

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 and rests.

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. den knecht, 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.

tr

32

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

37

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

42

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

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

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

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

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

17

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.

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.