Bach Choruses for General Use

Also hat Gott die Welt geliebt
(from BWV 68)

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685 - 1750)

Arranged for
SATB chorus and organ
by Gary Harney

Text and Translation

Also hat Gott die Welt geliebt,	God so loved the world
Dass er uns seinen Sohn gegeben.	that he gave his son to us.
Wer sich im Glauben ihm ergibt,	Who gives himself to him in faith
Der soll dort ewig bei ihm leben.	will live there [in heaven] with him for ever.
Wer glaubt, dass Jesus ihm geboren,	Who believes that Jesus has been born for him
Der bleibet ewig unverloren,	is never abandoned,
Und ist kein Leid, das den betrübt,	and there is no sorrow that troubles the person
Den Gott und auch sein Jesus liebt.	who is loved by God and his Jesus also..

Text: John 3:16, paraphrased by Salomo Viscow
Translation by Francis Browne. Used by permission

Presented by *Bach on a Budget*
http://www.immanuelbachconsort.org

"Also hat Gott die Welt geliebt" *(from BWV 68)*

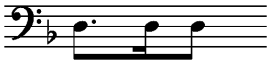
The Cantata

Also hat Gott die Welt geliebt (God so loved the world) was part of the "chorale cantata cycle" of 1724-5, receiving its first performance on Whit Monday, 9 May 1725. It is based on a text by Christiane Mariane von Ziegler, using quotations from the day's Gospel (John 3:16-21) for the opening and closing choruses. These two movements could hardly be more different. We will take up the opening chorus below, but mention should also be made of the closing chorus ("Wer an ihn gläubet"). For this movement, Bach uses a fugue, with voices doubled by trombones. The text warns that there is a choice to make - to believe and be saved, or not to believe and be condemned. Such a stern text drew an equally stern response from Bach.

This cantata is one which reuses material from other cantatas. In the case of BWV 68, the soprano and bass arias are taken from the "Hunt Cantata", BWV 208. Many listeners will know the soprano aria "Mein gläubiges Herze" from the well-known English version "My Heart Ever Faithful."

The Chorus

"Also hat Gott die Welt geliebt" is as elegant as it is simple. Bach starts with a chorale melody by Gottfried Vopelius (1682), but proceeds to change the meter from Common time to 12/8, and to provide sufficient graces to the melody that if one doesn't know the original, it would be hard to recognize. He also returns to his favored siciliano pattern:

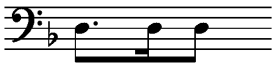


The chorale tune is sung throughout by the sopranos, with the other three parts providing harmonic support not generally derived from the chorale. Alfred Dürr describes the movement as "cheerfully relaxed and amiably buoyant", noting that "As a choral arrangement, it probably belongs among the freest that Bach ever wrote." If there is a chorus in the Bach cantatas that is not known today but should be, or that is not sung in churches today but should be, it might well be this one.

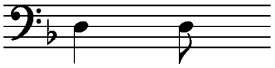
The Accompaniment

As noted above, Bach's accompaniment for BWV 68 was reasonably lavish (though remember that the trombones were only used to double voices in the closing fugue, and the cornett only used to double soprano in the two choruses). In the original version of our chorus, oboe I and violin I are in unison, oboe II and violin II in unison, and viola and oboe da caccia are in unison, along with the obligatory continuo. Oboe I and violin I have an obbligato line throughout, supported by the other instrumental parts.

For this organ version the obbligato line is presented on a solo stop, nearly unaltered. The bass line of the continuo is generally preserved in the pedal, with adjustments in order to make the line more idiomatic for organ. In particular, the siciliano pattern



is often replaced by



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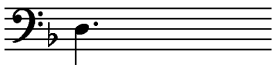


Between the obbligato and pedal lines, the left hand completes the harmony as needed. Since the left hand is essentially playing the role of the continuo, the player should feel free to add or subtract voices as suits the instrument and room.

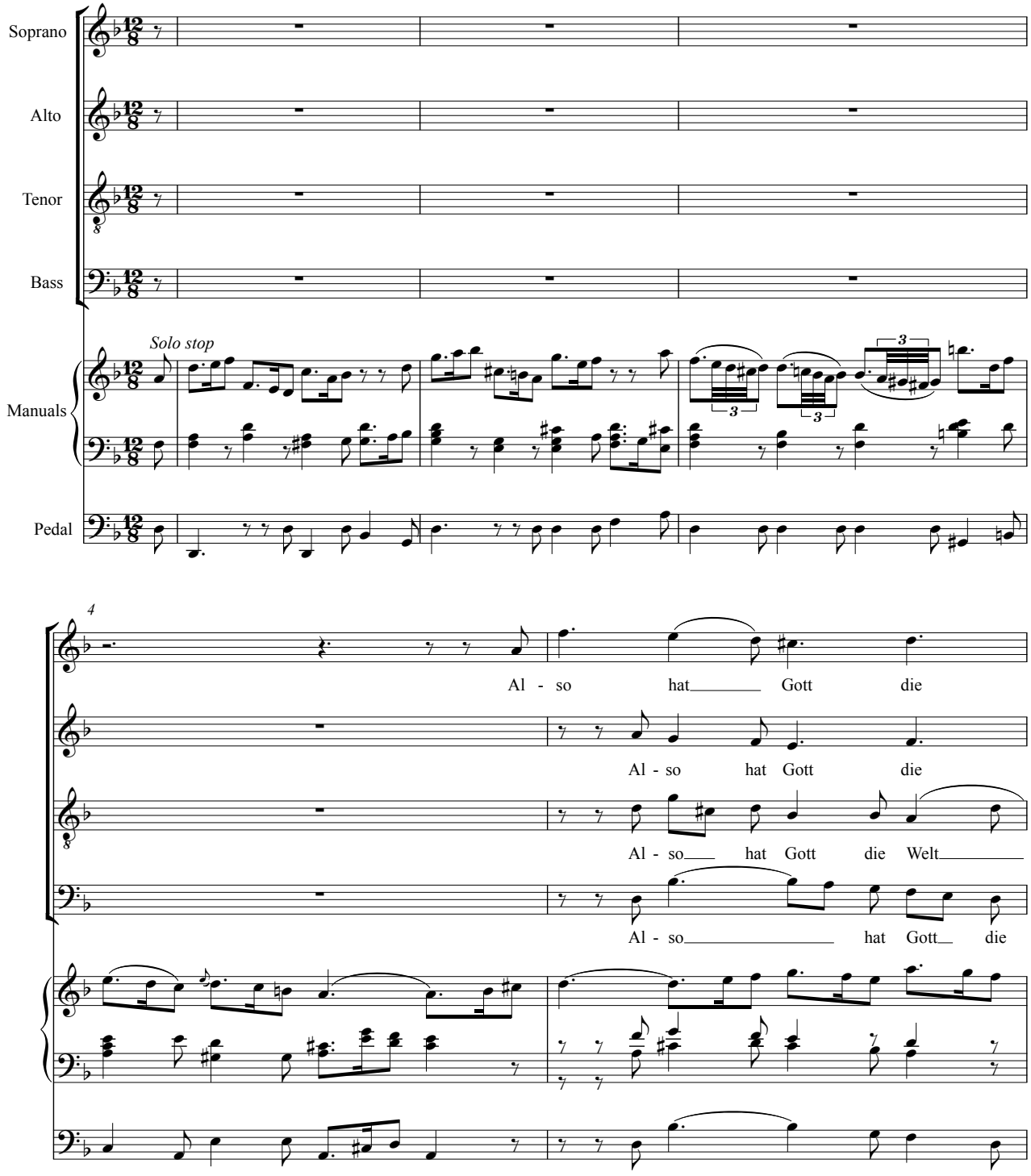
Created for performance by the Immanuel Bach Consort,
and dedicated to Dr. Gerre Hancock (1934-2012)

Also hat Gott die Welt geliebt

(BWV 68)

Salomo Liscow (1675)

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)



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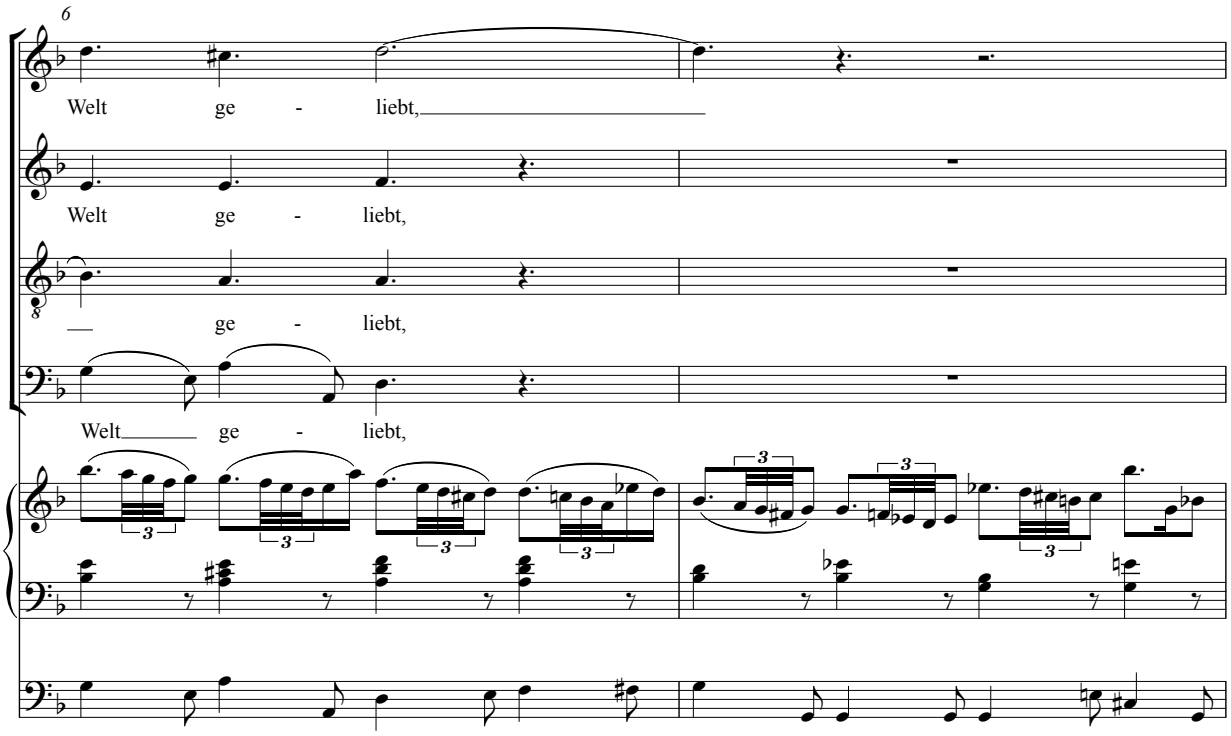
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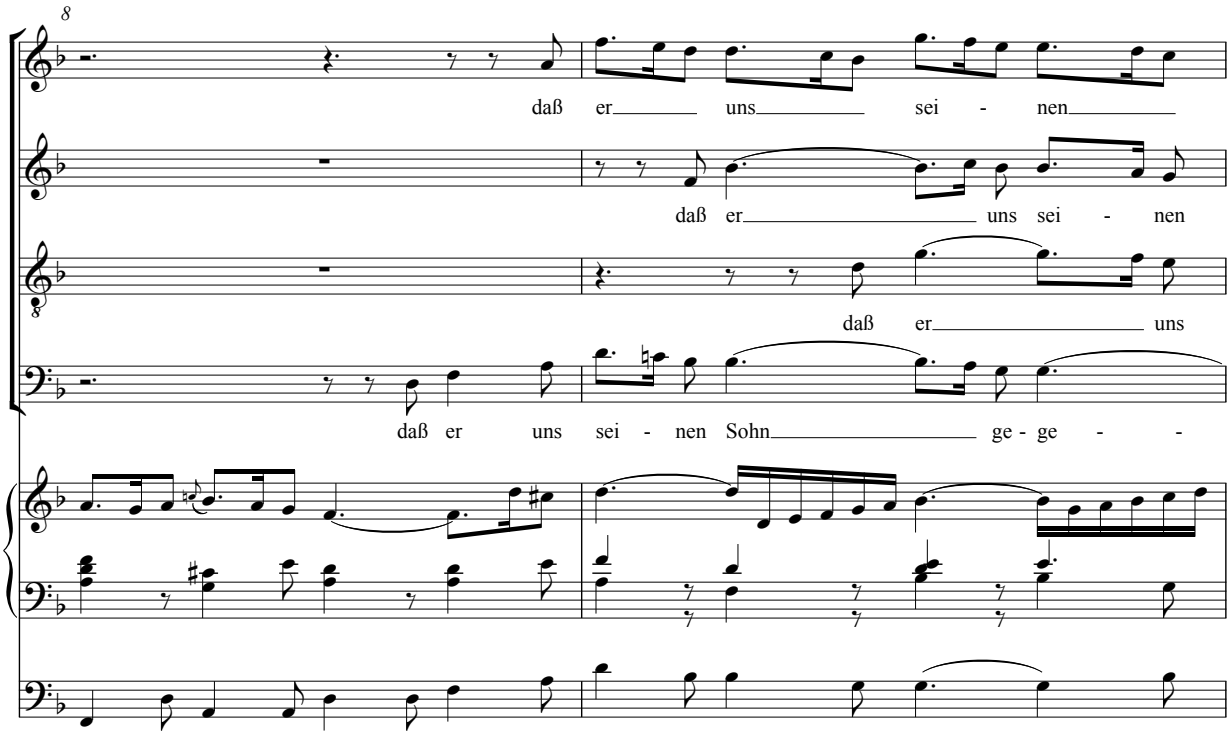
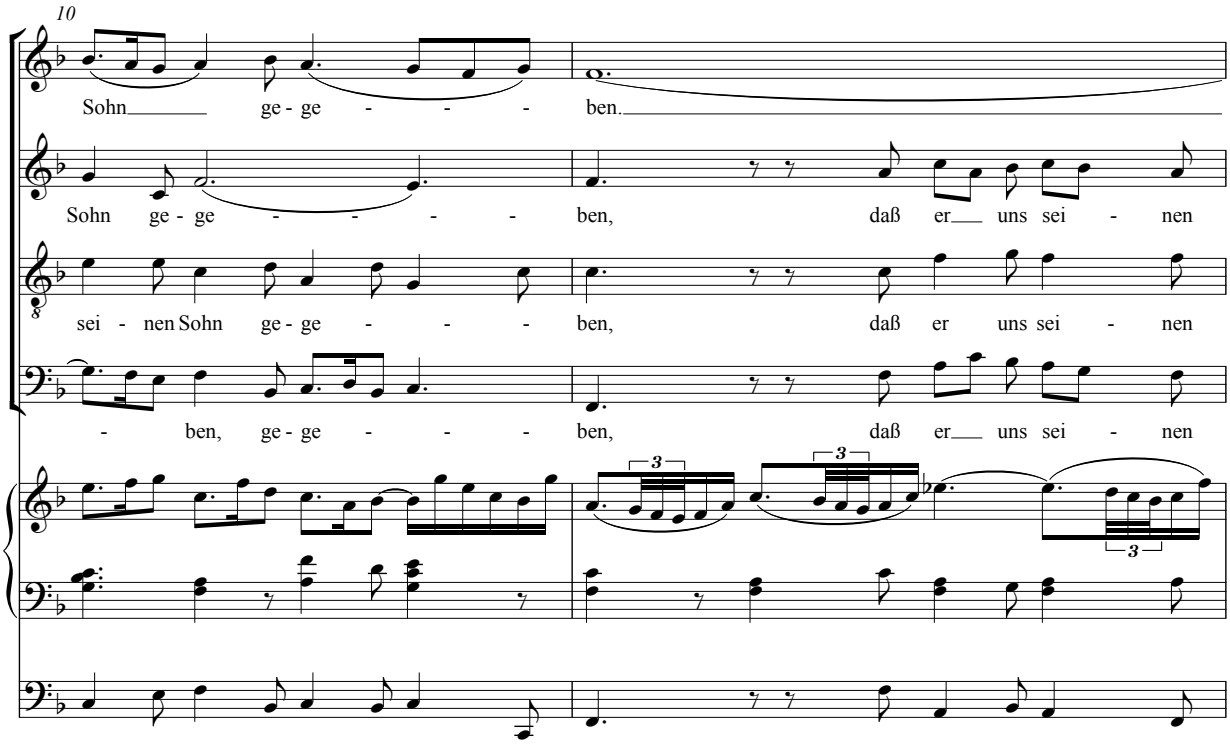
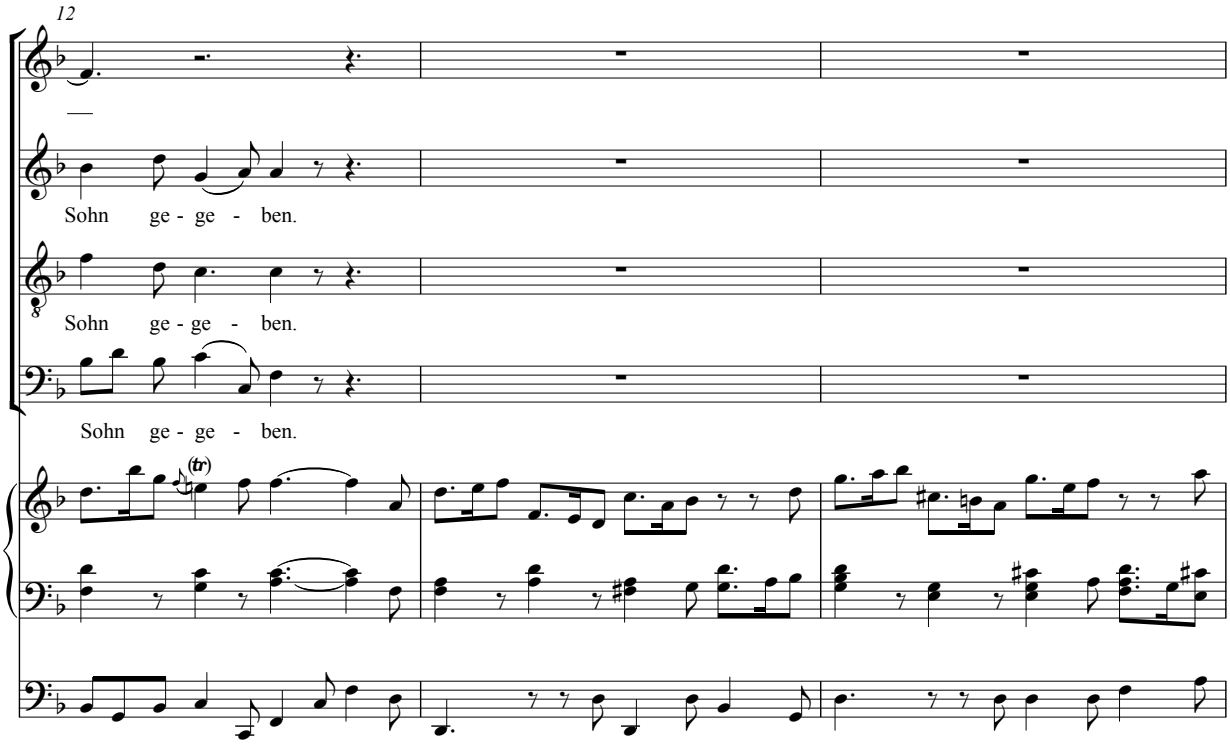
Welt ge - liebt,
Welt ge - liebt,
ge - liebt,
Welt ge - liebt,


8
daß er uns sei - nen
daß er uns sei - nen
daß er uns
daß er uns sei - nen Sohn ge - ge - -


10
Sohn ge - ge - - - - ben.
Sohn ge - ge - - - - ben, daß er uns sei - nen
sei - nen Sohn ge - ge - - - - ben, daß er uns sei - nen
- ben, ge - ge - - - - ben, daß er uns sei - nen
3
3
3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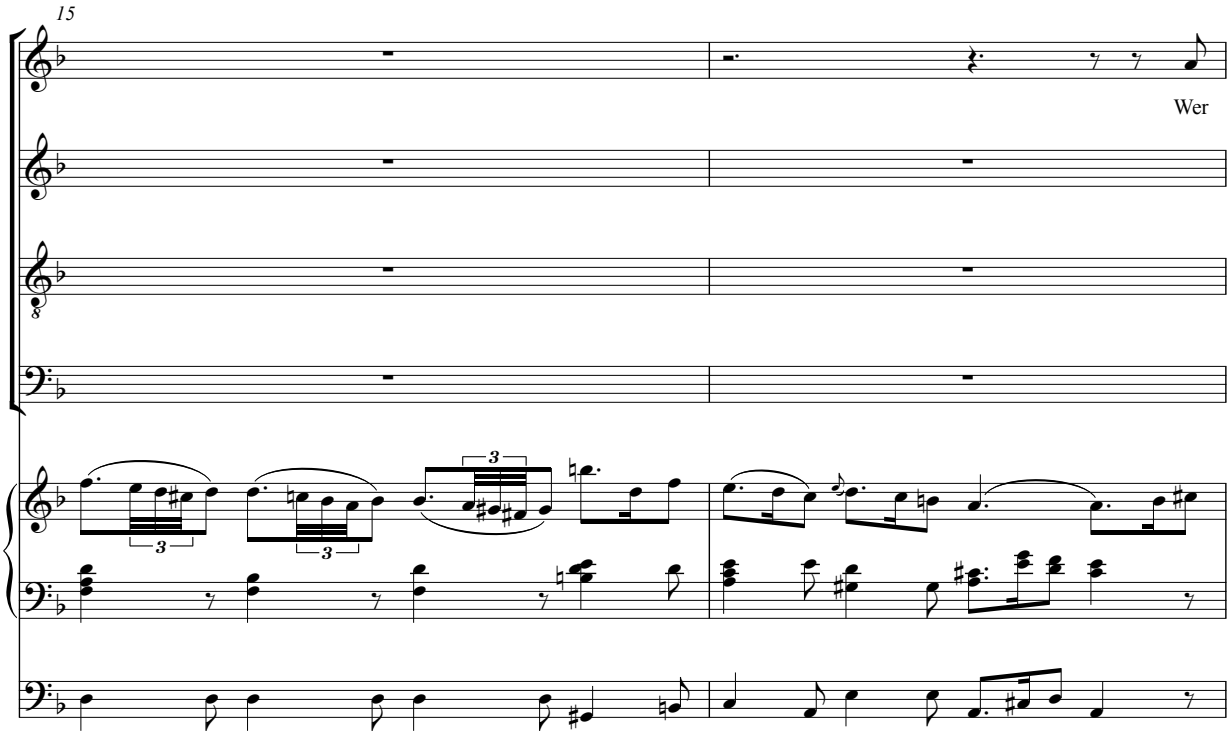
Sohn ge - ge - ben.
Sohn ge - ge - ben.
Sohn ge - ge - ben.
(tr)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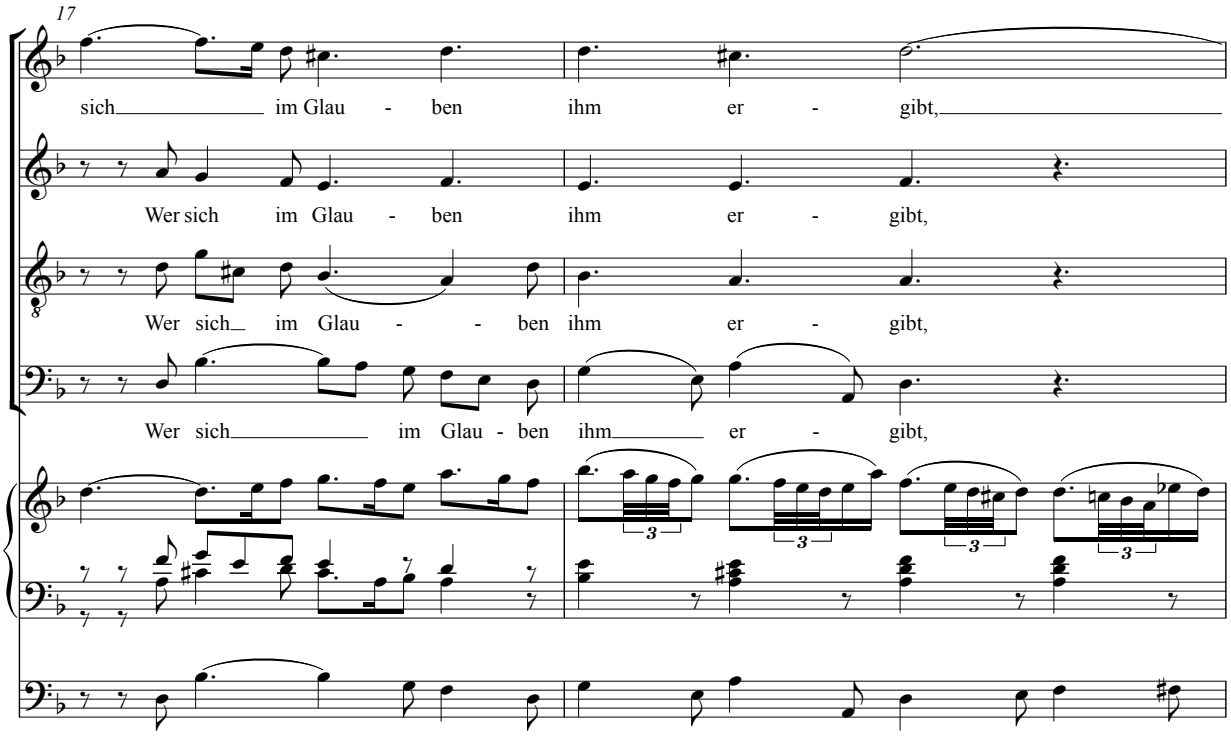
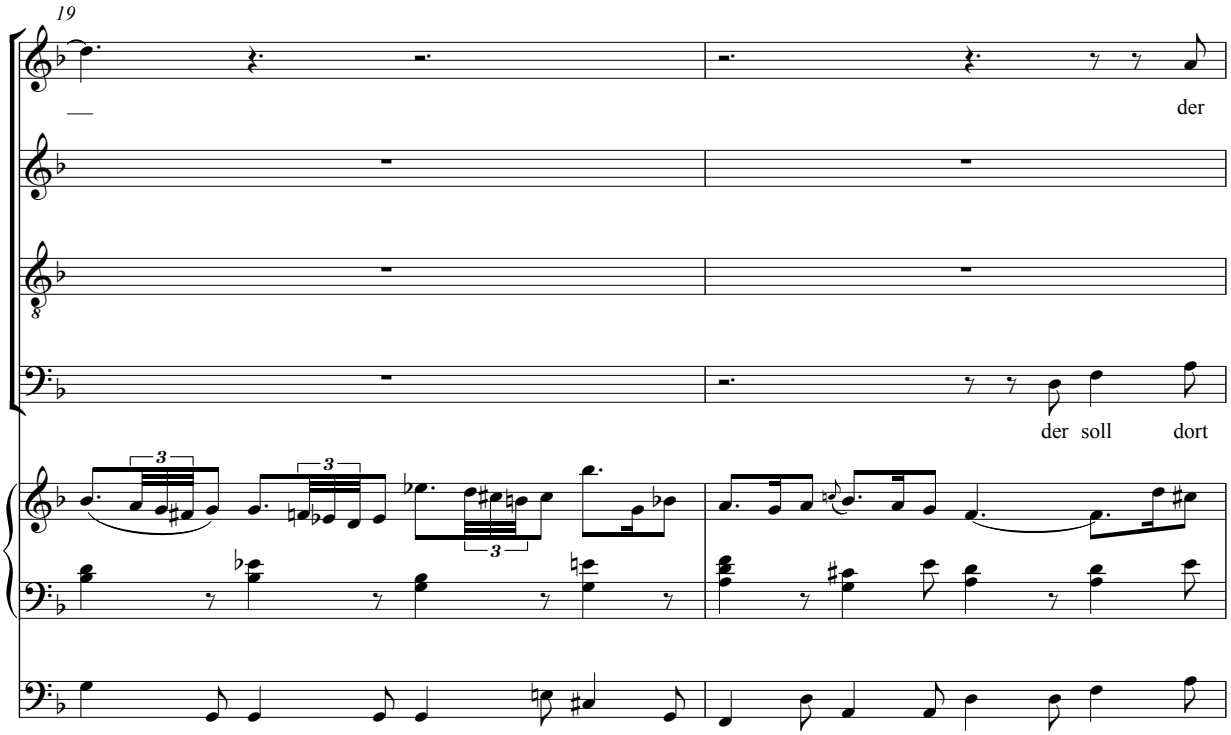
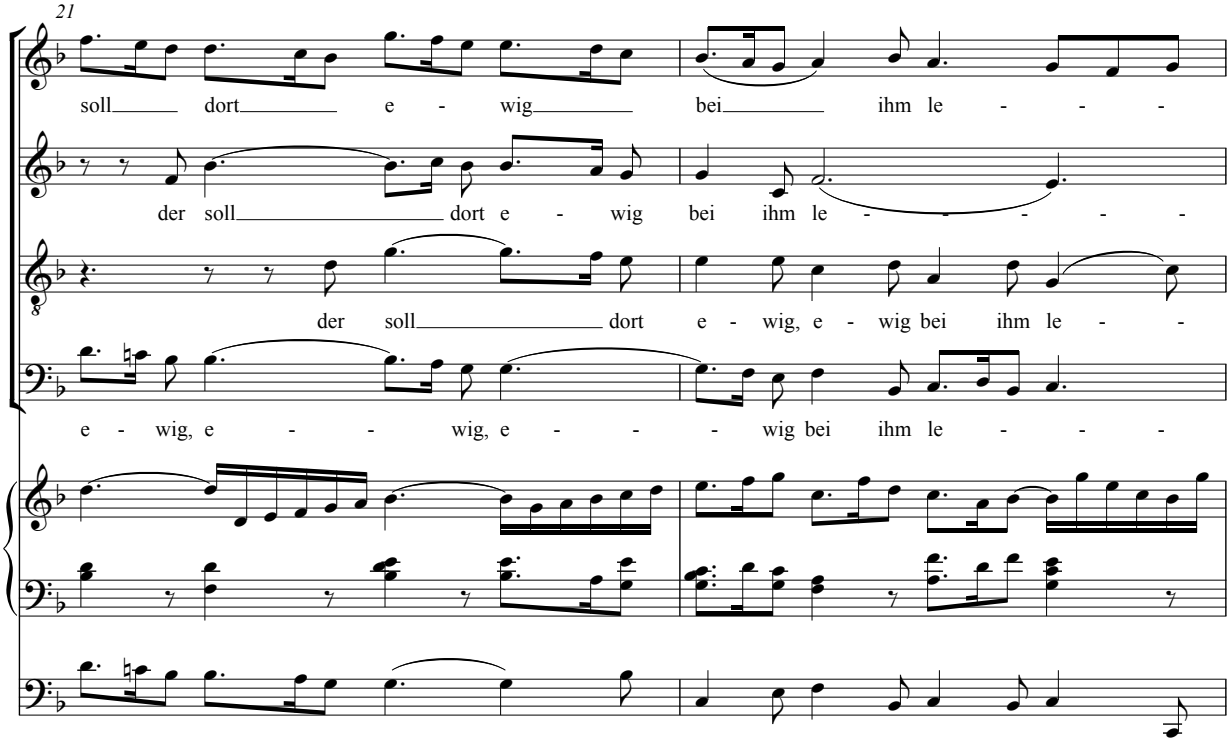
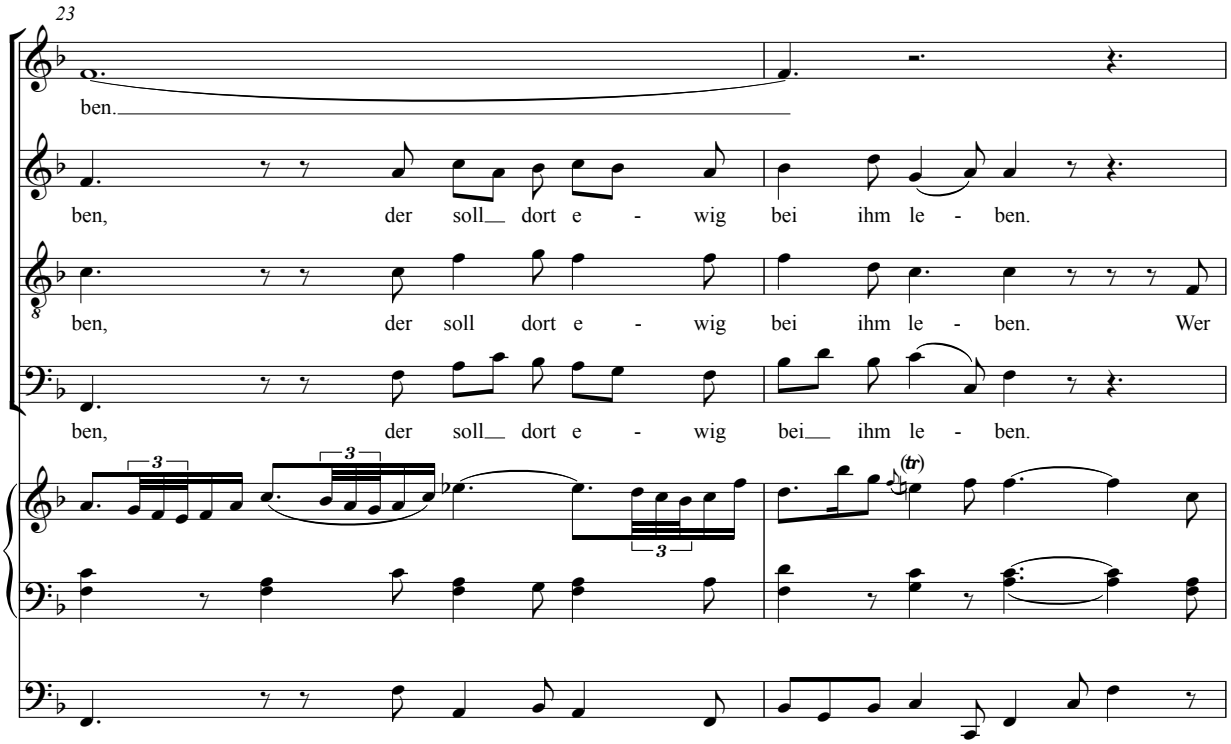
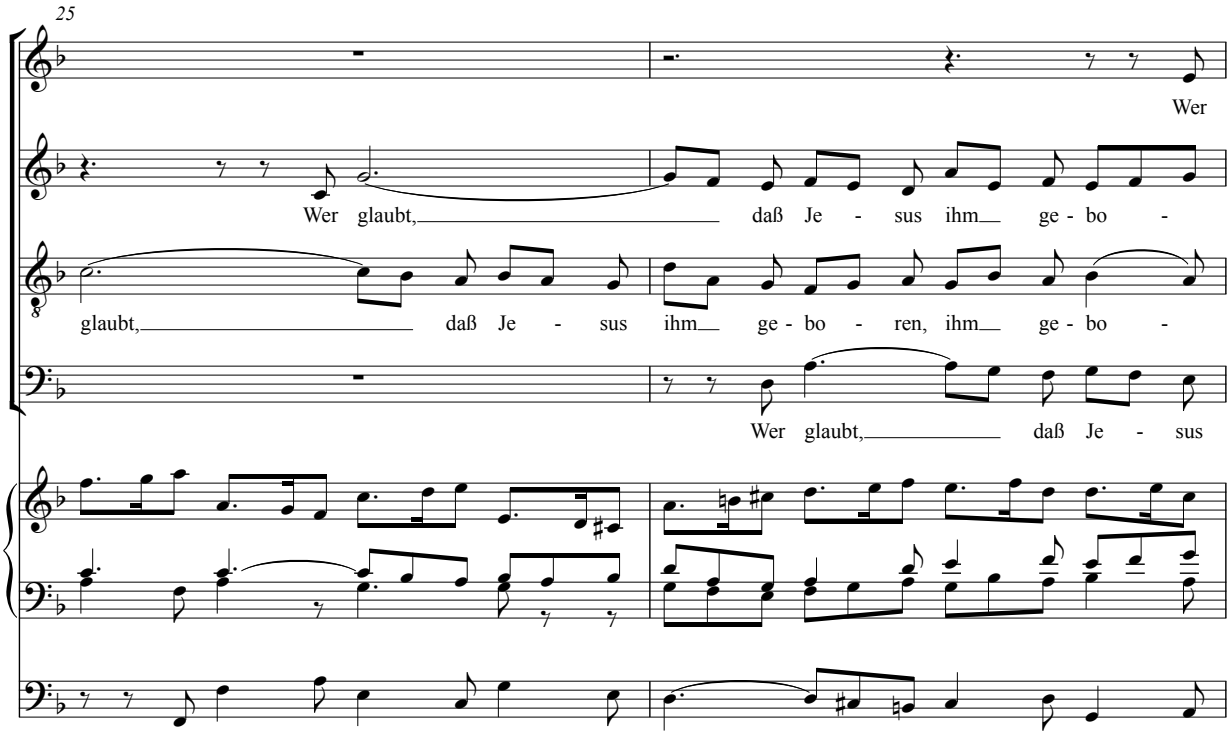
Wer

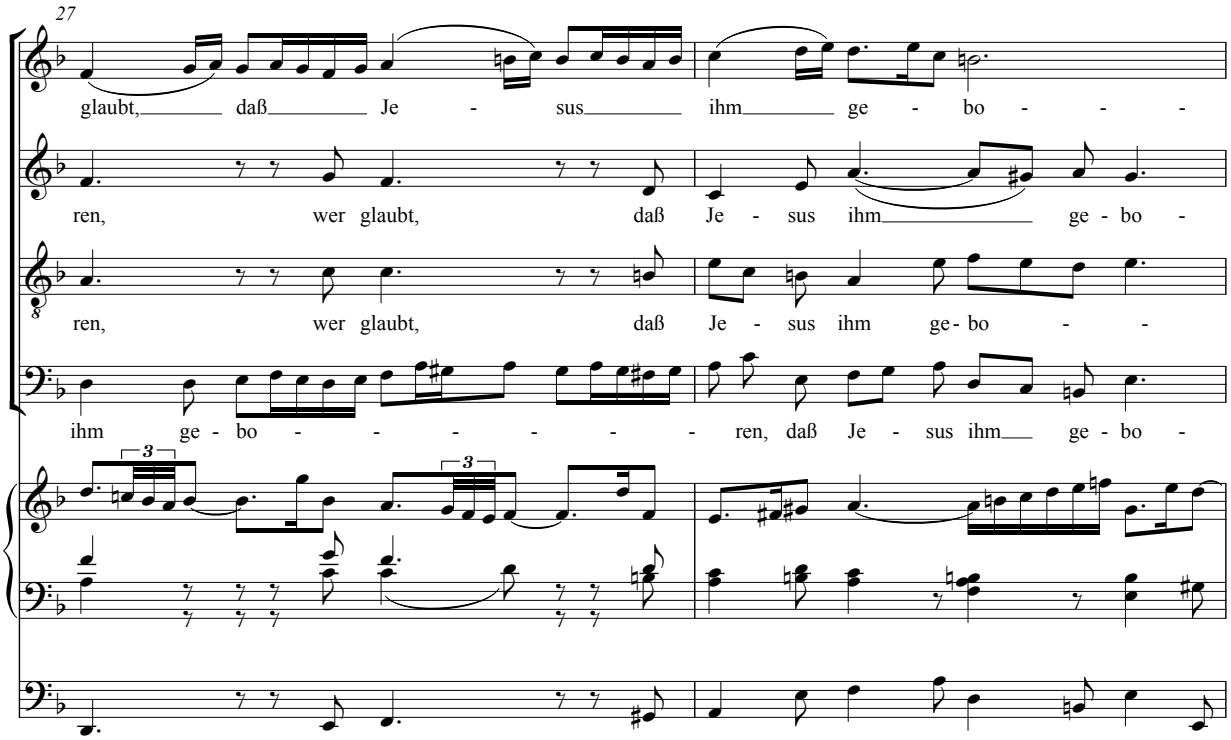

17
sich im Glau - ben ihm er - gibt,
Wer sich im Glau - ben ihm er - gibt,
Wer sich im Glau - ben ihm er - gibt,
Wer sich im Glau - ben ihm er - gibt,

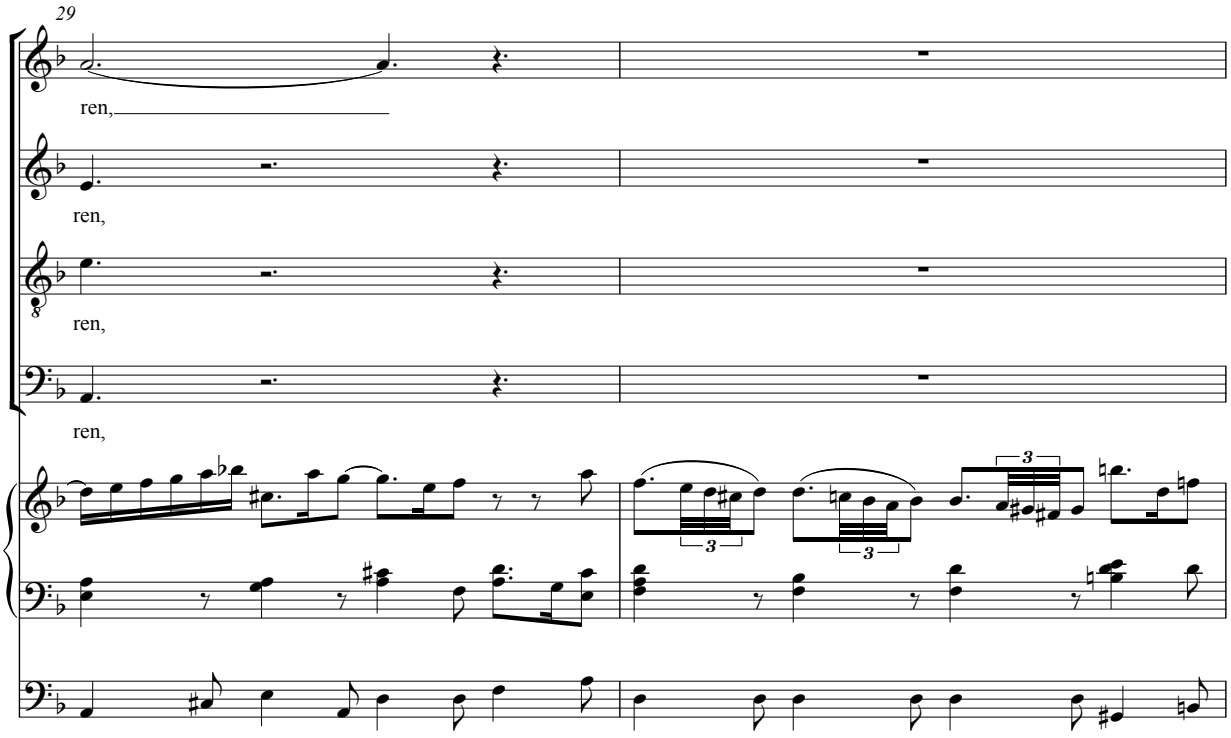

19
der
der soll dort

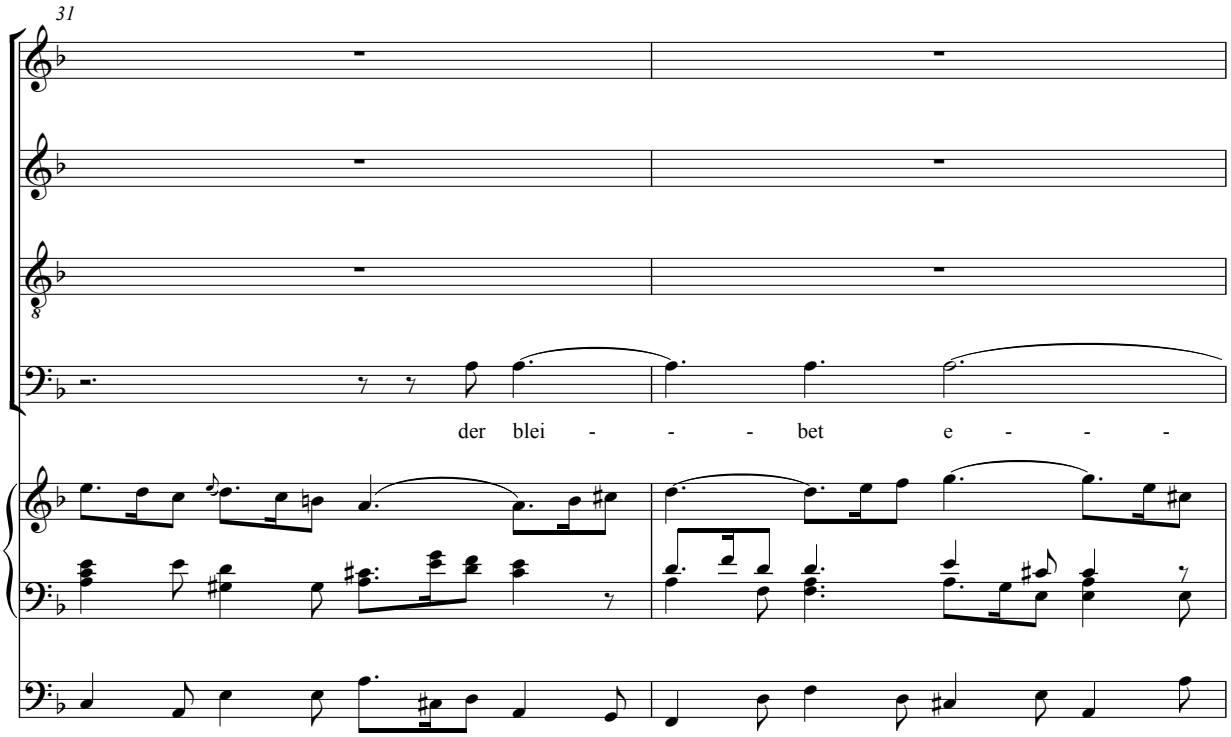

21
soll dort e - wig bei ihm le - - - -
der soll dort e - wig bei ihm le - - - - -
der soll dort e - wig, e - wig bei ihm le - -
e - wig, e - - - wig, e - - - wig bei ihm le - - - -

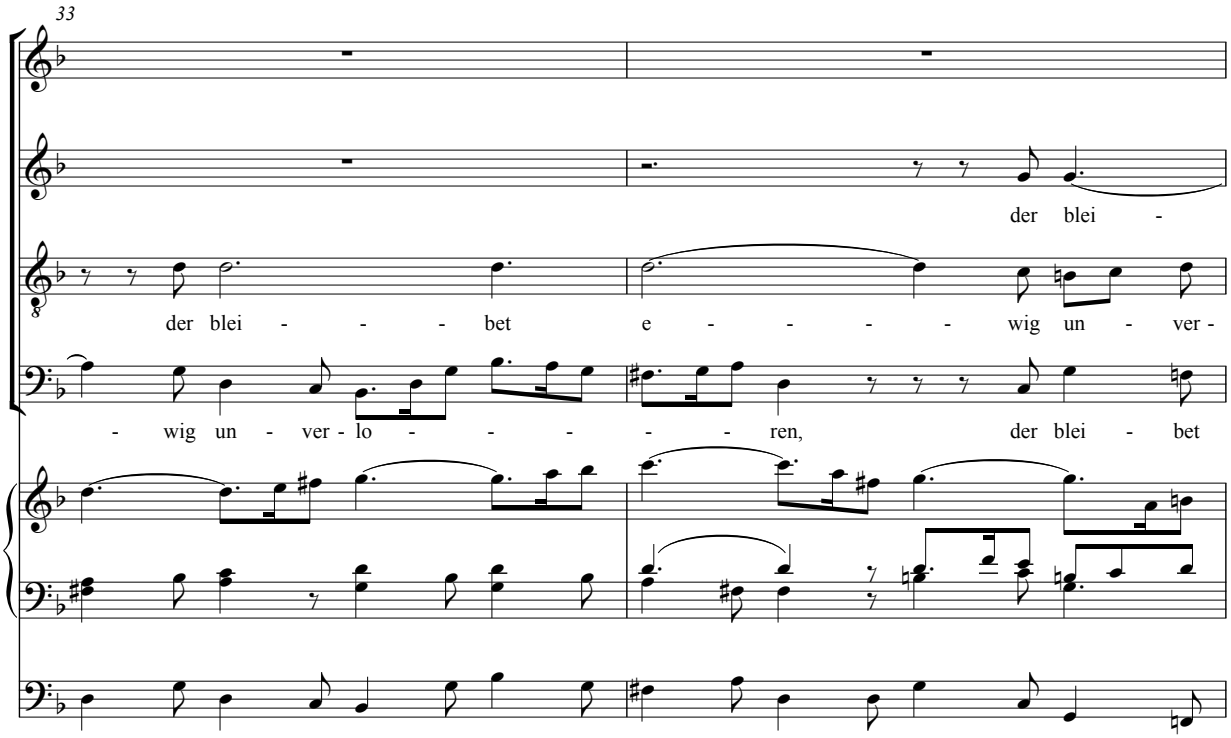

23
ben.
ben, der soll dort e - wig bei ihm le - ben.
ben, der soll dort e - wig bei ihm le - ben. Wer
ben, der soll dort e - wig bei ihm le - ben.
(tr)

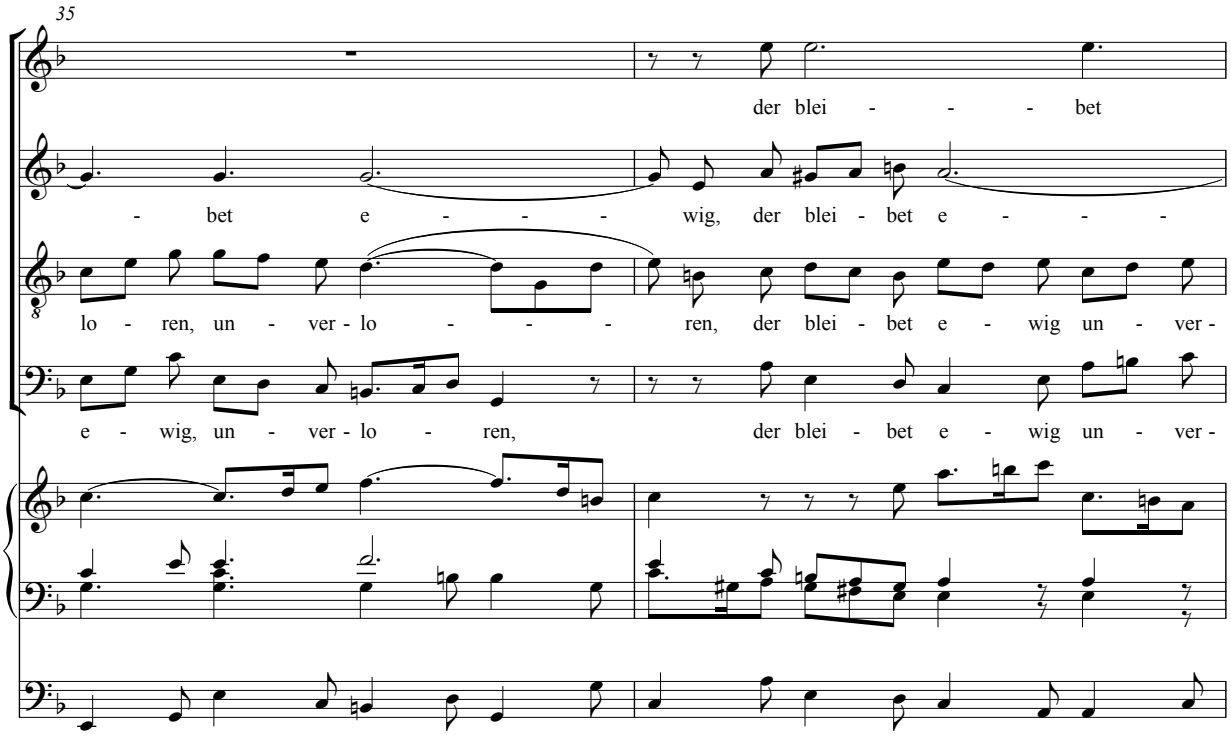

25
Wer
Wer glaubt, daß Je - sus ihm ge - bo -
glaubt, daß Je - sus ihm ge - bo - ren, ihm ge - bo -
Wer glaubt, daß Je - sus

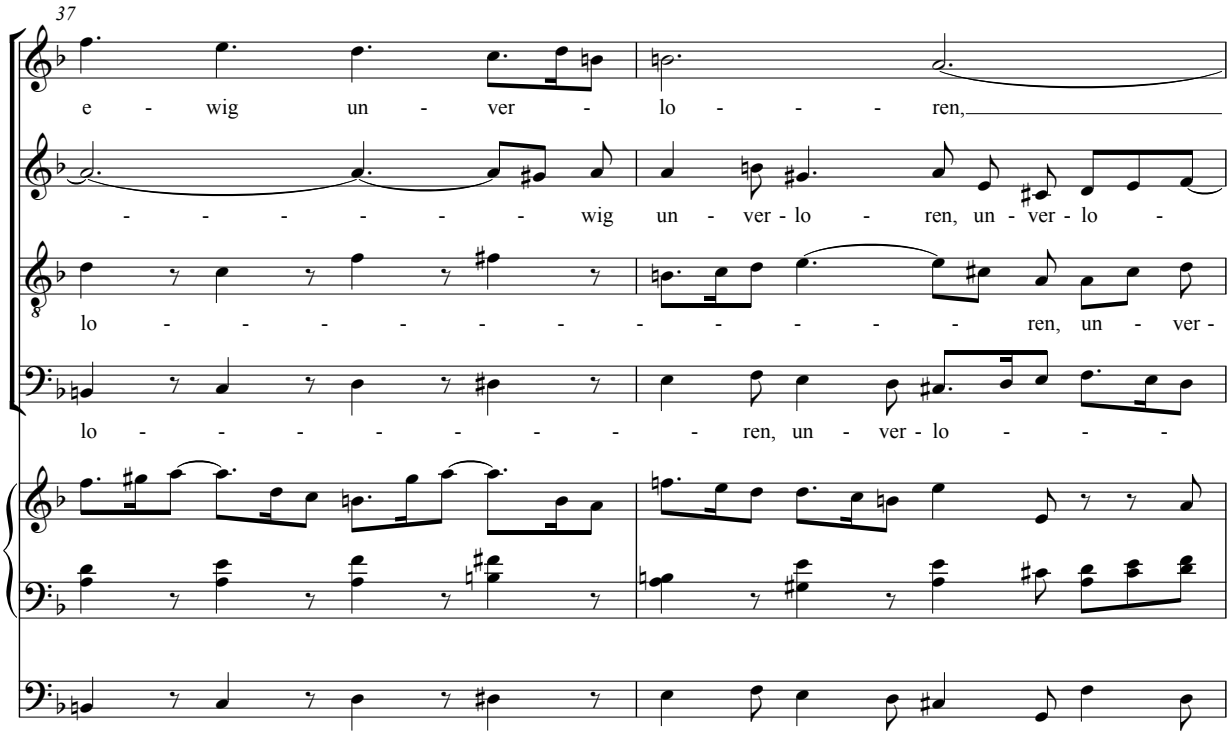

27
glaubt, daß Je - sus ihm ge - bo - - -
ren, wer glaubt, daß Je - sus ihm ge - bo -
ren, wer glaubt, daß Je - sus ihm ge - bo - -
ihm ge - bo - - - - - - ren, daß Je - sus ihm ge - bo -

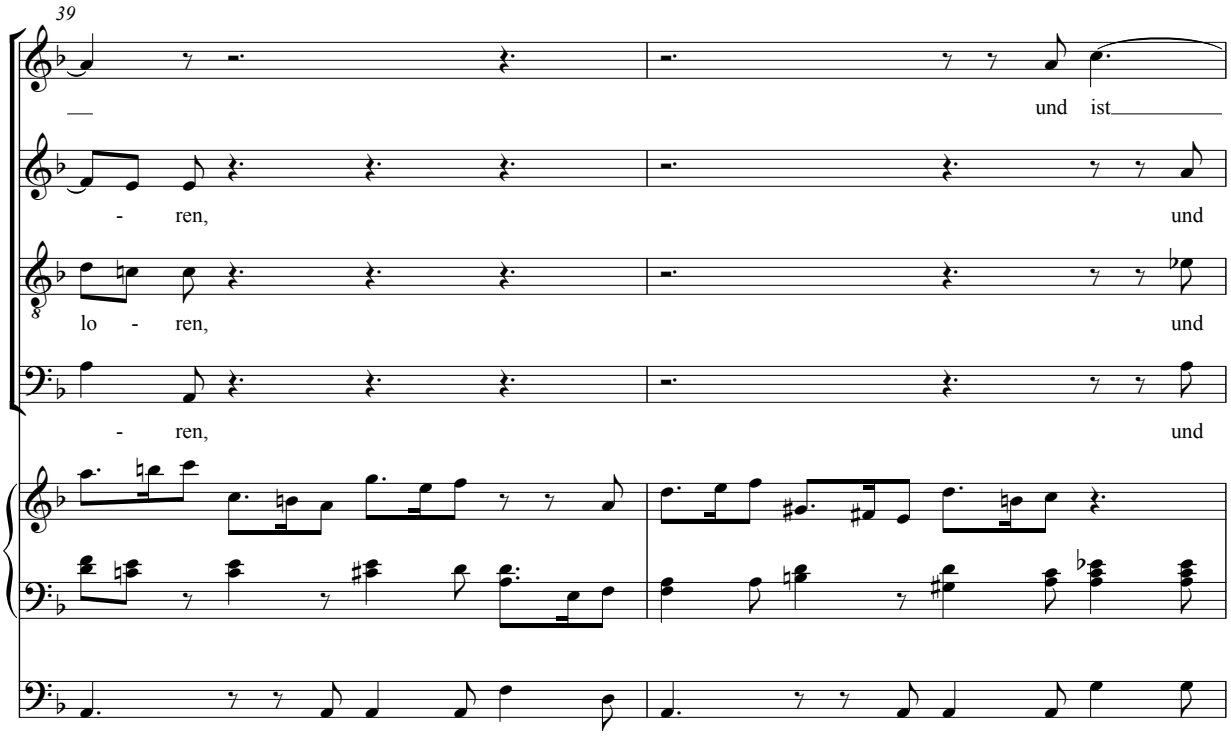

29
ren,
ren,
ren,
ren,

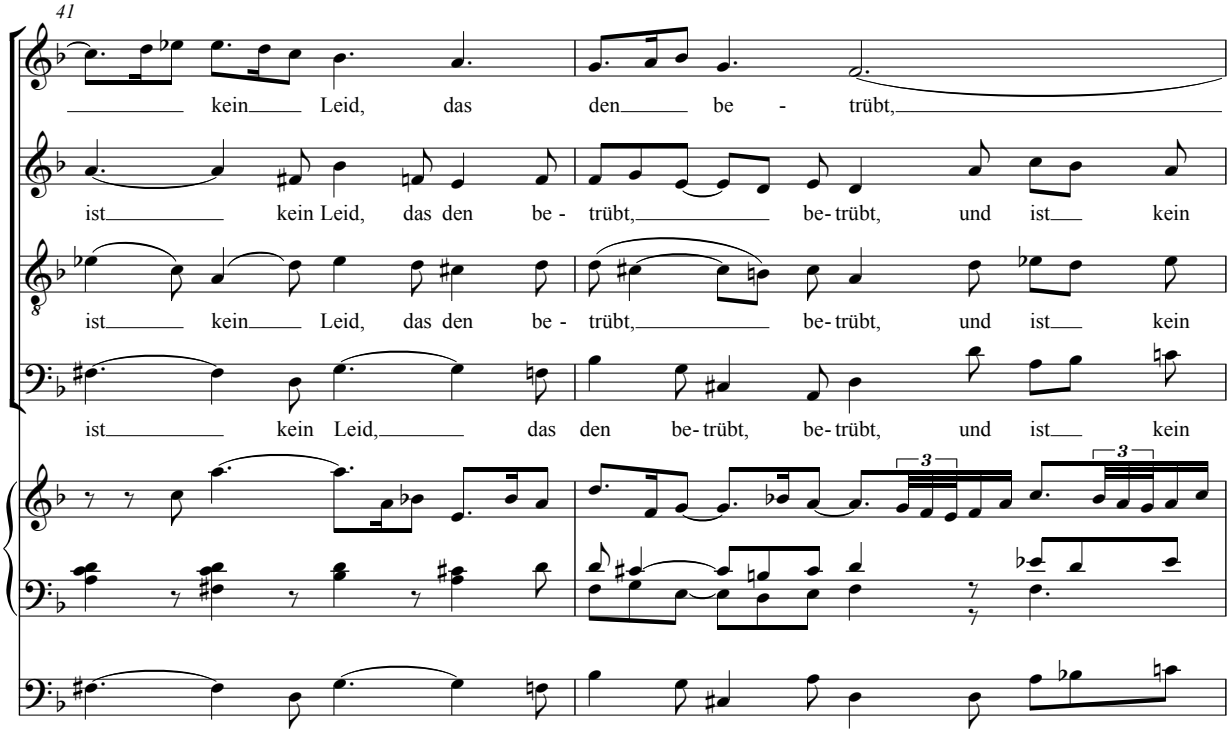

31
der blei - - - bet e - - -

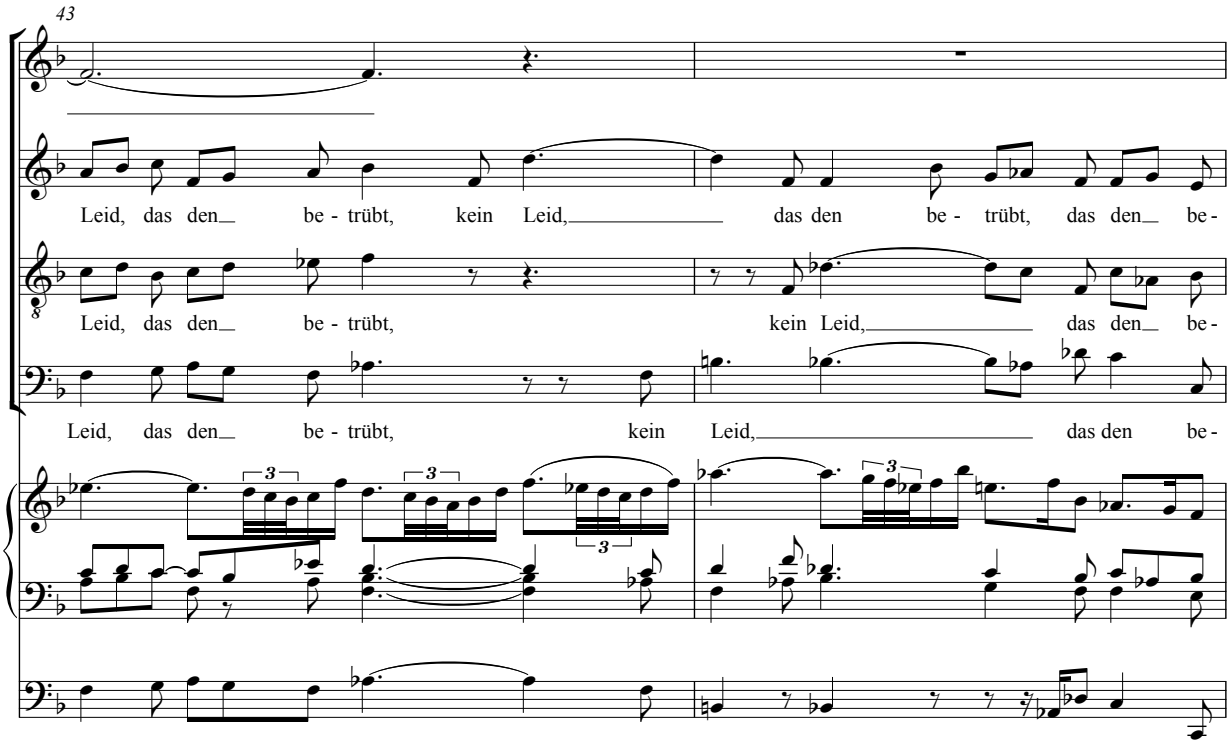

33
der blei -
der blei - - - bet e - - - - wig un - ver -
- wig un - ver - lo - - - - - ren, der blei - bet

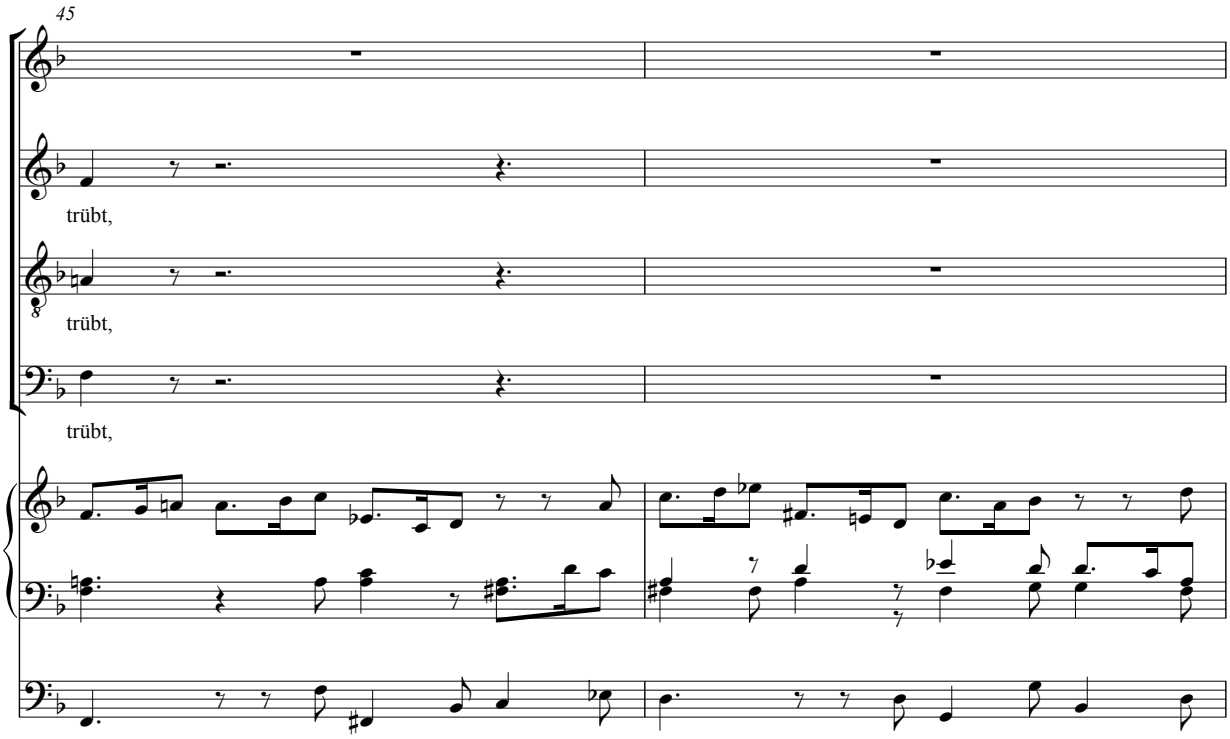

35
der blei - - - - bet
- bet e - - - - wig, der blei - bet e - - - -
lo - ren, un - ver - lo - - - - ren, der blei - bet e - wig un - ver -
e - wig, un - ver - lo - ren, der blei - bet e - wig un - ver -

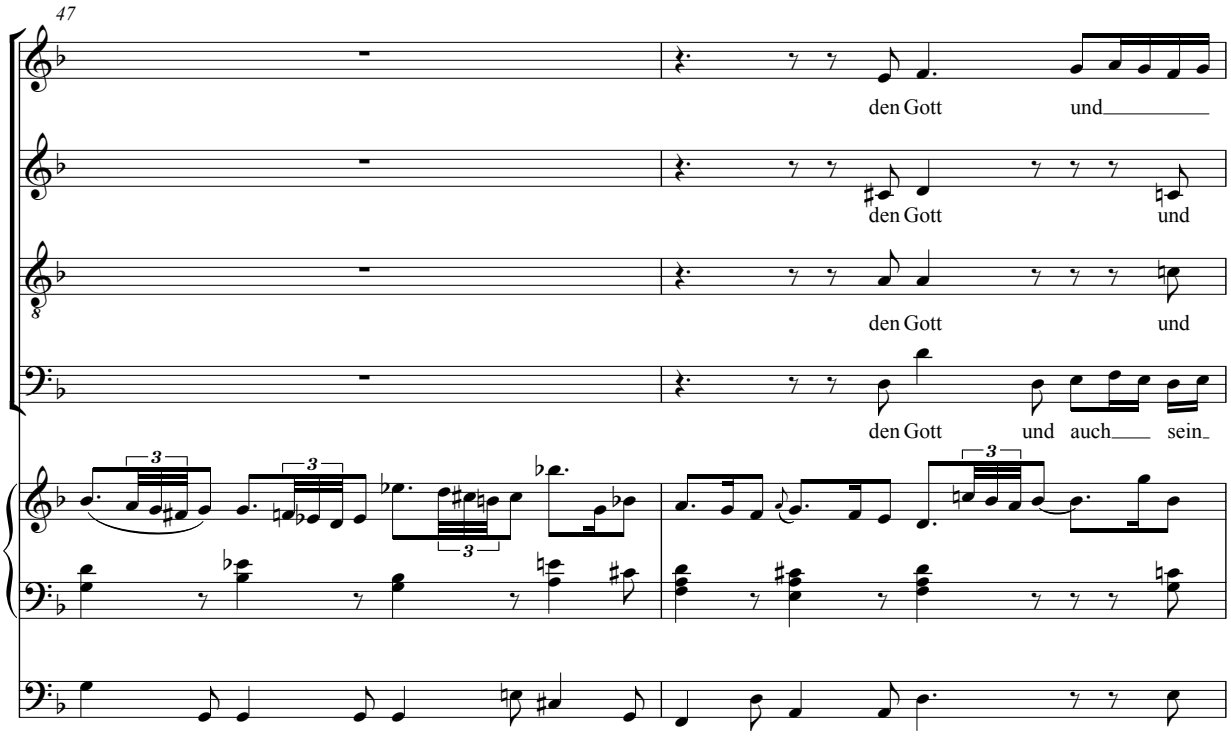

37
e - wig un - ver - lo - - - - ren,
- - - - - - - wig un - ver - lo - ren, un - ver - lo -
lo - - - - - - - - - - - - ren, un - ver -
lo - - - - - - - - - - - - ren, un - ver - lo - - -

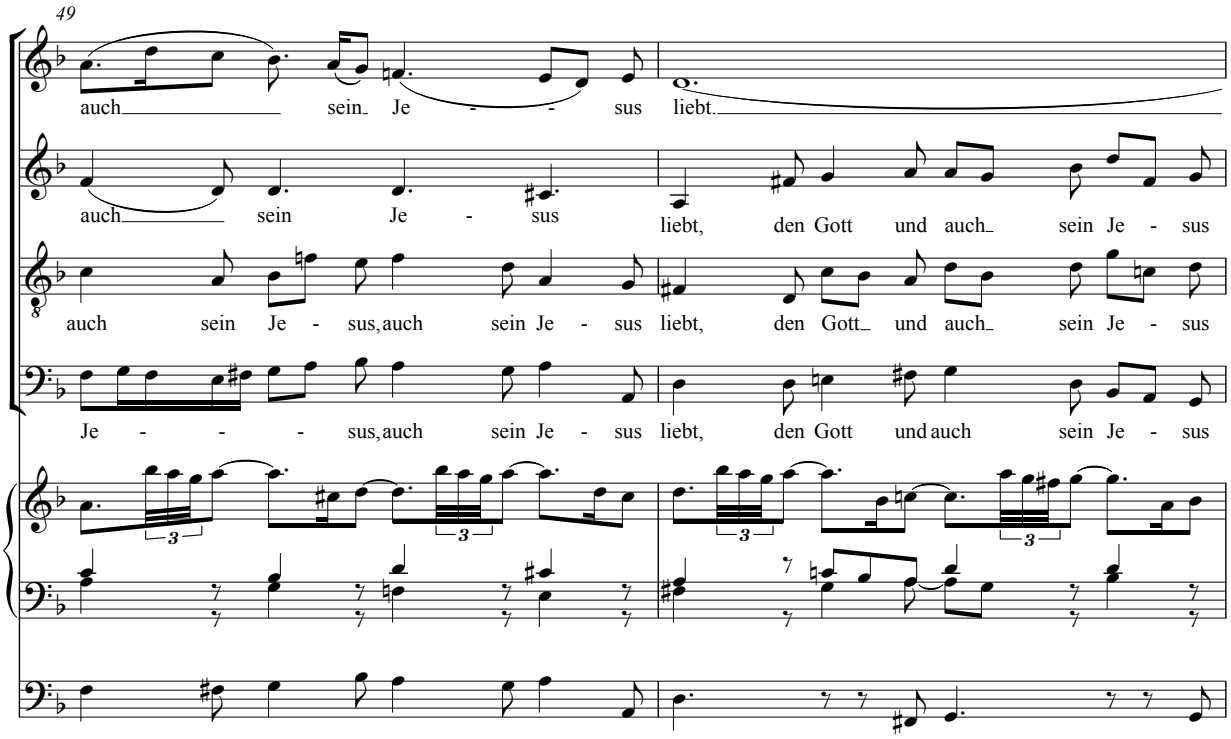

39
und ist
- ren, und
lo - ren, und
- ren, und

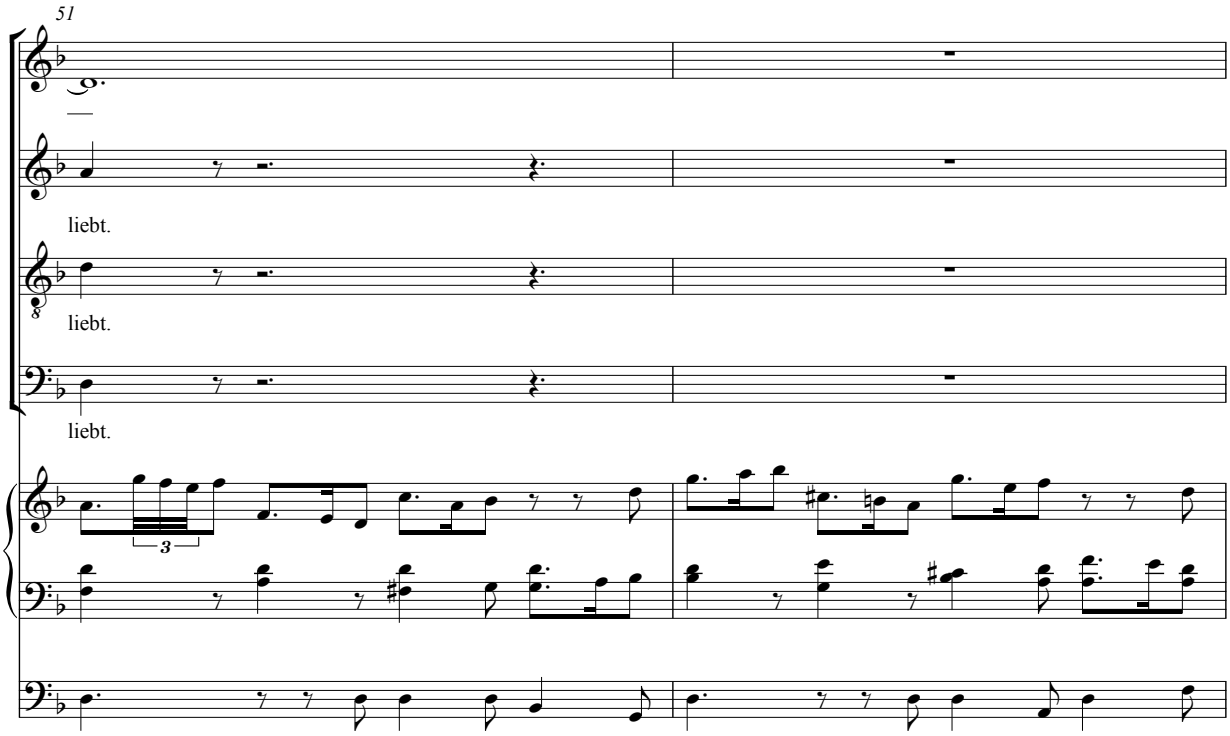

41
kein Leid, das den be - trübt,
ist kein Leid, das den be - trübt, be-trübt, und ist kein
ist kein Leid, das den be - trübt, be-trübt, und ist kein
ist kein Leid, das den be-trübt, be-trübt, und ist kein
3
3

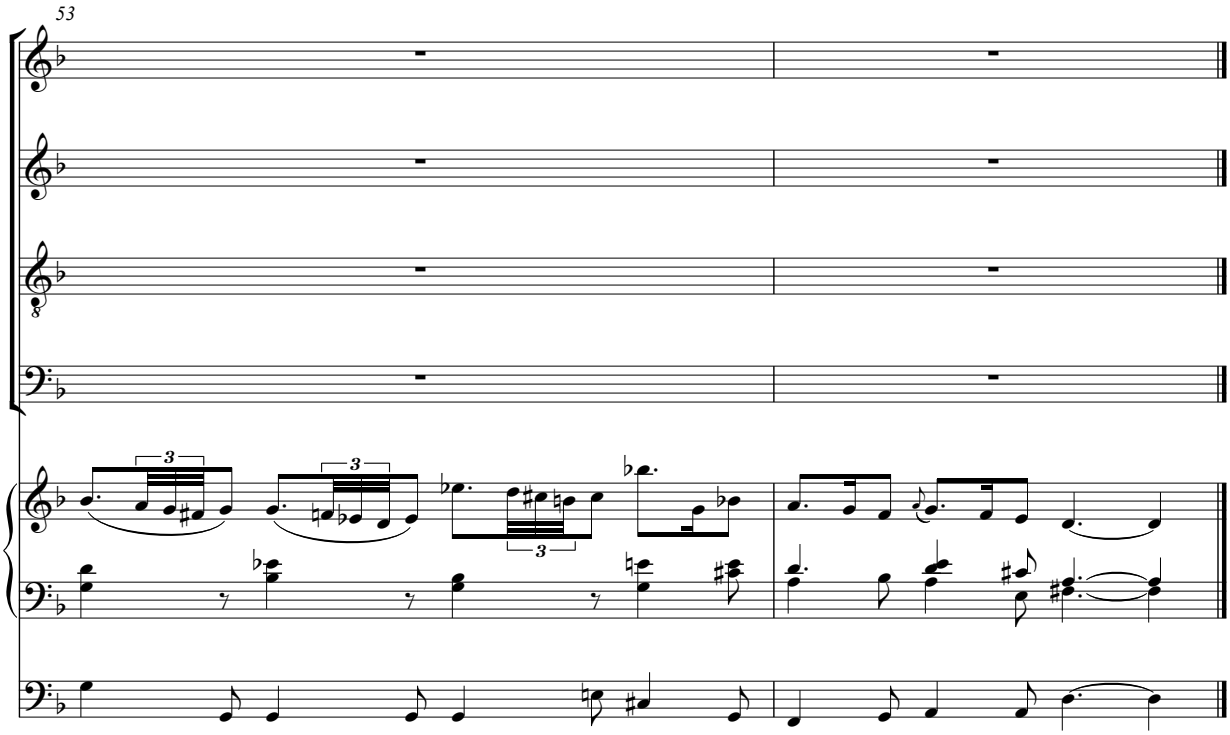

43
Leid, das den be - trübt, kein Leid, das den be - trübt, das den be -
Leid, das den be - trübt, kein Leid, das den be -
Leid, das den be - trübt, kein Leid, das den be -


45
trübt,
trübt,
trübt,


47
den Gott und
den Gott und
den Gott und
den Gott und auch sein


49
auch sein Je - sus liebt.
auch sein Je - sus liebt, den Gott und auch sein Je - sus
auch sein Je - sus, auch sein Je - sus liebt, den Gott und auch sein Je - sus
Je - - - sus, auch sein Je - sus liebt, den Gott und auch sein Je - sus


51
liebt.
liebt.
liebt.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