

J.S. Bach
Cantata No. 121
Christum wir sollen loben schon

(Coro.)
(Moderato $\text{♩} = 66.$)

Soprano.

Alto.

Tenore.

Basso.

Pianoforte.

Moderato.

Christum wir sollen loben schon, wir sollen
Christ Je - sus praise we ev'-ry one, we praise Him

stum wir sol - len lo - ben schon, wir sollen lo -
Je - sus praise we ev'-ry one, we praise him ev' -

lo - ben schon, lo -
ev' - ry - one, ev' -

11

ben schön, wir sol - len lo -
 ry - one, we praise Him ev' -

Chri - stum wir sol - - - len lo - ben
 Christ Je - sus praise we ev' - ry -

16

Chri - - stum wir sol - -
 Christ Je - - sus praise

- ben schön, lo - - ben schön, lo - - ben
 - - ry - one, ev' - - ry - one, ev' - - ry -

- - ben schön, wir sol - - len lo - - ben
 - - ry - one, we praise - Him ev' - - ry

schön, wir sollen lo - - - - - ben
 one, we praise Him ev' - - - - - ry -

21

len lo - ben schon,
we ev' - ry one,

schon, wir sol - len lo - ben, Chri - stum wir sollen
one, Christ Je - sus praise we, Christ Je - sus praise we

schon, lo - ben,
one, ev' - ry one,

schon, wir sol - len lo - ben, wir sollen lo - ben,
one, Christ Je - sus praise we, we praise Him ev' - ry one,

26

lo - ben schon, der rei - nen
ev' - ry - one, the Vir - gin

lo - ben schon, der rei - nen
ev' - ry - one, the Vir - gin

lo - ben schon,
ev' - ry - one,

lo - ben schon,
ev' - ry - one,

31

Magd Ma - ri - en Sohn, der rei nen Magd
 Maid - en Ma - ry's son, the Vir - gin Maid

- - nen Magd Ma - ri - en Sohn, der rei nen Magd
 - - gin Maid - en Ma - ry's son, the Vir - gin Maid

der rei - - - nen
 the Vir - - - gin

36

der rei - - - - - nen
 the Vir - - - - - gin

- Ma - ri - - - en Sohn, der rei nen Magd
 - en Ma - - - ry's son, the Vir - gin Maid

Ma - ri - en Sohn, Ma - ri - en Sohn, der rei nen
 en Ma - ry's son, the Vir - gin's son, the Vir - gin

Magd Ma - ri - en Sohn, der rei nen Magd
 Maid - en Ma - ry's son, the Vir - gin Maid

41

Magd Ma - ri - en Sohn, _____
 Maid - en Ma - ry's son, _____

Ma - ri - en Sohn, _____
 en Ma - ry's son, _____

Magd, _____ der rei - nen Magd Ma - ri - en
 Maid, _____ the Vir - gin Maid, the Vir - gin's

Ma - ri - en Sohn, der rei - nen Magd _____
 - en Ma - ry's son, the Vir - gin Maid - - - - -

46

B

Ma - ri - en Sohn, _____
 the Vir - gin's son, _____

Sohn, _____ so weit _____ die
 son, _____ as far _____ as

Ma - ri - en Sohn, _____ so weit _____
 - en Ma - ry's son, _____ as far _____

B

51

lie - be Son - ne leucht't,
 rays of sun ex - tend,

die lie - be Son - ne
 as rays of sun ex -

56

weit die lie - be Son - ne
 far as rays of sun

leucht't, so weit die lie - be Son - ne
 tend, as far as rays of sun ex -

60

so weit
as far

ne leucht't. so weit die
ex - tend, as far as

ne
ex -

leucht't, so weit die lie - be Son - ne leucht't,
tend, as far as rays of sun ex - tend,

64

die lie - be Son -
as rays of sun

lie - be Son - ne leucht't,
rays of sun ex - tend,

leucht't, die lie - be Son - ne leucht't, so weit die lie - be Son - ne
- tend, as rays of sun ex - tend, as far as rays of sun ex -

69

ne leucht't
ex - tend

so weit die lie-be Son - ne leucht't, die lie-be Son -
as far as rays of - sun ex - tend, as rays of sun

leucht't, so weit, so weit die
- tend, as far, as far as

so weit die lie-be Son-ne leucht't, so weit die lie-be Son-ne
as far as rays of sun ex - tend, as far as rays of sun ex -

71

ne leucht't so weit die lie-be Son-ne
ex - tend, as far as rays of sun ex -

lie be Son-ne leucht't, so weit die lie-be Son-ne leucht't
rays of sun ex - tend, as far as rays of sun ex - tend,

leucht't, die lie-be Son-ne
tend, as rays of sun ex -

78

leucht't und an al ler Welt
- tend and through all the earth

und an al ler
and through all the

- tend,

53

En de reicht, an al - - - - -
to the end, through all

Welt En de reicht, an al ler Welt En de
earth to the end, through all the earth to the

und an - - - - - ler
and through all the

88

und an
and through

ler Welt En - de reicht, und an
the earth to the end, and through

reicht, und an al - ler Welt, an
end, and through all the earth, through

Welt En - de reicht, und an al -
earth to the end, and through all

93

al - ler
all the

al - ler Welt En - de reicht, und an
all the earth to the end, and through

al - ler Welt En - de reicht, an al - ler Welt
all the earth to the end, through all the earth

lei Welt En - de reicht
the earth to the end.

98

Welt En - de reicht.
 earth to earth the end.

al - ler Welt En - de reicht, an al - ler Welt
 all the earth to the end, through all the earth

- En - de reicht, an al -
 - to the end, through all

103

- En - de reicht.
 - to the end.

- ler Welt En - de reicht.
 - the earth to the end.

108

The first system of the score consists of five staves. The top staff is a vocal line in G major, starting with a whole note G4. The second and third staves are for two voices, with the second staff (Soprano) starting with a quarter note G4 and the third staff (Alto) starting with a quarter note F#4. The fourth staff is the Bass line, starting with a quarter note G2. The fifth staff is the keyboard accompaniment, featuring a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes in the right hand and a steady bass line in the left hand.

Aria.
(Tempo giusto ♩ = 72.)

The Aria section begins at measure 5 and continues through measure 12. It is written for a single instrument, likely a harpsichord or spinet, in G major and 3/4 time. The tempo is marked 'Tempo giusto' with a quarter note equal to 72 beats per minute. The dynamics are marked 'mf' (mezzo-forte). The piece features a complex rhythmic pattern with many sixteenth and thirty-second notes, creating a lively and technically demanding texture. The score is divided into three systems, with measure numbers 4, 8, and 12 indicated at the beginning of each system.

12

Tenore.

O du von Gott er.höh - te Kre.a -
 Thou man whom God cre - a - ted can - not -

15

tur,
 know be - grei - fe nicht, nein, nein, be - wund're -
 nor un - der - stand, but on - ly - won - der -

18

nur:
 show, Gott will durch Fleisch des Fleisches Heiler - wer
 that he through man can com-pass man's sal - va -

22

ben, des Fleisches Heiler - wer - ben;
 tion, can com-pass man's sal - va - tion;

26

30

o du von Gott — er. höhte Krea - tur, be - grei - - fe
 Thou man whom God — cre - a - ted can - not know nor un - - der -

34

nicht, nein, nein, be - wund're nur, be - grei - - fe -
 stand, but on - ly won - der - show, not un - - der -

37

nicht, be - grei - - fe nicht, nein, nein, bewund're nur:
 - stand, not un - - - - - der - stand, but on - ly wond - er show:

41

Gott will durch Fleisch des Fleisches Heil erwer
 that he through man can com-pass man's sal-va

44

- ben, des Fleisches Heil erwerben.
 - tion, can com-pass man's sal-va-tion.

mf

47

50

Wie gross ist doch der
 He, who from cha-os

p

53

Schöp - fer al - ler Din - ge, und wie bist du ver .
 hath the world e - rec - ted, al - though Thou be - des -

56

ach - tet und ge - rin - ge, um dich da.durch zu ret - .
 - pised and once re - jec - ted, thee, too, in - deed can res - .

59

- ten vom Ver - der - ben.
 - cue from dam - na - tion.

62

65

Wie gross ist doch der Schöp - fer al - ler Din - ge, und wie bist du ver.
 He, who from cha - os hath the world e - rec - ted, al - though Thou be des -

69

ach - tet und ge - rin - ge, um dich dadurch zu ret
 pised and once re - jec - ted, thee, too, in - deed can res -

73

- ten vom Ver - der - ben, um dich zu - ret - ten,
 - cue from dam - na - tion, thee, too, can - res - cue,

76

um dich zu - ret - ten. um dich dadurch zu
 thee, too, can - res - cue, thee, too, in - deed can

79

ret - - - - - ten vom Ver - der - - - ben.
 res - - - - - cue from dam - na - - - tion.

Da Capo.

Recitativo.

Alto.

Der Gna - de un - er - mess - lich We - sen hat sich den Himmel
 The Grace of God is all un - bound - ed, nor does it keep it -

3

nicht zur Wohnstatt auserlesen, weil keine Grenze sie umschliesst. Was Wunder,
 - self by Hea - ven's walls surrounded, we see and find it ev' - ry - where. What wond - er.

6

dass allhier Verstand und Witz gebricht? ein solch Geheimnis zu ergründen, wenn sie sich in ein
that at this our un - der - stand - ing fails, when we at - tempt to solve the sec - ret, to fath - om which a

9

keusches Herz er - giesst. Gott wäh - let sich den reinen Leib zu einem Tempel seiner
pure hear may not dare. God gives to us to keep for Him our bo - dies as a sanc - tu -

12

Ehren, um zu den Menschen sich mit wunder - voller Art zu keh - ren.
- a - ry, in which we may pre - serve and ev - er keep a - live his glo - ry.

Aria.

(Moderato ♩ = 80.)

Measures 1-2 of the Aria. The music is in C major, 3/4 time. The tempo is Moderato with a quarter note equal to 80 beats per minute. The first measure starts with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The right hand features a melodic line with a trill in the second measure, while the left hand provides a steady accompaniment.

Measures 3-4 of the Aria. The music continues with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The right hand has a trill in the fourth measure. The left hand maintains its accompaniment pattern.

Measures 5-6 of the Aria. The music continues with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The right hand has a trill in the sixth measure. The left hand maintains its accompaniment pattern.

Measures 7-8 of the Aria. The music continues with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The right hand has a trill in the eighth measure. The left hand maintains its accompaniment pattern.

Measures 9-10 of the Aria. The music continues with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The right hand has a trill in the tenth measure. The left hand maintains its accompaniment pattern.

Measures 11-12 of the Aria. The music continues with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The right hand has a trill in the twelfth measure. The left hand maintains its accompaniment pattern.

13

Musical notation for measures 13-14, piano accompaniment. The right hand features a complex rhythmic pattern with sixteenth and thirty-second notes, while the left hand provides a steady bass line.

15

Musical notation for measures 15-16, piano accompaniment. The right hand continues with intricate rhythmic patterns, and the left hand maintains a consistent accompaniment.

17

Musical notation for measures 17-18, piano accompaniment. Trills (tr) are indicated above the right-hand notes in measures 17 and 18.

19 **Basso.**

Jo - han - - nis freu - - den - vol - les Sprin -
 Then John, _____ in joy - - ful wel - come spring -

Musical notation for measures 19-20. The vocal line (Basso) is shown with lyrics. The piano accompaniment includes a dynamic marking of *p* (piano) in the right hand.

21

gen, Jo - han - - nis freu - - den - vol - les Sprin -
 - ing, then John, _____ in joy - - ful wel - come spring -

Musical notation for measures 21-22. The vocal line continues with lyrics. The piano accompaniment includes dynamic markings of *p* (piano) and *pp* (pianissimo).

23

mf

gen er - kann - te dich, mein Je - su,
 - ing, know well that Thou, the Lord, had

25

schon, Jo. han - nis freu - den - vol - les Springen er - kann - te dich, mein Je - su,
 come. Then John, in joy - ful wel - come spring - ing, knew well that Thou, the Lord has -

tr

27

schon,
 come.

mf

tr

29

p

tr

mf

31^{tr}

34

Jo - han - nis freu -
Then John, in - joy

36II

39

41

den - vol - les Sprin - gen, Jo - han - nis
ful wel - come spring - ing, then John, in

43

freu - - den - vol - les Sprin - gen er - kann - - te
 joy - - ful wel - come spring - ing, knew well - - that

45

dich, mein Je - - su, schon, er - kann - - te dich, mein Je - su,
 Thou, the Lord, - - had come, knew well - - that Thou, the Lord had

47

schon, Jo - han - - nis freu - den - vol - - les Sprin - gen er -
 come then John, - - in joy - ful wel - - come spring - ing, knew

50

kann - - - - - te dich, mein Je - su, schon, er -
 well - - - - - that Thou, the Lord, had - come, knew

52

kann.te dich, mein Je - su. — schon.
well that Thou, the Lord — had — come.

54II

57

59

61

63II

66

68

70 II

Nun da ein Glau - - - bens arm - - - dich
 And as his faith - - - so moved - - - him

73

hält, so will mein Her - - - ze von - - - der Welt zu
 then, my heart would leap - - - to Him - - - a - gain and

75H

dei_ner Krippe brün - stig drin - gen; nun da ein Glau_bens - arm
 has-ten to his cra - dle sing - ing; and as his faith so moved

78

dich hält, so will mein Her - ze von der Welt zu
 ly - ing, my heart would leap to Him a - gain and

80H

dei_ner Krip - pe brünstig drin - gen;
 has-ten to His cra - dle sing - ing;

mf

83

nun
and

85II

da ein Glau - - - bens_arm _____ dich hält, so will mein Her - -
 as his faith _____ so moved _____ him then, my heart would leap _____

88

- - - ze von _____ der Welt zu dei_ner Krippe brün - - stig
 _____ to Him _____ a - gain and has - ten to His cra - - dle

90II

drin - gen;
 sing - ing;

93

nun da _____ ein Glaubens_arm dich hält, so
 and as _____ his faith so moved him then, my

95

will mein Her-ze von der Welt
heart would leap to Him a gain

97

zu dei-ner Krip -
and has-ten to

99

- pe brün- stig drin - gen; nun da ein Glau - - bens -
His cra - dle sing - ing; and as his faith so

101

arm - dich - hält, so will - mein - Her - - ze
moved - him - then, my heart - would - leap - to

103

von der Welt zu deiner Krippe brünstig dringen.
Him a - gain and has - ten to His cra - dle - sing - ing.

Da Capo.

Recitativo.
Soprano.

Doch wie erblickt es dich in deiner Krippe? Es
Ah! but to see Thee lying in Thy cradle! My

seufzt mein Herz: mit bebender und fast geschlossener Lippe bringt es sein dankend Opfer
heart beats fast; with silent trembling lips I kneel before Thee in love and a - do - ra - tion

dar. Gott, der so unermesslich war, nimmt Knechtsgestalt und Armuth an. Und
there. God loved the world with love so great He chose a me - ni - al es - tate. And

9

weil er die-ses uns zu gut ge - than, so lass' ich mit der En - gel
since He has thus done so much for us, let us then with the An - gel

11

Chö-ren ein jauch - zend Lob-und Danklied hö - ren.
Cho - rus, give hear - ty thanks and praise so - no - rous.

Choral. (Mel: „Christum wir sollen loben schon.“)

Soprano.

Lob, Ehr'und Dank — sei dir ge - sagt, Christ, ge - bor'n von — der reinen
In thank-ful praise — sing ev' - ry - one to Christ the Vir - gin Ma - ry's

Alto.

Lob, Ehr'und Dank — sei dir ge - sagt, Christ, ge - bor'n von — der reinen
In thank-ful praise — sing ev' - ry one to Christ the — Vir - gin Ma - ry's

Tenore.

Lob, Ehr'und Dank sei — dir ge - sagt, Christ, ge - bor'n von — der rei - nen
In thank-ful praise sing — ev' - ry one to Christ the Vir - gin Ma - ry's

Basso.

Lob, Ehr'und Dank — sei dir ge - sagt, Christ, ge - bor'n — von der rei - nen
In thank-ful praise — sing ev' - ry one to Christ the — Vir - gin Ma - ry's

8

Magd, sammt Va - ter und dem heil' - gen Geist von nun an bis
 son, with praise — a - dore the ho - ly three, from now through all —

Magd, sammt Va - ter und dem heil' - gen Geist von nun an bis in
 son, with praise — a - dore the ho - ly three, from now through all e -

Magd, sammt Va - ter und dem heil' - gen Geist von nun an bis in
 son, with praise — a - dore the ho - ly three, from now through all e -

Magd, sammt Va - ter und dem heil' - gen Geist von nun an bis in
 son, with praise — a - dore the ho - ly three, from now through all e -

12

- in E - wig - keit.
 - e - ter - ni - ty.

E - wig keit
 ter - ni - ty.

E - wig - keit, in E - wig keit.
 - ter - ni - ty, e - ter - ni - ty.

E - wig - keit.
 e - ter - ni - ty.