist al - lein der  
Vla bis wir fröhlich ab - schei - den ins e - wig' Him - mel .

Basso.

Dein ist al - lein die Eh - re, dein ist al - lein der  
bis wir fröhlich ab - schei - den ins e - wig' Him - mel .

Ob I, II, III,  
Strings

For the significance of C, see note at 41/1.

Instrumentation:  
Tromba I, II, III  
Timpani  
Ob I, II, III  
Vln I, II  
Vla  
Violoncello piccolo  
SATB  
Continuo, Organo

Keywords "depart" and "cross" (cross-bearing) link to the foregoing recitative.

Bach provides cyclic unity by linking to the opening movement:

- 1) the trumpets and timpani play the opening fanfare of the first movement's ritornello between chorale phrases and at the end (5 times),
- 2) the meter changes to triple time at the Abgesang of the chorale's bar form, (as in movement 1), and
- 3) the meter returns to common time for a repeat

of the final text line to a reprise of the chorale's opening phrase (as in movement 1), with continuous 8th notes in the bass paralleling the busy bass line at the end of movement 1. Martin Petzoldt notes that the inclusion of trumpets and drums is suitable also in view of the lyrics, which express praise to God, the hope of a joyful departure to heaven, the desire that God might rule in all activities, and finally a wish for a blessed New Year. See "Bach Kommentar 2: 296.

4/14.

Ruhm;  
reich,

Christoph Wolff notes, "The idea [of instrumental cross-referencing between first and last movements of the cantata] was prompted by textual correspondences between the first and last [of the three] chorale strophes, and it creates a strong musical return." See "Bach's Musical Universe," 142.

Ruhm;  
reich,

Ruhm;  
reich,

Ruhm;  
reich,

Ge - duld im Kreuz uns  
zu wah - rem Fried' und

Ge - duld im Kreuz uns  
zu wah - rem Fried' und

Ge - duld im Kreuz uns  
zu wah - rem Fried' und

Ge - duld im Kreuz uns  
zu wah - rem Fried' und

Trp I, II, III, Timpani play opening motive of the ritornello in movement 1, providing cyclic unity.

Ob I, II, III, Strings

J.S. Bach - Church Cantatas BWV 41

7/17.

leh - re, re - gier' all' un - ser Thun,  
Freu - de, den Heil'-gen Got - tes gleich.)

leh - re, re - gier' all' un - ser Thun,  
Freu - de, den Heil'-gen Got - tes gleich.)

leh - re, re - gier' all' un - ser Thun,  
Freu - de, den Heil'-gen Got - tes gleich.)

leh - re, re - gier' all' un - ser Thun,  
Freu - de, den Heil'-gen Got - tes gleich.)

F major                    C major                    C major                    C major

Trp I, II, III, Timpani

21.

In - dess mach's mit uns Al - len nach dei - nem Wohl - ge - fal - len: Solch's

In - dess mach's mit uns Al - len nach dei - nem Wohl - ge - fal - len: Solch's

In - dess mach's mit uns Al - len nach dei - nem Wohl - ge - fal - len: Solch's

In - dess mach's mit uns Al - len nach dei - nem Wohl - ge - fal - len: Solch's

Ob I, II, III, Strings

G major      E minor      E major      A minor      D minor      E minor      G(7)      C major      C major

Change to triple meter for the Abgesang of the chorale's bar form parallels Bach's treatment of the chorale in movement 1, providing cyclic unity. Martin Petzoldt sees in this dance-like Abgesang of the chorale's bar form an association with Psalm 118:15: "Hark, glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous." See "Bach Kommentar" 2:296.

25.

C major      C major      (A major)      D minor      A minor

33.

A minor      G7      C major A7      D minor      C# dim.7      D major      D major A minor

41.

wünscht mit Mund und Her - - zen ein se - lig's neu - es Jahr.  
wünscht mit Mund und Her - - zen ein se - lig's neu - es Jahr.  
wünscht mit Mund und Her - - zen ein se - lig's neu - es Jahr.  
wünscht mit Mund und Her - - zen ein se - lig's neu - es Jahr.

The trumpets and timpani play the fanfare once more, "closing the circle" to movement 1.

Trp I, II, III,  
Timpani

C major      C major      C major

Continuous 8th notes in the bass parallel the 16th-note motion at the end of movement 1.