

Jesu, Joy of Man's desiring

Chorale from the cantata "Herz und Mund und Tat und Leben, BWV 147"

Robert Bridges (1844 - 1930)

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 - 1750)

The musical score is arranged in five systems, each with a Soprano (S.) and Tenor (T.) part. The Soprano part is written in treble clef and the Tenor part in bass clef. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The score includes lyrics and dynamic markings.

System 1: Measures 1-8. Dynamics: *mp*. Lyrics: Je - su, joy of man's de - sir - ing,

System 2: Measures 9-12. Dynamics: *mp*. Lyrics: Ho - ly wis - dom, Love most bright,

System 3: Measures 13-17. Dynamics: *mp*. Lyrics: Drawn by Thee, our souls as - pir - ing,

System 4: Measures 18-27. Dynamics: *mp*. Lyrics: soar to un - cre - at - ed light.

System 5: Measures 28-32. Dynamics: *mf*. Lyrics: Word of God, our flesh that fash - ion'd,

44

S. A. **2**

T. B. **2**

With the fire of life im - pas - sion'd,

50

S. A. **2** *mp*

T. B. **2** *mp*

Striv - ing still to Truth un - known,

56

S. A. **11**

T. B. **11**

Soar - ing, dy - ing, round Thy throne.

NOTES:

Johann Sebastian Bach composed the church cantata *Herz und Mund und Tat und Leben* (Heart and mouth and deed and life) in 1723 during his first year as Director of Church Music at St. Thomas Church in Leipzig, Germany. This cantata was written for the Marian feast of the Visitation, which commemorates Mary's visit to Elizabeth as narrated in the Gospel of Luke. *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring* is the most common English title of the famous chorale setting from the cantata. The words are attributed to the British poet laureate Robert Bridges. Bridges' text is not a translation of the German poem used within Bach's original version but is inspired by stanzas of the same hymn that Bach had drawn upon: "Jesu, meiner Seelen Wonne" (Jesus remains my joy). The melody/hymn tune Bach employed was composed in 1642 by Johann Schop.