

# J.S. Bach - Church Cantatas BWV 10

Form: Chorale Fantasia-Aria (S)-Recit (T)-ARIA (B)-Duet (A/T)-Recit (T)-Chorale

Introduction & updates at melvinunger.com.

NBA I/28; BC A175

The Visitation: July 2 (BWV 147, 10)

\*Is. 11:1–5 (Prophecy concerning the Messiah)

\*Lk. 1:39–56 (Mary's visit to Elizabeth, Magnificat)

Librettist: Unknown

FP: 2 July 1724 (St. Nicholas & St. Thomas for Vespers)

In this year, the 4th Sunday after Trinity

clashed/coincided with Visitation of Mary.

In BWV 10/1, Meine Seele erhebt den Herren, Bach presents the ancient tonus peregrinus of the German Magnificat

in soprano, then alto, while clothing the whole in modern Italianate style.

10/1. Coro.

Vivace. (♩ = 88.)

Pianoforte.

1.

## Cantata No. 10

### Meine Seele erhebt den Herren

Chorus (Chorale/Canticle Vv. 1–2).

•Magnificat: Mary as favored among women: Lk. 1:46–48 (10/1).

Figura corta



"...besteht aus drey geschwinden Noten, deren eine allein so lang ist, als die ubrigen beyde."

Johann Gottfried Walther "Musicalesches Lexicon..." [Leipzig, 1732]

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

Instrumentation:

Tromba (doubles cantus

firmus)

Oboe I, II

Vln I, II

Vla

SATB

Continuo

Concertante style, with virtuosic interplay among the instruments and voices. Oboes mostly double violins.

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13. Soprano. Chorale/Canticle Verse 1, Phrase 1 (Tonus peregrinus).

13. Soprano. Chorale/Canticle Verse 1, Phrase 1 (Tonus peregrinus).

Alto. Mei - ne Seel' er - hebt den

Trumpet doubles Soprano.

Tenore. Mei - ne Seel' er - hebt den Herrn, mei - ne Seel' er - hebt -

Basso. T motive doubled by all upper strings.

Mei - ne Seel' er - hebt den Herrn, er - hebt den

Text painting: Rising lines in the accompanying counterpoint to signify "erhebt" (lifting up).

Mei - ne Seel' er - hebt den Herrn,

G minor

B-flat major

16.

Her - ren den Herrn, erhebt den Herrn, mei - ne Seel' erhebt den Herrn

Herrn, mei - ne Seel' erhebt den Herrn, mei - ne Seel' er - hebt den Herrn

mei - ne Seel' er - hebt, mei - ne Seel' er - hebt den Herrn

B-flat major

E-flat major

19.

Mei - ne Seel' er - hebt den Herrn

C minor

B-flat major

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22.

B-flat major

F major

25.

B-flat major

E-flat major

F major

B-flat major

28. **B** Chorale/Canticle Verse 1, Phrase 2.

**B**

und mein Geist freu et sich Got tes,  
und mein Geist freu et sich,  
und mein Geist freu et, freu et sich,  
und mein Geist freu et sich, freu et sich,

**B**

B-flat major

F major

31.

meines Heilandes; des, und mein Geist freu et sich Gottes, meines Heilandes, und mein Geist freu et sich Got tes, meines Heilandes, mein Geist freu et

F major

G minor

G major

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37.

F minor      E-flat major

40.

C minor

G major

43.

C minor      F minor

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Note: BWV 10 is Bach's only chorale cantata to present the underlying "chorale" twice.

46. C Chorale/Canticle Verse 2, Phrases 1, transposed down a P5 (in alto voice), perhaps to signify "lowly" handmaiden.



Opening material in the subdominant key with voices swapped, cantus firmus in alto.

49. C minor

## C minor

## C minor

52.

## E-flat major

Magd an - ge - sehen.

## A-flat major

## F minor

## E-flat major

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55.

E-flat major

58.

E-flat major

61.

**D** Chorale/Canticle Verse 2, Phrase 2 in Alto.

Sie\_he, von nun an werden mich  
Sie \_ he, von nun an  
Sie\_he, von nun an werden mich se \_ lig  
Sie\_he, von nun an

**D**

E-flat major E-flat major

64.

se \_ - - - lig prei \_ - - -  
wer \_ den mich se \_ - - - lig prei \_ - - - sen  
prei \_ - - -  
wer \_ den mich se \_ - - - lig prei \_ - - - sen,  
wer \_ den mich se \_ - - - lig prei \_ - - -

B-flat major

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66.

B-flat major      C minor

68. Coda (m. 68ff.), Oboes double Violins. "Vokaleinbau": Voices embedded in return of complete ritornello, which first modulates back to G minor.

Coda

C major      F minor

70.

C minor

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72.

se - lig prei - sen alle, alle,  
nun an wer - den mich se - lig prei -  
sen, von nun an, von nun an wer - den mich  
wer - den mich se - lig prei - sen, mich se - lig

Compare mm. 2-13.

D minor

74. G minor

E

alle, alle, alle Kindes Kind, wer - den mich  
sen alle, alle, alle Kindes Kind, wer - den mich  
se - lig prei - sen alle, alle Kindes Kind, wer - den mich  
prei - sen, mich se - lig preisen al -

C minor F7 B-flat major

76.

se - lig prei - se - lig, se - lig prei - se - lig prei -

Text painting:  
Rising lines  
for "praise"

G minor D major

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79.

sen al - le Kin-des  
sen al - le Kin-des  
sen al - le Kin-des  
le, al -

81.

Kind, al - le, alle Kin-des Kind.  
Kind, al - le, alle Kin-des Kind.  
Kind, al - le, alle Kin-des Kind.  
Kind, al - le, alle Kin-des Kind.

C minor

G minor

G major

2. Soprano Ritornello Aria (Based on Chorale Vs. 3: Lk. 1:49)

10/2. Aria. •Magnificat: The holy, mighty God has blessed richly (10/2).

Repeated notes in Oboes and Vln 1 may be derived from the canticle's chant tone.

(Allegro  $\text{♩} = 88$ )

1.

+Oboes

B-flat major

3.

B-flat major

G minor

Ritornello begins with a phrase that rises 2 octaves. The energetic "tumult" rhythm of constant 16th notes (also in the continuo), presumably depicts God's power, referenced in the text.

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6.

B-flat major      E-flat major

9.

12. Soprano.

Repeated notes are reminiscent of the canticle's chant tone Three iterations of the word "Herr," may allude to the Trinity. The text of this movement alludes to Luke 1:49 (part of the Magnificat).

Herr, Herr, Herr, der du  
Oboes tacet

B-flat major      B-flat major

15.

stark und mächtig bist, der du stark und mächtig bist, der du stark und mächtig

G minor      B-flat major

17.

bist, Gott, des - sen Na - me hei - lig ist, Gott, des - sen

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23.

sind deine Werke! Herr, Herr, der du stark und mächtig bist, Gott,

F major

25.

des sen Na me hei lig ist, wie wun der bar sind deine Wer ke!

F major

A musical score for piano, featuring two staves. The top staff uses a treble clef and the bottom staff uses a bass clef. Measure 30 begins with a forte dynamic (f) in the bass staff. The music consists of eighth-note patterns, with some notes having grace marks. Measure 31 continues the eighth-note patterns from measure 30. The score is numbered 30. in red at the top left.

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33.

Herr, der du stark \_\_\_\_\_ und mächtig bist,

Oboes tacet

F major      F major      B-flat major      E-flat major

41.

ist, Gott, des \_ sen Na \_ me hei \_ lig ist, wie wunder-

B-flat major      C minor      C major      F major      F7      B-flat major      B-flat 7

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44.

bar... sind deine Werke! Herr, Herr, der du stark und

E-flat major

47.

mächtig bist, Gott, dessen Name heilig ist, wie wunderbar sind deine

B-flat major

49.

Werke!

+Oboes

*mf*

B-flat major

G minor

52.

B-flat major

55.

B-flat major

E-flat major

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58.

Contrasting B section (minor key, soft dynamic, oboes facet), but  
61. 16th-note figures continue, alternating between continuo & upper strings.

B-flat major

Du sie\_hest mich E \_ len - - - den an, mich, du sie\_hest

B-flat major

64.

G minor

mich E \_ lenden an, du sie\_hest mich E \_ len - - - den an,

C minor

66.

du hast an mir so viel, so viel ge \_ than an mir, du hast an

C minor

B-flat 7

E-flat major

69.

mir so viel ge \_ than, an mir so viel ge \_ than, dass ich nicht al

E-flat major

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71.

les zähl' und mer - ke.

*mf + Oboes*

E-flat 7

73.

A-flat major

B-flat 7

E-flat major

76.

dass ich nicht al - les zähl' und mer - ke, dass

*p*

E-flat major

Continuo and singer are alone to the end, perhaps to indicate the singer is "staying behind" to continue trying to count God's blessings. G minor

78.

ich nicht al - les zähl' und mer - ke,

G minor

A7

80.

nicht al - les zähl' und mer - ke.

D minor

A7

D minor

Da Capo.

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10/3. **Recitativo.** Tenor Secco Recitative, ending with Arioso. (Based on Chorale Vv. 4–5: Lk. 1:50–51.)  
 •Magnificat: God helps lowly but scatters proud (10/3).

Chromatic Saturation  
in the vocal part in  
10 mm.

**Tenore.**

1. D G E-flat C A B-flat F# F  
 Des Höchsten Güt' und Treu' wird alle Morgen neu und währet immer für und für bei  
 Allusion to Lam. 3:22–23.

4. B G minor  
 de\_nen, die all\_hier auf sei\_ne Hil\_feschaun und ihm in wahrer Furcht vertrau'n;  
 C minor G minor

7. A-flat Text painting: Melisma for "force." D-flat  
 hingegen übt er auch Ge\_walt mit seinem Arm an de\_nen, welche weder kalt noch  
 B-flat major B-flat 7 E-flat 7 E-flat major C minor  
 9. Allusion to Rev. 3:14–17. E Text Painting: Voice is unaccompanied for "bare."  
 warm im Glauben und im Lieben sein. Die nak\_ket, bloss und blind, die voller  
 F7 C minor C7 A7

12. Text painting: High/lofty note for "pride." Text painting: Long, dramatic melisma of triplets and chromatic harmonies for "scatter like chaff."  
 Stolz und Hoffahrtsind, will sei\_ne Hand wie Spreu\_ zer\_streun  
 D minor D minor F# dim. 7

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15.

wie Spreu zer-streun.

G# dim. 7

A7

D minor

D minor

10/4. Aria.  
(Risoluto  $\text{♩} = 116$ )

Operatic Bass Aria with continuo accompaniment alone in ritornello form.  
(Based on Chorale Vv. 6–7: Lk. 1:52–53.)

•Magnificat: God casts down proud, exalts lowly (10/4).

This is the central movement of a chiasc form, where the text explores an aspect of reversal (see side note).

Ritornello

F major Quasi-ostinato Continuo Bass.

Repeated note figure is perhaps derived from the chant tone of the canticle.

Descent of continuo foreshadows later text painting.

3.

Second part of quasi-ostinato bass.

G minor

Basso.

5. Rhyme Scheme: AABBCDCC. Bach sets it in 3 vocal sections.

First Section (Rhyme AA)

C7

F major

F major

Ge-

7. Text painting: Energetic melisma with leaps for "mighty."

wal - - - ti\_ge,

Ge\_wal - - -

mf

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Text painting: downward leap of 7th for "down."

10.

- - ti - ge stösst Gott vom Stuhl, stösst Gott vom Stuhl hinun - ter

F major

C7

12.

in den Schwefel - pfuhl, hinun - ter in den Schwefel -

Continuo realization (32nd notes) is editorial.

F major (G7) (implied C major)

Text Painting: Descending melisma for "casting into the pit of brimstone."

14.

pfuhl, hinun - ter, hinun - ter in den Schwefel - pfuhl, Ge -

G7

16. Text repeated; shows Bach's emphasis on this idea.

wal - - - ti - ge stösst Gott vom Stuhl hinun - ter in den Schwefel -

C major

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18.

pfuhl, hin-unter in den Schwei-felpfuhl; Ritornello

C minor

C major

D7

20.

Continuo realization (32nd notes) is editorial.

C7

A7

D minor

22.

C major

G7

Text painting: Ascending melismas for "raising up."

23.

Second Vocal Section (Rhyme BB) Lyric.

die Niedern pflegt Gott zu er hö

This vocal section incorporates both parts of the quasi-ostinato bass.

C major

C7

A7

25.

hen, die Nie

D minor

F7

B-flat major

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Text painting: Rising melisma for "to raise."

27.

dern pflegt Gott zu er hö hen, dass sie wie Stern' am

R.H.

B-flat major

30.

Himmel ste hen.

Die

B-flat major

Third vocal section  
(Rhyme: CDCD).

32.

Rei chen lässt Gott bloss und leer,

P

B-flat major

G minor

F7

D7

Text painting: Syllabic declamation with rests and chromaticism for "bare and empty" (stated 3x).

34.

bloss und leer, bloss und leer; die

Continuo realization (32nd notes) is editorial.

G major

C minor

B-flat major

This vocal section incorporates both parts of the  
quasi-ostinato bass.

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36 Text painting: Chromatic line for "the hungry."

38.

Lyric voice leading for "Gnadenmeer" (sea of grace).

40.

40.

se - nem Gna den meer stets Reich thum und die

F major F7 B-flat major

42.

Entire Ritornello repeated with 2 mm. added. "Vokaleinbau" similar to opening chorus.

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44.

sei nem Gna den meer, auf sei nem Gna den

= m. 2.

Pedal extension for 2 mm.

46.

meer, auf seinem Gna den

Continuo realization (32nd notes) are editorial.

= m. 3.

F7

48.

meer stets Reich thum und die Füle

Continuo realization (32nd notes) is editorial.

= m. 4.

D7      G minor      C7

Text painting: Melisma covering an octave for "fullness/abundance."

49.

le ha ben.

= m. 5.

f

= m. 6.

F major

F major

Dal Segno.

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## 10/5. Duetto.

(Moderato ♩.58.) Alto & Tenor Duet with Continuo Accompaniment (instead of recitative as might be expected) (Chorale Vs. 8)

•Magnificat: God remembers his mercy: Lk. 1:54 (10/5).

Bach later transcribed this movement for organ BWV 648 (one of the "Schübler chorales").

1. Alto.

Text painting: Descending, chromatic motive in descending sequence to portray divine mercy extended down to humankind.

Continuo line is not independent as in the previous movement but derived from the vocal line.

Er den\_ket

D minor A7 D7 G7 C7 F major D minor

6. Er den\_ket der Barmher\_zig\_keit, der Barmher\_zig\_keit,  
Text painting: Canonic imitation between voices to portray "remembering" ("He remembers His mercy.")

der Barmher\_zig\_keit, er den\_ket der Barmher\_zig\_keit, Canticle/chorale Phrase 1 in oboes (originally trumpet).

A major G major A7 D minor C7

10.

er den\_ket der Barmher\_zig\_keit, er den\_ket  
er den\_ket der Barmher\_zig\_keit, er den\_ket der Barmher\_zig\_keit

F major D7 G minor A7 D major G major F major F7

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14.

der Barmher-zig-keit, er den-ket der Barmher-zig-keit, er den-ket  
- - - zig-keit, er den-ket der Barmher-zig-keit

C7                      F minor                      C minor                      E-flat 7  
F minor

18.

der Barmher-zig-keit, er den-ket der Barmher-zig-keit, der Barmher-zig-  
keit, er den-ket der Barmher-zig-keit, er den-ket der Barmher-zig-  
keit, er den-ket der Barmher-zig-keit, er den-ket der Barmher-zig-  
keit, er den-ket der Barmher-zig-keit

F major                      C major                      G major                      D major

22.

keit und hilft sei-nem Diener, hilft sei-nem  
keit und hilft sei-nem Diener, hilft sei-nem Diener Is-rael auf, hilft sei-nem

A minor                      (D7)                      G major                      G7                      C major                      C7                      F major

Canticle/chorale  
Phrase 2  
in oboes/trumpet.



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4.

A-flat

Werk und in der That. Was Gott dem Abraham, als er zu ihm in seine Hütte

B-flat major

7.

Rhetorical emphasis on "promised and sworn," F# Alludes to Galatians 4:4–7.

kam, versprochen und ge schworen, ist, da die Zeit er füllt war, geschehen.

C minor

Voice marked "Andante."

10. Andante. (♩ = 92.)

Strings

p Rocking motive apparently intended as a comforting gesture and/or the rocking of sea waves.

Sein Sa me musste sich so sehr wie Sand am Meer und

Continuo marked "Adagio accompagnato."

G minor

B-flat 7 E-flat major

12.

Stern am Firmament ausbrei ten, der Heiland ward ge bo ren, das

Strings reach highest pitches here and m. 18.

G7 C minor C7

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14.

ew - ge\_Wort liess sich im Fleische se \_ hen, das menschliche Ge -

A7

D minor

16. Text painting: Lowest note for "death."

schlecht vom Tod und allem Bö - sen und von des Satans Skla - ve -

(G minor) A7 F# dim. 7

E-flat major

Text painting: Chromaticism for loving rescue from "Satan's slavery."

18. B E C#

rei aus lauter Lie\_be zu er\_lö\_sen; drumbleibt's da -

G7 C# dim. 7 A7 D minor

20. Allusion to John 1:14.

bei, dass Got\_ tes Wort voll Gnad'\_und Wahr\_heit sei...

D7 G7 C minor D7 G minor

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Chorale/Canticle (Vv. 10–11) (Tonus peregrinus).

•Doxology: Praise to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost (10/7).

1. Soprano. Verse 10

Lob und Preis sei Gott dem Va - ter und dem Sohn und dem heiligen  
Alto.  
Lob und Preis sei Gott dem Va - ter und dem Sohn und dem heiligen  
Tenore.  
Lob und Preis sei Gott dem Va - ter und dem Sohn und dem heiligen  
Basso.  
Lob und Preis sei Gott dem Va - ter und dem Sohn und dem heiligen

G minor      B-flat major      G minor      B-flat major      B-flat major

8.

Verse 12 (harmonized differently)

Rising lines for ascent of praise. Compare ascending diatonic 4ths in other works, e.g., B-minor Mass ("Gratias, Dona nobis").

Gei - ste, wie es war im Anfang; jetzt und im - mer - dar und von  
Gei - ste, wie es war im Anfang; jetzt und im - mer - dar  
Gei - ste, wie es war im Anfang; jetzt und im - mer - dar und von  
Gei - ste, wie es war im An - fang; jetzt und im - mer - dar und von Ewig-

G minor      G minor      B-flat major      B-flat major

16.

Extended final note of cantus firmus for "Amen".

Ewigkeit zu E - wig - keit, A - men.  
und von E - wig - keit zu E - wig - keit, A - men.  
E - wig - keit zu E - wig - keit, A - men.  
keit zu Ewig - keit, A - men.

G7      C minor      C minor      G major