J.S. Bach - Church Cantatas BWV 124 Form: Chorus/Fantasia - Recit (T) - Aria (T) - Recit (B) - Duet (S/A) - Chorale.

NBA I/5: BC A30 1. S. after Epiphany (BWV 154, 124, 32)

*Romans 12:1-61 (Christian duty: present yourselves as living sacrifices to God) *Luke 2:41-52 (Jesus' parents lose Jesus in Jerusalem and later find him in the temple)

Librettist: Unknown FP: 7 January 1725 (St. Nicholas)

d'amore lines Instrumentation: Corno Oboe d'amore VIn I, II

Continuo, Organo

Vla

SATB

This cantata belongs to Bach's chorale cantata cycle (see note).

Introduction & updates at melvinunger.com. The underlying six-stanza chorale of 1658 was written by Christian Keyman (1607–1662). Each stanza ends with the line "Meinen Jesum Iaß ich nicht." Alfred Dürr writes, "As in the previous year (BWV 154), the text of this cantata, composed for 7 January 1725, refers to the Gospel reading. The faithful Christian, like Jesus's parents at one time, desires not to lose Jesus but to follow Him in all circumstances. Thus far, the choice of the hymn...is comprehensible. Further on, however, the biblical account and the chorale text depart from each other considerably...The anonymous librettist, who adapts each of these verses to form a madrigalian movement, has taken no steps to establish further links with the Sunday Gospel. Instead, he gives free rein to a truly baroque predilection for

Cantata No. 124 for graphic descriptions of death and disdain for this world. The opening chorus follows the usual scheme: the choir sings the chorale line by line in a texture either homophonic or lightly broken up into polyphony, while

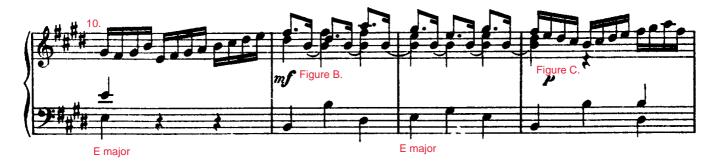
Meinen Jesum laß ich nicht episodes, and accompanying passages. The initial theme has the but soon the oboe d'amore detaches itself from the instrumental body and takes the lead in concertante passages. Alternately, it is supported by the strings, which simplify its figuration in the tuttis, or accompanied by continuo alone, as it repeats and varies the motive heard previously in an

echo-like fashion. The line 'To stick to Him like a bur' is accorded a very striking interpretation: alto, tenor, and bass all unite on a long-held b' (or b) to the word (Coro.) 'kleben' ('stick')." See "The Cantatas of J. S. Bach," translated by Richard Jones (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005), p. 187. 124/1. (Tempo giusto. J = so.) (Chorale Verse 1) •Clinging to Jesus so not to lose him (124/1). Cantata about clinging to Jesus with ravishing oboe stacc Figure A: sarabande rhythm. Sarabande-like (Some authors call it a minuet.)

In the opening movement, a concertante oboe d'amore has long swirls of 16th notes that leave little place to breathe. While the chorale cantus firmus is presented in regular note values accompanied by lightly imitative counterpoint, three musical figures from the ritornello provide the instrumental material or the rest of the



E major (for significance, see note).





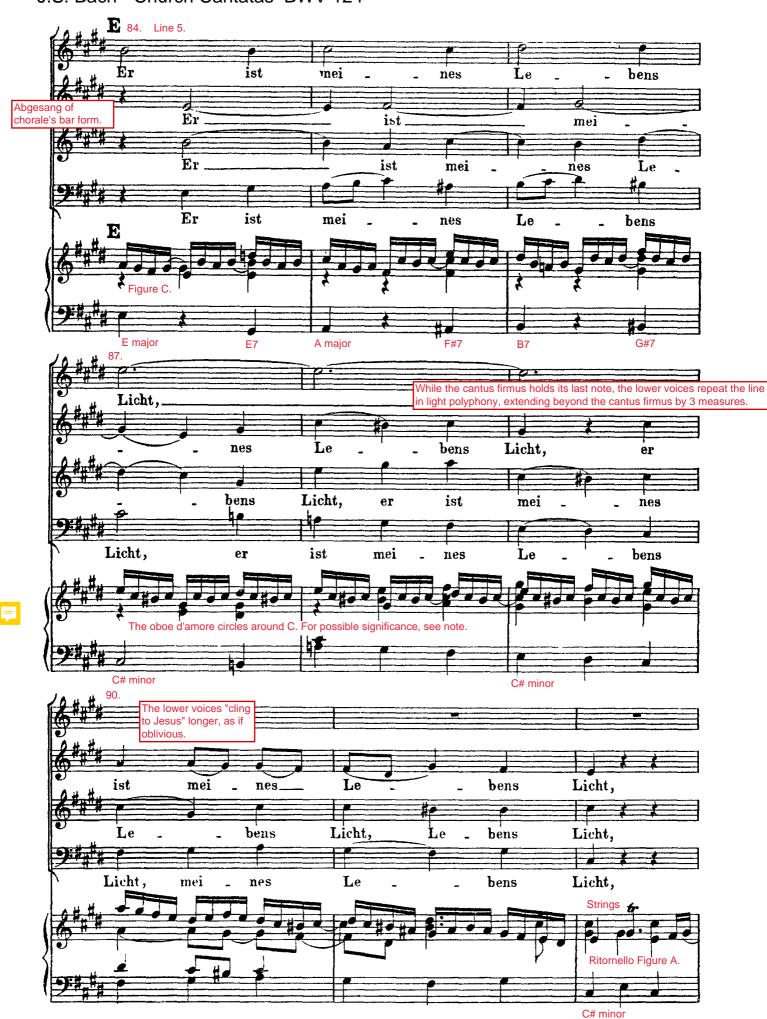


J.S. Bach - Church Cantatas BWV 124 Soprano. +Corno A (Mel: "Meinen Jesum lass' ich nicht":) Mei nen chorale's bar form sum Alto. Mei _ nen Je sum Mei nen Figure A B major The sustained note suggests "clinging to Jesus." While the cantus firmus holds its last note, the lower voices repeat the line in light polyphony. ich nicht, _ ich nicht, lass' ich Je lass' lass'_ nicht, mei nen sum ich ich nicht, mei nen ich Jе lass'. sum lass'. Je Mei_nen Je ich lass' nicht, Je _ sum lass' ich sum A major В7 E major \mathbf{B} The lower voices "cling to Jesus" a bit longer, as if oblivious weil er nicht, weil er weil nicht, er weil nicht, cf. m. 10. cf. m. 9. Figure C. E major E major 2



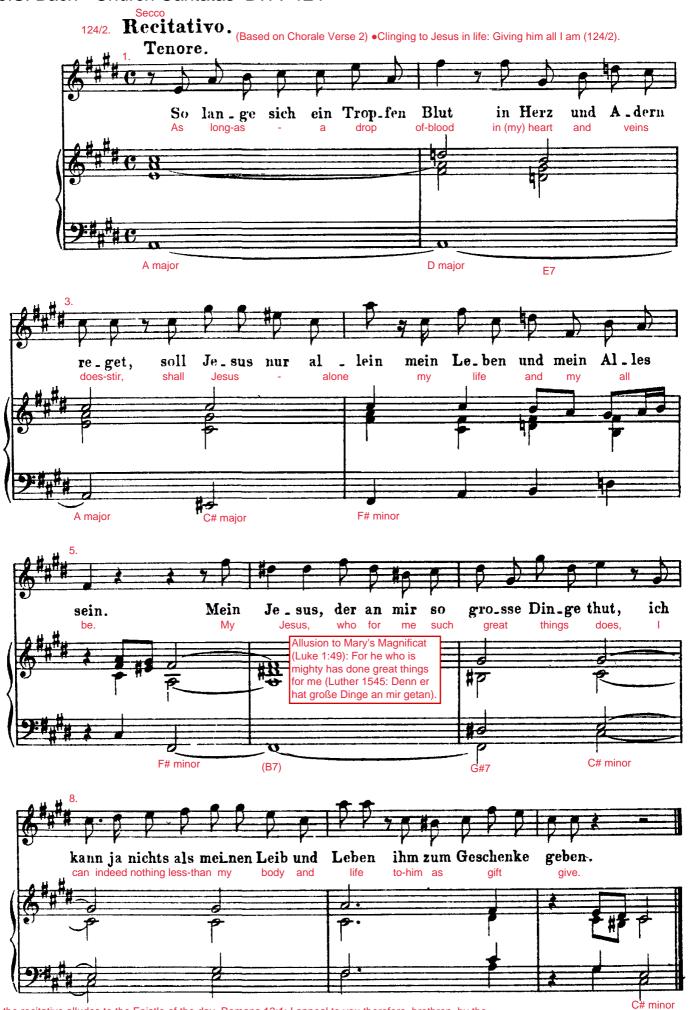




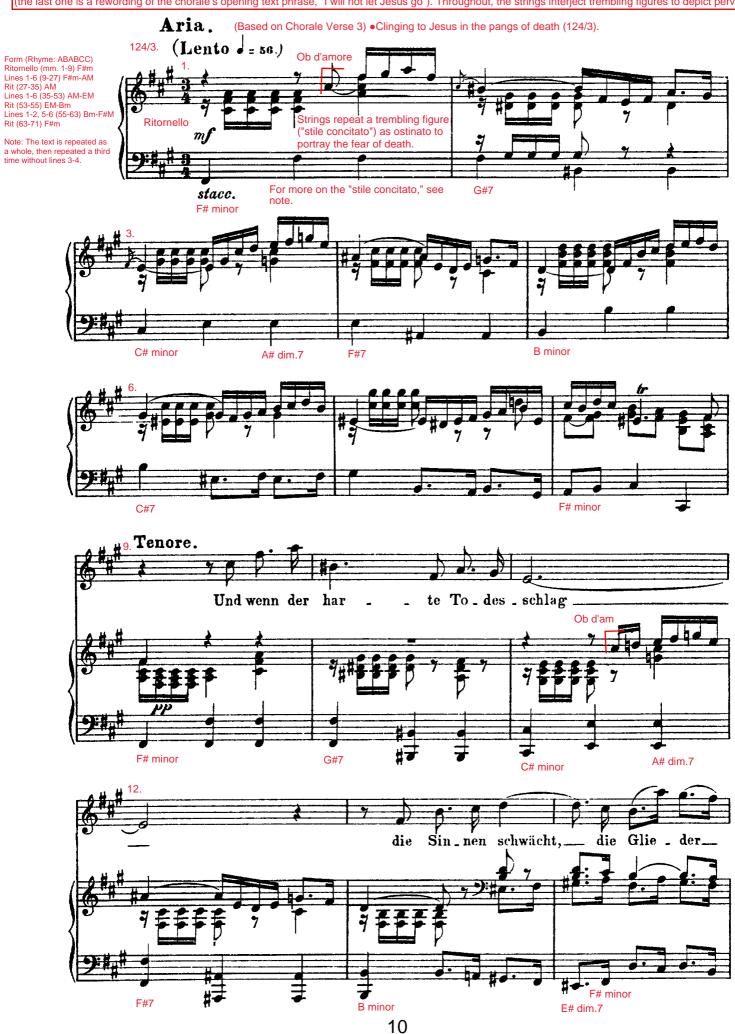








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J.S. Bach - Church Cantatas BWV 124 rüh _ ret wenn der dem Fleisch verhasste F# minor F# minor G#7 nur Furcht und Schrek. A# dim.7 C# minor B minor Text painting: Serene major key for "hope in Jesus," despite continued trembling. ret, doch tröstet
Ob d'am ken mit sich füh die Zu_ver_ A major A major Here the tenor adopts the oboe d'amore's cantabile manner in parallel 3rds and 6ths, suggesting sweetness. sicht: las sum nicht! ich se__ mei_nen Je _ Line 6 rewords the opening text line of the chorale A major

Α7 E minor 11

