J.S. Bach - Church Cantatas Form: Choral/Fantasia - Aria (A) - Recit/Chorale (B) - Duet (T/B) - Recit (A) - Chorale.

The underlying chorale is Luther's 4-stanza paraphrase of the Nunc dimittis, the canticle of Simeon, Introduction & updates at melvinunger.com. which forms part of the day's Gospel reading. While the outer stanzas are kept intact, the inner ones J.S. Bach that incorporates the second stanza into a troping recitative). NBA I/28; BC A168 Mary's Purification (Candlemas) (BWV 83, 125, 82, 157, Cantata No. 125 Alfred Dürr writes, "The splendid, stirring opening chorus contrasts strings with flute and oboe in its introductory sinfonia. Triplet chord sequences give rise to an extremely dense, highly expressive texture, thematically independent of the chorale, though derived from its initial leap of a fifth...As in most opening movements of the chorale Mit Fried und Freud ich fahr dahin cantatas, the chorale melody is delivered by the soprano, line by and supported by the three lower voice parts, which in lines 1, 2, and 5, reinforced by the strings, treat imitatively the instrumental headmotive... In line 3 the vocal substructure treats a related motive in a similar fashion, but lines 4 and 6 ('meek and quiet' and 'Death has become my sleep') are for illustrative reasons accompanied in a mainly chordal texture, sung 'piano' and characterized by chromaticism and modulation to distant keys." See "The Cantatas of J. S. Bach," 660. 158, [161], [200]) *Malachi 3:1-4 (The Lord will suddenly come to his temple and purify his people) *Luke 2:22-32 (Mary presents Jesus at the temple; Nunc dimittis) Librettist: Unknown FP: 2 February 1725 (St. Thomas in the morning Nº 1. (Coro.) (Chorale Verse 1) (See also 95/1, 106/3b.) ◆Death is welcomed with peace & joy: Simeon's canticle (125/1). and St. Nicholas at afternoon 125/1. (Lento -= 60.) Vespers) This cantata belongs to Bach's chorale cantata cycle (see note). Instrumentation: Corno Ritornello: Rolling, rising head Flauto traverso motive, treated imitatively Oboe/Oboe d'amore VIn I, II Vla **SATB** 8 The movement bears similarities to the opening movement of the Continuo E minor (for significance, see note). St. Matthew Passion (1727). 3 (76) E minor E minor 6(79) E minor

A minor

E minor





J.S. Bach - Church Cantatas BWV 125 len; len, in_ Got tes Wil -Got tes Wil Got . tes Wil . _ len, in_ _ len, Got_tes in. in Got len; . len; Got_tes Wil _ len; E minor B major B minor B minor 4



J.S. Bach - Church Cantatas BWV 125 Sinn, mein Herz und ist mir ge_trost Sinn, und Sinn, mein Herz und mir_mein Herz Sinn, und mir_mein Herz ge_ trost ist E minor A minor A minor A minor E(7) **p** Line 4. sanft und undsanft stil The accompanying voices enter softly and successively n descending order (the alto slipping in before the cantus firmus begins), then proceed more slowly and largely sanft und stil homophonically to G minor to depict the quieted spirit ("sanft und stille") of one who has accepted impending death. A few measures later the instruments come to rest sanit und E minor D# dim.7 E minor

Text painting: The lines descend to their low register for the quieted spirit of one who has accepted impending death.

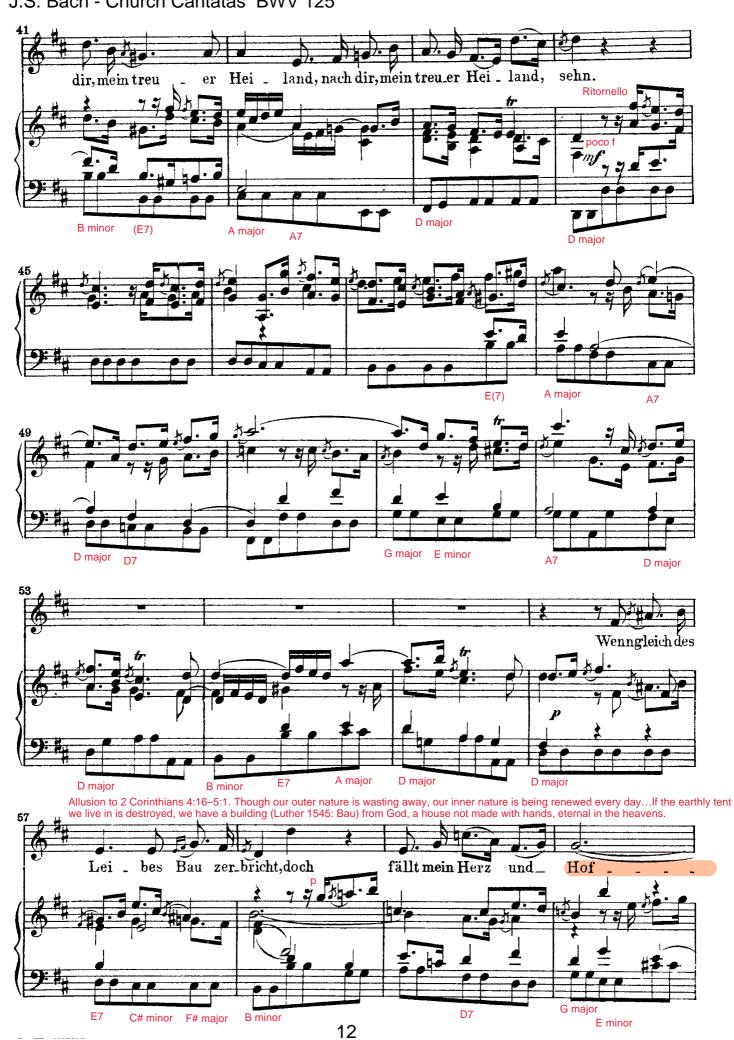


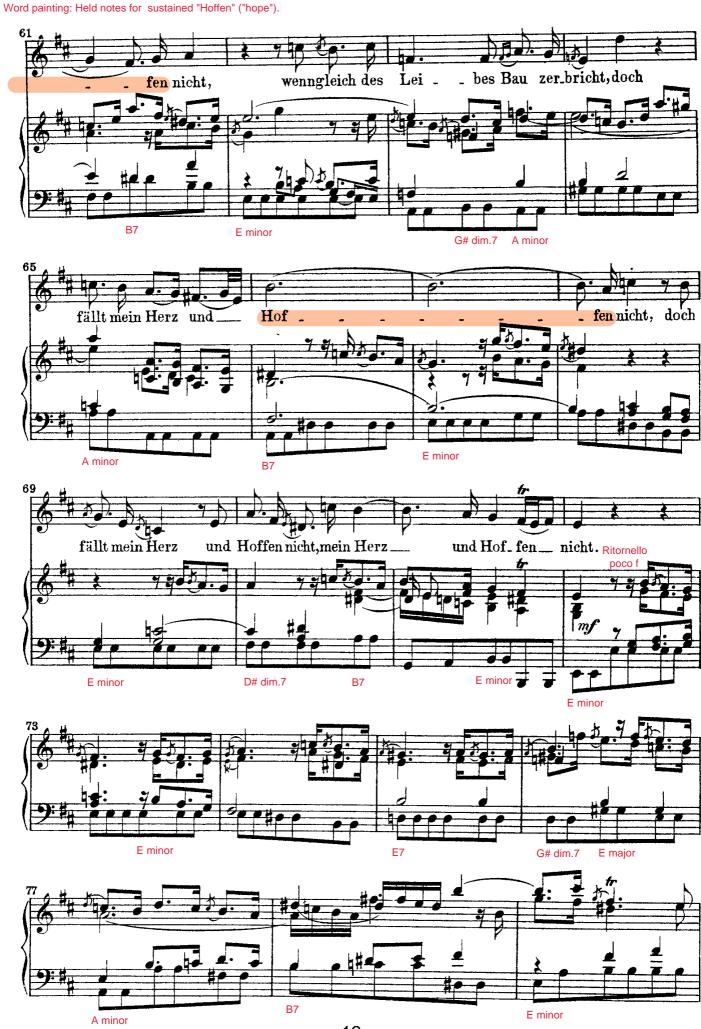




(Related to Chorale Verse 2) • Death approaching: I look to Jesus, he looks on me (125/2). The obbligato instruments play dotted rhythms in parallel 3rds with suspensions and sighing appoggiaturas over a pulsing bass (marked "senza accompagnato"). The result is a sweet, resigned lament. Unlike the chorale, this aria alludes to the beginning of the Nunc dimittis: "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, Nº 2. Aria according to thy word; for mine eyes have seen thy salvation which thou hast prepared." (Larghetto -56.) expressive heart of the cantata. Richard Jones calls this a dotted-rhythm sarabande. See The Creative Development of Johann Sebastian Bach, vol. 2 (Oxford: Oxford University from vocal . Press, 2013), p. 153. line. Similarly, Meredith Little and Natalie Jenne, Dance and the Music of J. S. Bach, expanded ed. (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2001), pp. 247–248. B minor ("Ligato per tutto è senza accompagn." (See the transposed organo part.) D# dim.7 9 (143) Ascending chromatic line E# dim.7 F# major B minor B minor B minor Text painting: "Broken" motive for "gebroch'nen" ("broken") eyes, rising line for gazing upward to the Savior in death. Alto. Alto is often the voice of faith. dir, ge_broch'nen Ich will auch mit Au gen nach mein treu_er would also faithful my A7 B minor Phrygian cadence B minor Heiland, sehn, В7 E minor D# dim.7 E minor 10





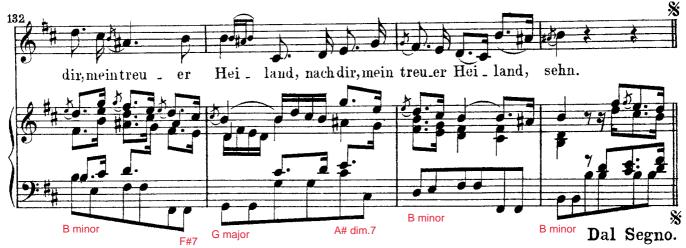








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Nº 3. Recitativo. (+Chorale Verse 2) •Death not feared: Christ our light & salvation has come (125/3). For Alfred Dürr's comments, Basso. 1. Chorale troped with a recitative, presented as an 0 Wun_der; dass ein Herz vor der dem Fleischverhassten internal dialogue. Figura corta The movement is unified by the Strings strings playing a motive often associated with joy (the figura corta-see note) "joy" motive, it could be interpreted here as "...bestehet aus drey geschwinden Noten, deren eine allein so lang ist, als die übrigen beyde Johann Gottfried Walther "Musicalisches Lexicon..." [Leipzig, 1732] aggressive, "fist-shaking" gesture.

{"...consists of 3 fast notes, of which one has the same value as the other two taken together."}

The alto and tenor voices present the recitative lines in alternation, the resting voice joining in with the chorale tune at an arioso, while the original voice continues with accompanying counterpoint.



