



Johann Sebastian Bach.

CHRISTMAS
ORATORIO

PART
SIX

WEIHNACHTS ORATORIUM

CHRISTMAS ORATORIO

- 1734 Composed in Leipzig
- 64 Movements Performed in 1734-1735
- Comprised Six Different Parts or Cantatas
- Bach-Werke-Verzeichnis = Bach Works Directory - **BWV 248**

<i>Normal Cantata</i>	<i>Part I</i>	<i>Part II</i>	<i>Part III</i>	<i>Part IV</i>	<i>Part V</i>	<i>Part VI</i>
Chorus	Coro	Sinfonia	Coro	Coro	Coro	Coro
	Evangelista	Evangelista	Evangelista	Evangelista	Evangelista	Evangelista
Recitative	Recitative	Chorale	Chorus	Recit./ Chorale	Coro/Rec.	Recitative
Aria	Aria	Evangelista	Recitative	Aria	Chorale	Aria
	Chorale	Recitative	Chorale	Recit./ Chorale	Evangelista	Evangelista
	Evangelista	Aria	Aria duetto	Aria	Aria	Chorale
Recitative	Chorale/ Recit.	Evangelista	Evangelista	Chorale	Evangelista	Evangelista
Aria	Aria	Chorale	Aria		Coro/Rec.	Recitative
Chorale	Chorale	Recitative	Recitative		Evangelista	Aria
		Aria	Chorale		Aria terzetto	Recit. à 4
		Evangelista	Evangelista		Recitative	Chorale
		Chorus	Chorale		Chorale	
		Recitative	Coro			
		Chorale				

SIX-PART STRUCTURE

1. The Birth (Dec. 25)

2. The Annunciation to the Shepherds (Dec. 26)

3. The Adoration of the Shepherds (Dec. 27)

4. The Circumcision and Naming of Jesus (Jan. 1)

5. The Journey of the Magi (Sunday after Jan. 1)

6. The Adoration of the Magi (Jan. 6 - Epiphany)

	<i>First Day of Christmas</i>	<i>Second Day of Christmas</i>	<i>Third Day of Christmas</i>	<i>New Year</i>	<i>Sunday after New Year</i>	<i>Epiphany</i>
Gospel	Lk 2:1–14	Lk 2:15–20	Jn 1:1–14	Lk 2:21	Mt 2:13–23	Mt 2:1–12
Sermon morning (Gospel)	Lk 2:1–14	Mt 23:34–39 (St. Stephen's Day)	Jn 21:15– 24 (second Gospel)	Lk 2:21	Mt 2:13–15	Mt 2:1–12
Sermon vespers (Epistle)	Isa 9:2–7	Acts 6:8–15; 7:55–60	–	Gal 3:23–29	–	Isa 60:1–6
Oratorio	Lk 2:1; 3–7	Lk 2:8–14	Lk 2:15–20	Lk 2–21	Mt 2:1–6	Mt 2:7–12
performance morning	St. Nicholas	St. Thomas	St. Nicholas	St. Thomas	St. Nicholas	St. Thomas
performance vespers	St. Thomas	St. Nicholas	–	St. Nicholas	–	St. Nicholas

Not Starting from Scratch

<i>No.</i>	<i>Text</i>	<i>Poetry</i>	<i>Melody</i>
5	Wie soll ich dich empfangen	Paul Gerhard, 1653, 1st stanza	Hans Leo Hassler, 1601 (Herzlich tut mich verlangen)
7	Er ist auf Erden kommen arm	Martin Luther, 1524, 6th stanza of "Gelobet seist du, Jesu Christ"	Martin Luther, 1524 (original melody)
9	Ach mein herzliebes Jesulein	Martin Luther, 1535, 13th stanza of "Vom Himmel hoch"	Martin Luther, 1539 (original melody)
12	Brich an, du schönes Morgenlicht	Johann Rist, 1641, 9th stanza of "Ermuntre dich, mein schwacher Geist"	Johann Schop, 1641/ Darmstadt, 1687 (original melody)
17	Schaut hin, dort liegt im finstern Stall	Paul Gerhard, 1667, 8th stanza of "Schaut, schaut, was ist für Wunder dar"	Martin Luther, 1524 (original melody)
23	Wir singen dir in deinem Herr	Paul Gerhard, 1656, 2nd stanza of "Wir singen dir, Immanuel"	Martin Luther, 1524 (original melody)
28	Dies hat er alles uns getan	Martin Luther, 1524, 7th stanza of "Gelobet seist du, Jesu Christ"	Martin Luther, 1524 (original melody)
33	Ich will dich mit Fleiß bewahren	Paul Gerhard, 1653, 15th stanza of "Fröhlich soll mein Herze springen"	after Johann Georg Ebeling, 1666 (Warum sollt ich mich denn grämen)

35	Seid froh, dieweil	Christoph Runge, 1653, 4th stanza of "Laßt Furcht und Pein"	Dresden, 1593 (Wir Christenleut)
38, 40	Jesu, du mein liebstes Leben	Johann Rist, 1642, 1st stanza	Bach's own composition
42	Jesus richte mein Beginnen	Johann Rist, 1642, 15th stanza of "Hilf, Herr Jesu, laß gelingen"	Bach's own composition
46	Dein Glanz all Finsternis verzehrt	Georg Weissel, 1642, 5th stanza of "Nun, liebe Seel, nun ist es Zeit"	Nuremberg, 1581 (In dich hab ich gehoffet)
53	Zwar ist solche Herzensstube	Johann Franck, 1655, 5th stanza of "Ihr Gestirn, ihr hohlen Lüfte"	Heinrich Albert, 1642 (Gott des Himmels und der Erden)
59	Ich steh an deiner Krippen hier	Paul Gerhard, 1656, 1st stanza	Wittenberg, 1535 (Nun freut euch, lieben Christen g'mein, 2nd melody)
64	Nun seid ihr wohl gerochen	Georg Werner, 1648, 4th stanza of "Ihr Christen auserkohren"	Hans Leo Hassler, 1601 (Herzlich tut mich verlangen)

PART SIX - EPIPHANY

January 6, 1735

- Starting with #54 (11 movements)
- Choruses, Recitatives, and Arias
- Theme: Visit of the Magi and the Revelation of the Gentiles. Matthew's Gospel
- Trumpets, Violins, Viola, Cello/Bass, Oboes, Timpani
- *Musicalisches Schlachtengemälde* = Musical Battle Scene

PART 6 - THEMES

The Bridegroom and the Enemy (Part 6)

- **The Insolent Enemies (mvt. 54)**
- **Herod the Enemy (mvts. 55-57)**
- **Precious Gifts (mvts. 58-59)**
- **New Paths (mvts. 60-63)**
- **The Broken Enemy (mvt. 64)**

1) Movement 54 - Opening Chorus

GERMAN

*Herr, wenn die stolzen Feinde
schnauben,
So gib, daß wir im festen Glauben
Nach deiner Macht und Hülfe sehn!*

*Wir wollen dir allein vertrauen,
So können wir den scharfen
Klauen
Des Feindes unversehrt entgehn.*

ENGLISH

Lord, when our proud enemies snarl,
then grant that, in firm faith,
we can look for Your help and
strength!

We will trust in You alone,
thus we can escape the sharp
claws
of the enemy unscathed.

Lord, when our boastful foes blow fury, Help us to keep our faith unshaken
And to thy might and help to look!

We would make thee our sole reliance And thus unharmed the cutting talons And clutches of
the foe escape.

	measure	instruments	Chorus
A	1–48	Ritornello a, b, c	
	49–68	(accompanying)	1st fugue a (“Herr, wenn . . .”)
	69–88	(accompanying)	2nd fugue a (“so gib . . .”)
	89–104	(accompanying)	imitative (“nach deiner . . .”)
	105–20	Ritornello b	<i>vokaleinbau</i> (“so gib . . .”)
B	121–44	(accompanying)	free canon in fifth (“Wir sollen . . .”)
	145–60	Ritornello c', b'	<i>vokaleinbau</i>
A'	161–84	(accompanying)	3rd fugue a (“Herr, wenn . . . so gib . . .”)
	185–204	(accompanying)	imitative (“nach deiner . . .”)
	205–40	Ritornello b', c	<i>vokaleinbau</i> (“so gib . . .”)

2) Movement 55 - Recitative (Evangelist/Herod)

GERMAN

*Da berief Herodes die Weisen heimlich und erlernet mit Fleiß von ihnen, wenn der Stern erschienen wäre. Und weiset sie gen Bethlehem und sprach:
— Ziehet hin und forschet fleißig nach dem Kindlein, und wenn ihr's findet, sagt mir's wieder, daß ich auch komme und es anbete. —
(Matthew 2:7-8)*

ENGLISH

Then Herod summoned the sages secretly and cleverly discovered from them when the star had appeared. And he directed them towards Bethlehem and said:
— Go there and seek diligently for the infant, and when you find it, report to me, so that I can also come and pay my devotions to it.

(Evangelist) Then did Herod summon the wise men in secret, and with diligence he learned from them when the star was to appear. And he sent them forth to Bethlehem and said:

(Herod) Go ye forth and search with diligence for the baby, and when ye find him, bring me word, that I as well may come and worship him.

3) Movement 56 - Recitative (Soprano)

GERMAN

*Du Falscher, suche nur den Herrn zu
fällen,
Nimm alle falsche List,
Dem Heiland nachzustellen;
Der, dessen Kraft kein Mensch ermißt,
Bleibt doch in sichrer Hand.
Dein Herz, dein falsches Herz ist schon,
Nebst aller seiner List, des Höchsten Sohn,
Den du zu stürzen suchst, sehr wohl
bekannt.*

ENGLISH

Liar, you seek only to destroy the Lord;
You employ all false trickery
to supplant the Savior;
yet He, whose power no man can
measure,
remains in secure hands.
Your heart, your false heart is already,
with all its deceit, very well known
to the Son of the Highest whom you
seek to crush.

Thou liar, seek nought but the Lord's destruction, Lay ev'ry cunning snare
And pitfall for our Savior;

He, whose great pow'r no man can gauge, Abides in hands secure.

Thy heart, thy lying heart e'en now,

Along with all its guile, to God's own Son Whom thou dost strive to fell is fully known.

4) Movement 57 - Aria (Soprano)

GERMAN

*Nur ein Wink von seinen Händen
Stürzt ohnmächtger Menschen Macht.
Hier wird alle Kraft verlacht!
Spricht der Höchste nur ein Wort,
Seiner Feinde Stolz zu enden,
O, so müssen sich sofort
Sterblicher Gedanken wenden.*

ENGLISH

Only a **wave** of His hands
topples the impotent power of humans.
Here all strength is laughable!
If the Highest speaks only a word,
to terminate the pride of His enemies,
o, then how immediately must
the thoughts of mortals be turned
aside!

But a wave of his own hand will Bring down feeble human might. Here is all dominion
mocked! Speak the Highest but one word, His opponents' pride to finish,
Oh, then surely must at once
Change its course all mortal purpose.

5) Movement 58 - Recitative (Evangelist)

GERMAN

Als sie nun den König gehöret hatten, zogen sie hin. Und siehe, der Stern, den sie im Morgenlande gesehen hatten, ging für ihnen hin, bis daß er kam und stund oben über, da das Kindlein war. Da sie den Stern sahen, wurden sie hoch erfreuet und gingen in das Haus und funden das Kindlein mit Maria, seiner Mutter, und fielen nieder und beteten es an und täten ihre Schätze auf und schenkten ihm Gold, Weihrauch und Myrrhen. (Matthew 2:9-11)

ENGLISH

When they had heard the King, they went away. And behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them until it came and stood over where the infant was. When they saw the star, they were highly delighted, and went into the house, and found the infant with Mary, His mother; and they fell down and worshipped Him and presented their treasures; and they gave Him gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

And as soon as they had heard the king, they went their way. And lo, the star, which in the East they had seen already, went before their way, until it came and stood above that place where the baby was. And when they saw the star, they rejoiced with great gladness and went into the house and found there the baby with Mary, his mother, and fell before him and worshipped him and opened up their treasures then and gave to him gold, incense, and myrrh.

6) Movement 59 - Hymn (Choir)

GERMAN

*Ich steh an deiner Krippen hier,
O Jesulein, mein Leben;
Ich komme, bring und schenke dir,
Was du mir hast gegeben.
Nimm hin! Es ist mein Geist und Sinn,
Herz, Seel und Mut, nimm alles hin,
Und laß dirs wohlgefallen!*

*("Ich steh an deiner Krippen hier,"
verse 1)*

ENGLISH

I stand here by Your cradle,
o little Jesus, my life;
I come, I bring and give to You,
what You have given to me.
Take it! It is my spirit and mind,
heart, soul, and will, take all of it,
and let it be pleasing to You!

I stand before thy cradle here, O Jesus-child, my being,
I come now, bring and offer thee What thou to me hast given.

Take all! It is my spirit, will, Heart, soul and mind, take all to thee, And let it serve thy pleasure!

7) Movement 60 - Recitative (Evangelist)

GERMAN

*Und Gott befahl ihnen im Traum,
daß sie sich nicht sollten wieder
zu Herodes lenken, und zogen
durch einen andern Weg wieder
in ihr Land.*

(Matthew 2:12)

ENGLISH

And God commanded them in a
dream that they should not
journey back to Herod, and they
travelled by another way back to
their own land.

And God then warned them in a dream that they should not go again unto Herod,
and they went by another way back to their country.

8) Movement 61 - Recitative (Tenor)

GERMAN

*So geht! Genug, mein Schatz geht nicht von
hier,
Er bleibet da bei mir,
Ich will ihn auch nicht von mir lassen.
Sein Arm wird mich aus Lieb
Mit sanftmutsvollem Trieb
Und größter Zärtlichkeit umfassen;
Er soll mein Bräutigam verbleiben,
Ich will ihm Brust und Herz verschreiben.
Ich weiß gewiß, er liebet mich,
Mein Herz liebt ihn auch inniglich
Und wird ihn ewig ehren.
Was könnte mich nun für ein Feind
Bei solchem Glück versehren!
Du, Jesu, bist und bleibst mein Freund;
Und werd ich ängstlich zu dir flehn:
Herr hilf!, so laß mich Hülfe sehn!*

ENGLISH

Go then! It is enough, my treasure does not
leave here,
He remains here with me,
I also will not let Him leave me.
His arm will, out of love,
embrace me with tender emotions
and the greatest gentleness;
He shall remain my bridegroom,
I will dedicate my heart and breast to Him.
I surely know that He loves me,
my heart loves Him inwardly as well
and will always honor Him.
What kind of enemy now, amid such
happiness,
could harm me!
You, Jesus, are and remain my Friend;
and if I will beseech you anxiously:
Lord, help! then let me see assistance!

9) Movement 62 - Aria (Tenor)

GERMAN

*Nun mögt ihr stolzen Feinde
schrecken;*

*Was könnt ihr mir für Furcht
erwecken?*

*Mein Schatz, mein Hort ist hier bei
mir.*

*Ihr mögt euch noch so grimmig
stellen,*

*Droht nur, mich ganz und gar zu
fällen,*

Doch seht! Mein Heiland wohnt hier.

ENGLISH

Now, you arrogant enemies, you may
tremble;

what kind of fear can you arouse in me?

My treasure, my sanctuary is here with
me.

You may seem still so horrible,
threatening to defeat me once and for
all,

yet see! My Savior lives here.

Now may ye boastful foes be frightened; Ye can in me what fear awaken?

My store, my hoard is here by me.

Be ye unbounded in your fury And threaten me with utter ruin, Beware, my Savior dwelleth here!

10) Movement 63 - Recitative (SATB)

GERMAN

*Was will der Höllen schrecken nun,
Was will uns Welt und Sünde tun,
Da wir in Jesu Händen ruhn?*

ENGLISH

How can hell frighten now,
what can the world and sin do
to us,
since we are safe in Jesus'
hands?

What hope hath hell's own terrors now, What harm will world and sin us do, While we
in Jesus' hands rest sure?

11) Movement 64 - HYMN (Choir)

GERMAN

*Nun seid ihr wohl gerochen
An eurer Feinde Schar,
Denn Christus hat zerbrochen,
Was euch zuwider war.
Tod, Teufel, Sünd und Hölle
Sind ganz und gar geschwächt;
Bei Gott hat seine Stelle
Das menschliche Geschlecht.*

("Ihr Christen auserkoren," verse 4)

ENGLISH

Now you are well avenged
upon the horde of your enemies,
since Christ has pulverized
what was contrary to you.
Death, devil, sin and hell
are weakened once and for all;
the place of the human race
is next to God.

Now are ye well avengéd Upon your hostile host,
For Christ hath fully broken All that which you opposed. Death, devil, hell and error To
nothing are reduced; With God hath now its shelter The mortal race of man.

Hymn (Choir) - *Prayer against enemies*

Evangelist (and Herod) - *Herod's Hands*

Recitative (Soprano) - *Herod's Guile*

Aria (Soprano) - *One Word Shall fell/ Wave*

Evangelist (Tenor) - *Wise Men Hear*

Hymn (Choir) - *Take it—My All*

Evangelist (Tenor) - *Wise Men Respond*

Recitative (Tenor) - *With Jesus Who Can Hurt*

Aria (Tenor) - *Our Enemy's Guile Defeated*

Recitative (4 Part) - *Jesus' Hands*

Hymn (Choir) - *What Can Enemies do to me?*

248/54

Herr, wenn die
stolzen Feinde
schnauben,
So gib, dass wir im
festen Glauben
Nach deiner
Macht und Hülfe
sehnen!
Wir wollen dir
allein vertrauen,
So können wir
den scharfen
Klauen
Des Feindes un-
versehrt entgehn.

248/62

Nun mögt ihr *stolzen*
Feinde schrecken;
Was könnt ihr mir
für Furcht erwecken?
Mein Schatz, mein
Hort ist hier bei mir.
Ihr mögt euch noch
so grimmig stellen,
Droht nur, mich ganz
und gar zu fällen,
Doch seht! mein Hei-
land wohnt hier.

248/54

Lord, when our
insolent enemies
snort,
Then grant that
we in steadfast
faith
Will look to your
strength and
salvation!
We want to put
our trust in you
alone,
So that we can
escape
The enemy's
sharp claws
unharméd.

248/62

Now you insolent en-
emies might horrify;
[Yet] how could you
arouse any fear in
me?
My Treasure, my Ref-
uge is here with me!
You do still so like to
feign being fierce;
Just [go ahead and]
threaten to bring me
down completely;
But look! my Savior
dwells here.

Nº 63. Recitativo.

Sopran.

Was will der Höl.le Schrecken nun, da wir in Je. su Hän.den ruhn,

Alt.

Da wir in Je. su Händen ruhn,

Tenor.

Was will uns Welt und Sün.de tun,

Baß.

Was will der Höl.le Schrecken

Man.

rit.

in Je. su Hän. den ruhn, da wir in Je. su Hän. den ruhn?

da wir in Je. su Händen ruhn, da wir in Je. su Hän. den ruhn?

was will uns Welt und Sün.de tun, da wir in Je. su Hän. den ruhn?

nun, der Höl. le Schrek.ken, da wir in Je. su Händen ruhn, in Je. su Hän. den ruhn?





Johann Sebastian Bach.

CHRISTMAS
ORATORIO

PART
SIX