

J.S. Bach
Cantata No. 55

Ich armer Mensch, ich Sündenknecht

1. (Aria)

Fl. trav.
Ob. d'amore
Viol. I/II
Continuo

The first system of the musical score, measures 1-4, is written for Flute traverso (Fl. trav.), Oboe d'amore (Ob.), Violin I/II (Viol.), and Continuo. The key signature is one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 6/8. The Flute part features a melodic line with eighth-note patterns and slurs. The Oboe part has a similar melodic line. The Violin part provides harmonic support with chords and some eighth-note patterns. The Continuo part has a simple bass line with eighth notes.

The second system of the musical score, measures 5-10, continues the instrumental parts. The Flute and Oboe parts have more complex melodic lines with slurs and ties. The Violin part continues with harmonic support, and the Continuo part has a steady bass line.

The third system of the musical score, measures 11-16, concludes the instrumental parts. The Flute and Oboe parts have more complex melodic lines with slurs and ties. The Violin part continues with harmonic support, and the Continuo part has a steady bass line.

17 Tenore

8 Ich ar. mer Mensch, ich Sün.denknecht, ich Poor wretched man, a slave of sin, poor

2. Ob.

22

8 ar - mer Mensch, ich Sün - den.knecht, ich Sün.den - knecht, ich wretch - ed man, a slave of sin, a slave of sin, poor

27

8 ar - mer Mensch, ich Sün - den - knecht! wretched man, a slave of sin.

32

8

Ich ar - mer Mensch, ich Sünden-knecht,
Poor wretched man, a slave of sin,

This system contains measures 32 through 36. It features a vocal line in G major with a treble clef and a common time signature. The lyrics are written below the vocal line. The piano accompaniment consists of three staves: right hand, left hand, and bass line. The piano part includes various textures such as chords, arpeggios, and moving lines.

37

8

ich ar - - mer Mensch, ich Sün - - den-knecht, ich Sün-den-
poor wretch - - ed man, a slave - - of sin, a slave of

This system contains measures 37 through 41. The vocal line continues with the lyrics. The piano accompaniment maintains its complex texture with various rhythmic patterns and chordal structures.

42

8

knecht, - ich ar - mer Mensch, ich Sün - - den - knecht, - ich geh' - vor
sin, - - poor wretched man, a slave - - of sin, - - be - fore - - God's

This system contains measures 42 through 46. The vocal line concludes the phrase with the lyrics. The piano accompaniment provides a rich harmonic and rhythmic background.

47

8
 Got - tes An - ge - sich - te mit Furcht und Zit - tern
 judg - ment seat I place me, with awe and tremb - ling,

52

8
 zum Ge - rich - te; ich ar - mer Mensch, ich Sün - den - knecht, ich geh' vor Got - tes An - ge -
 fears a - base me. Poorwretched man, a slave of sin, be - fore God's judg - ment seat I

(Cembalo)

57

8
 sich - te mit Furcht und Zit - tern zum Ge - rich - te.
 place me, with awe and tremb - ling fears a - base me.

62

67 Tenore

Er ist ge-
Un-just, can

72

recht, ich un - ge - recht, _____ er ist ge - recht, ich un - ge -
I His ju - stice win? _____ Un-just, can I His ju - stice

77

8
recht, _____
win? _____

ich ar - mer Mensch, ich Sün - den - knecht,
Poor wretched man, a slave of sin,

82

8
ich ar - mer Mensch, ich Sün - den - knecht, ich
poor wretched man, a slave of sin, poor

87

8
ar - mer Mensch, ich Sün - den - knecht, ich Sün - den - knecht, - ich
wretch - ed man, a slave of sin, a slave of sin, - poor

92

ar - mer Mensch, ich Sün - den - knecht! Er ist ge - recht, ich un - ge - recht,
wretched man, a slave of sin. Unjust, can I His ju - stice win?

97

er ist ge - recht, ich un - ge - recht, ich
Un - just, can I His ju - stice win? Poor

102

ar - mer Mensch, ich Sün - den - knecht. Er ist ge - recht, ich un - ge -
wretched man, a slave of sin. Un - just, can I His ju - stice

107

8
recht, ich ar - mer Mensch, ich Sünden.knecht, ich ar. mer Mensch, ich Sündenknecht, ich
win? Poor wretched man, a slave of sin, poor wretched man, a slave of sin, a

112

8
Sün - den.knecht, ich ar - mer Mensch, ich Sünden.
slave of sin, poor wretched man, a slave of

117

8
knecht, ich ar - mer Mensch, ich Sün - den - knecht!
sin, poor wretch - ed man, a slave of sin.

Dal Segno %

2. Recitativo

Tenore

8

Ich ha - - be wi - der Gott ge - han - delt, und bin dem - sel - ben
I have a - gainst the just God o - ffen - ded and from the path - way

Continuo

3

Pfad, den er mir vor - ge - schrie - ben hat, nicht nach - ge - wan - delt. Wo -
strayed which for me had been plan - ned and laid, nor Him at - tend - ed. Where

5

hin! soll ich der Mor - gen - rö - te Flü - gel zu mei - ner Flucht er - kie - sen, die mich zum
'scape? Shall I, the wings of mor - ning tak - ing, to co - ward flight be - take me? or in the

7

letz - ten Mee - re wie - sen: so wird mich doch die Hand des Al - ler - höch - sten
depths of o - cean hide me? There al - so shall the hand of God Al - migh - ty

9

8
fin-den, und mir die Sün-den.ru-te bin-den. Ach ja! Wenn gleich die Höll' ein
find me, and for my sins chastise me just.ly. In truth, should hell it-self close

12

8
Bet-te für mich und mei-ne Sün-den hät-te, so wä-re doch der Grimm des Höchsten da.
o'er me, still could His vengeance there o'er-take me, still thence from Him in ter-ror must I fly.

15

8
Die Er-de schützt mich nicht, sie droht mich Schen-sal zu ver-
The earth pro-TECTS me not; nay, nay, it quick en-gulfs the

17

8
schlingen; und will ich mich zum Himmel schwingen, da wohnet Gott, der mir das Ur-teil spricht.
sin-ner. And if to hea-ven I should ven-ture, God dwelleth there and threatens vengeance hot.

3. Aria

Musical notation for the beginning of the 3. Aria, measures 1-2. The score is in G minor, 3/4 time, and features a treble and bass clef with a piano accompaniment.

Musical notation for the 3. Aria, measures 3-4. The piano accompaniment continues with a steady eighth-note pattern in the bass and a more active line in the treble.

5 Tenore

Musical notation for the Tenore part, measures 5-6. The vocal line is in the treble clef, and the piano accompaniment is in the bass and treble clefs. The lyrics "Er - Have" are written at the end of the line.

Musical notation for the Tenore part, measures 7-8. The lyrics "bar - me dich, er - bar.me dich, er - bar - mer - cy, Lord! Have mer.cy Lord, Have mer -" are written below the vocal line.

Musical notation for the Tenore part, measures 10-11. The lyrics "- me, er.bar - me dich, laß die Trä - nen dich er - wei - chen, laß sie - cy, have mer - cy! Look with pi - ty on my cry - ing, let Thy" are written below the vocal line.

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12

8
dir zu Her-zen rei - chen, er - bar -
heart re-gard my sigh - ing, have mer -

14

8
- me, er-bar-me dich!
- cy, have mer-cy, Lord!

17

8

19

8
Er -
Have

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21

8 bar - me - dich, er - bar - me, er - bar - me dich, laß, um
mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy, have mer - cy, Lord, and for

24

8 Je - su Chri - sti wil - len, dei - nen Zorn des Ei - fers stil - len; er -
Je - su's sake, Who loved me, turn Thy hea - vy an - ger from me! Have

26

8 bar-me dich, er-bar-me dich, er-bar-me dich!
mer-cy, Lord, have mer-cy, Lord, have mer-cy, Lord!

29

8 Laß, um Je - su Chri - sti wil - len, dei - nen Zorn des Ei - fers stil - len; er - bar - me
And for Je - su's sake, Who loved me, turn Thy hea - vy an - ger from me! Have mer - cy,

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32

8 dich, er - bar - - me dich, er - - bar - me dich, er -
Lord, have mer - - cy, Lord, have mer - cy, Lord, have

34

8 bar - - - - - me, er - bar - me dich!
mer - - - - - cy, have mer - cy, Lord!

37

39

4. Recitativo

Tenore

8 Er - bar - me dich! Je - doch nun tröst ich mich, ich
Have mer - cy, Lord! See, hope's to me restor - ed! 'Tis

Viol. I/II
 Va.
 Continuo

3 will nicht vor Ge - rich - te ste - hen, und lie - ber vor den Gna - den - thron zu mei - nem
not to judgment I'll be - take me, but ra - ther at God's throne of grace be - fore my

5 frommen Va - ter ge - hen. Ich halt ihm sei - nen Sohn, sein Lei - den, sein Er - lö - sen
Fa - ther will I place me. There Je - su's love I'll tell, His Pas - sion, His a - tone - ment

8 vor, wie er für mei - ne Schuld be - zah - let und ge - nug ge - tan, und bitt ihn um Ge -
rare, that paid my hea - vy debt, that cleansed and can redemption win. God's pa - tience will I

11 duld: hin - fü - ro will ichs nicht mehr tun. So nimmt mich Gott zu Gna - den wie - der an.
beg. Hen - ce forth 'gainst Him I'll not sin, and neap - ly God to grace will take me in.

5. Choral

Soprano
Alto
Tenore
Basso

Bin ich gleich von dir ge-wi-chen, stell ich mich doch wie-der ein,
Once in sin from Thee I part-ed, now I seek Thy face a-gain.

Bin ich gleich von dir ge-wi-chen, stell ich mich doch wie-der ein,
Once in sin from Thee I part-ed, now I seek Thy face a-gain.

Bin ich gleich von dir ge-wi-chen, stell ich mich doch wie-der ein,
Once in sin from Thee I part-ed, now I seek Thy face a-gain.

Bin ich gleich von dir ge-wi-chen, stell ich mich doch wie-der ein,
Once in sin from Thee I part-ed, now I seek Thy face a-gain.

Fl. trav.
Ob.
Viol. I/II
Va.
Continuo

col' octava ad libitum

5.

hat uns doch dein Sohn ver-gli-chen durch sein Angst und To-des-pein.
For Thy son, so lov-ing heart-ed, now me grace through His sore pain.

hat uns doch dein Sohn ver-gli-chen durch sein Angst und To-des-pein.
For Thy son, so lov-ing heart-ed, now me grace through His sore pain.

hat uns doch dein Sohn ver-gli-chen durch sein Angst und To-des-pein.
For Thy son, so lov-ing heart-ed, now me grace through His sore pain.

hat uns doch dein Sohn ver-gli-chen durch sein Angst und To-des-pein.
For Thy son, so lov-ing heart-ed, now me grace through His sore pain.

9

Ich ver-leug - ne nicht die Schuld, a - ber dei - ne Gnad und Huld
 Nought of mine the debt can pay, but God's love can sin out - weigh.

Ich ver-leug - ne nicht die Schuld, a - ber dei - ne Gnad und Huld
 Nought of mine the debt can pay, but God's love can sin out - weigh.

Ich ver-leug - ne nicht die Schuld, a - ber dei - ne Gnad und Huld
 Nought of mine the debt can pay, but God's love can sin out - weigh.

Ich ver-leug - ne nicht die Schuld, a - ber dei - ne Gnad und Huld
 Nought of mine the debt can pay, but God's love can sin out - weigh.

13

ist viel grö - ßer als die Sün - de, die ich stets in mir be - fin - de.
 Strong and sure it fails us ne - ver, mine it is and shall be e - ver.

ist viel grö - ßer als die Sün - de, die ich stets in mir be - fin - de.
 Strong and sure it fails us ne - ver, mine it is and shall be e - ver.

ist viel grö - ßer als die Sün - de, die ich stets in mir be - fin - de.
 Strong and sure it fails us ne - ver, mine it is and shall be e - ver.

ist viel grö - ßer als die Sün - de, die ich stets in mir be - fin - de.
 Strong and sure it fails us ne - ver, mine it is and shall be e - ver.