

FLUTE

"Aus Liebe will mein Heiland sterben"

No. 58: Soprano aria from *St. Matthew Passion*

JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH, BWV 244
(1685-1750)

The following Bach arias are from two of the greatest pieces of sacred music ever written. In performing these arias, as in most of Bach's flute compositions, breath control is of the utmost importance. The tempo must remain steady without breathing gaps (listen to the basso continuo line). Be sure not to over-romanticize your performance with inappropriate rubato and excessive vibrato. The sound should be beautiful and warm with just enough vibrato to color the tone, and nuances should be played with subtlety and grace. It is advisable to add some slurs to this unedited version so that the flowing, lyrical quality of the piece is more apparent.

Text and translation of "Aus Liebe will mein Heiland sterben"

Aus Liebe will mein Heiland sterben,
Von einer Sünde weiss er nichts,
Dass das ewige Verderben
Und die Strafe des Gerichts
Nicht auf meiner Seele bliebe.

*Out of love would my Savior die for me,
He who knows nothing of sin,
That eternal ruin
And the retribution of judgment
May not weigh upon my soul.*

Translation by Judith Lambert

Solo

6

10

14

(Fine)

(piano accompaniment
continues 1 measure)

La Traviata - Verdi

Allegro brillantissimo e molto vivace

The musical score consists of seven staves of music. The first staff starts with a forte (*ff*) dynamic. The second staff has a piano (*p*) dynamic marking. The fifth staff has a forte (*f*) dynamic marking and a first ending bracket. The sixth staff has a crescendo (*cresc.*) marking. The seventh staff has a second ending bracket.

Excerpt 2: Act 3, The Card Game

In Act 2 Alfredo and Violetta move to the country and live an idyllic life together until his father arrives unexpectedly. He persuades Violetta that her involvement with Alfredo is tainting the reputation of his family. Sadly, she returns to her life as a Parisian courtesan without offering an explanation to Alfredo.

Act 3 takes place in the luxurious mansion of her friend Flora, where another extravagant party is in progress. Alfredo enters in a confused, jealous fury, seats himself at a gaming table, and recklessly gambles at cards. Violetta suffers embarrassment and humiliation as he remarks contemptuously that bad luck at love is always good fortune for a gambler.

The boiling emotional intensity of the scene is reflected in the following excerpt, which begins right where you enter, generally taken at $\downarrow = 96-104$. Flutes and clarinets play the agitated staccato melody. Be sure to maintain the compressed *pp* dynamic throughout this passage.

The 2nd flute part is shown along with the piano accompaniment.