

Johann Sebastian  
**BACH**

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○ Ewigkeit, du Donnerwort

Eternity, thou thundrous word

BWV 20

Kantate zum 1. Sonntag nach Trinitatis

für Soli (ATB), Chor (SATB)

3 Oboen, Zugtrompete

2 Violinen, Viola und Basso continuo

herausgegeben von Ulrich Leisinger

Cantata for the 1st Sunday after Trinity

for soli (ATB), choir (SATB)

3 oboes, slide trumpet

2 violins, viola and basso continuo

edited by Ulrich Leisinger

English version by Henry S. Drinker

Stuttgarter Bach-Ausgaben · Urtext  
In Zusammenarbeit mit dem Bach-Archiv Leipzig

Organo



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Carus 31.020/49

# O Ewigkeit, du Donnerwort

Organo

BWV 20

## Parte prima

Johann Sebastian Bach

1685–1750

### 1. Coro (con Tromba, 3 Oboi, Archi, Continuo)

Generalbassaussetzung: Paul Horn

VI

6 6 # 6

5

5 7 4 6 b 6 6

9

5 6 9 6b 4b 3 5 6 6 4 3

11

5 6 5 7 8 7b 6 5 7b 6 7 5 6 5 7  
3 4 3 2 5 4 3 4 6b 3 4 3 2

18

5 6 3 7 6 7b 6 5 5 b 7b  
3 6 3 # 5 5b

22

5 6 4 3 5 6 5 7 7<sup>b</sup> 5 5 6 7 6  
 4 3 4 3 4 2 5 5<sup>b</sup> # 5

26

5 6<sup>b</sup> 6 5 6 5 2 6  
 5 5<sup>b</sup>

29

6 7 6 6 6<sup>b</sup> 2 6 5  
 4 [2.] 5 4

33

6 5 7 6 5 3 6 4 2  
 4 # 5 5 5 6

37

6 5 7 7 5 7 6 7 6  
 5 # 5 # 5 # 5 # 6

41

7 6 5 4 6 6 6 6 6  
 2 3 4 5 #

**vivace**

1

6 6 4+ 6 6 4 6 5  
 b 2 2

7 6 b 7b 8 7 7b 6b 5 7b 6b 5b  
 5 2 4

9 7 7b 7 7 6 6 4 6 5 6 6 6 6  
 7 5b 5 5b 3 2 4b 5b

6b 6 5b 5 6 4 6 5 6 5 6 4 7b  
 5b 2 5 5 2+

9[b] 6 6 9 6b 6 6 4+ 6b 6 6 b 6 4 4 6 5b  
 7 # 4 5b 5 2 5 5 5b

4 5 5 9 9[b] 8 6 6 5 6 5 5 - 6 5 6 6  
 5+ 5 5 # 4 4 # 4 # 2

80

6 4 2   6b 7 b   7b 7 5   6 5   5b 7 b   6 4 3   7b   6 5b 5 3

85

4 3 6 5 3 6 5 6 6 6 5b 6b 5 7b 6 b

tempo primo

90

7b 5 6 5 9 7 7b 5 7 6b

94

5 6 6 5 b # # 5 4 2 b 5b

98

6 5 # 6 5 b # 6b 6 5b 9 4 2 7 5 7 5

102

6 5 5 6 7b 5 6 3 6 5 9 5 6 5

## 2. Recitativo (Tenore, Continuo)

Tenore

Kein Un - glück ist in al - ler Welt zu fin - den, das  
 Mis - for - tune here on earth is ne'er so griev - ous that

Continuo

6  
5 $\frac{4}{4}$

3

e - - wig dau - ernd sei: Es muß doch end-lich mit der Zeit ei - mal ver - win - den. A!  
 ev - er it must last, for fi - nal - ly there comes a day when it will be over, let,

a tempo

6 6 7 5 6 $\flat$   
4 5 # 3

6

die Pein E - wig - keit hat nur kein Ziel; sie trei - bet fort und fort ihr Mar - ter -  
 - ter - r - ment no a - bate - ment knows; for day by day its des - per - a - tion

4 $\frac{4}{2}$  7 6 4 $\frac{4}{2}$  7 $\flat$  6  
2 5 5 2 5 $\frac{4}{2}$  4 $\frac{4}{2}$   
2

9

spiel, ja, wie selbst Je - sus spricht, aus ihr ist kein Er - lö - sung nicht.  
 grows. Yea, Christ has warned us well: "How can ye es - cape the pains of Hell?"

b 7 $\flat$  6 6 6 6 $\flat$  5  
5 5 6 4 4  
2 $\frac{4}{2}$  4

### 3. Aria (Tenore, Archi, Continuo)

Musical notation for measures 1-4. The system includes a treble clef staff with a 3/4 time signature and a bass clef staff. The bass staff contains a continuous line of notes with a 'tasto\*' marking in measure 4. Below the bass staff, the following figures are indicated:  $\frac{6\flat}{4}$   $\frac{4}{3}$ , 6,  $\frac{4\flat}{2}$ ,  $\frac{7}{2}$   $\frac{4}{4}$ , and  $\flat$ .

Musical notation for measures 5-8. The system includes a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. Below the bass staff, the following figures are indicated:  $\frac{6}{4}$ ,  $\frac{7}{\flat}$ ,  $\frac{6}{4}$ ,  $\frac{9\flat}{5}$   $\frac{\flat}{\flat}$ , and 5.

Musical notation for measures 9-13. The system includes a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. Below the bass staff, the following figures are indicated:  $\frac{7}{5}$ ,  $\flat$ , 6,  $6\flat$ , 6,  $\frac{4\flat}{\flat}$ , 6,  $\frac{4\flat}{\flat}$ ,  $\frac{5}{2}$ , 4, and  $\flat$ .

Musical notation for measures 14-19. The system includes a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. A large '1' is written above the bass staff in measure 14. Below the bass staff, the following figures are indicated:  $\flat$ , 1, 7,  $\frac{6}{4}$ ,  $\frac{4\flat}{2}$ , and 7.

Musical notation for measures 20-24. The system includes a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. Below the bass staff, the following figures are indicated: 6,  $\frac{7}{4}$ ,  $\frac{8}{\flat}$ ,  $\frac{7}{\flat}$ ,  $\frac{7}{5\flat}$ , and  $\frac{6}{5\flat}$ .

\* Die tasto-Vermerke in T. 4 ff. und 39 ff. beziehen sich auf eine spätere Wiederaufführung. /  
The tasto remarks in bars 4 ff. and 39 ff. refer to a later performance.

25

9<sup>b</sup><sub>7</sub> 4<sup>b</sup><sub>2</sub> 7 6<sup>b</sup><sub>5<sup>b</sup></sub> 7<sup>b</sup><sub>4</sub> 8<sub>4</sub>

30

6<sub>4</sub> 6<sub>5</sub> b 7<sub>4</sub> b 6<sub>b</sub> 4<sup>b</sup><sub>2</sub> 6<sub>5<sup>b</sup></sub> 7<sup>b</sup> 4<sup>b</sup><sub>2</sub> 4<sup>b</sup><sub>2</sub> 6<sub>5<sup>b</sup></sub>

36

6<sub>4</sub> b 6 6<sub>4</sub> 2 4<sub>2</sub> 4<sub>4</sub> 3 6<sub>4</sub> 7<sup>b</sup>

43

6 5<sup>b</sup> 5 9 8 6 9<sup>b</sup> 8 6

51

6<sub>5<sup>b</sup></sub> 9 8 6 6<sup>b</sup><sub>5</sub> 7 5 9<sup>b</sup> 6 6<sub>4</sub> 6<sub>3</sub>

55

6 7 5 5 5 4 2 6 7 6 7 6 6 6

8

58

Musical score for measures 58-63. The piece is in G minor (one flat). Measure 58 starts with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The bass line features a descending eighth-note pattern. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5. A large watermark 'CARUS' is overlaid on the score.

64

Musical score for measures 64-71. The piece is in G minor. Measure 64 starts with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The bass line has a steady eighth-note accompaniment. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5. A large watermark 'CARUS' is overlaid on the score.

72

Musical score for measures 72-78. The piece is in G minor. The bass line continues with eighth-note accompaniment. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5. A large watermark 'CARUS' is overlaid on the score.

79

Musical score for measures 79-85. The piece is in G minor. Measure 79 starts with a piano (*p*) dynamic, and measure 85 ends with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The bass line features a descending eighth-note pattern. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5. A large watermark 'CARUS' is overlaid on the score.

86

Musical score for measures 86-91. The piece is in G minor. Measure 86 starts with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The bass line features a descending eighth-note pattern. The instruction 'tasto' is written above the bass line. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5. A large watermark 'CARUS' is overlaid on the score.

92

Musical score for measures 92-97. The piece is in G minor. The bass line features a descending eighth-note pattern. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5. A large watermark 'CARUS' is overlaid on the score.

# 4. Recitativo (Basso, Continuo)

Basso

Ge-setzt, es dau'r-te der Ver-damm-ten Qual so vie - le Jahr, als an der  
*Sup - pose the tor-ments of the damned to last as man - y years as there are*

Continuo

6 5

3

Zahl auf Er-den Gras, am Him-mel Ster-ne wä-ren; ge - setzt, es sei die Pein weit hin-a- ge-  
*blades of grass on earth, or stars a - bove in heav-en; sup - pose they suf-fer there a long time from the*

6 5 $\frac{1}{2}$  b 4 $\frac{1}{2}$  2 6 4 2 $\flat$

6

steht Men-schen in Welt von An-be-ginn ge - we - sen, so wä - re doch zu -  
*up - on earth, the Al - pha of Cre - a - tion? But is it tru - ly*

6 5 b

8

letzt der-sel-ben Ziel und Maß ge - setzt: sie müß-te doch ein-mal auf - hö-ren. Nun  
*so? Is there no lim - it to their woe? Is their or - deal with - out ces - sa - tion? Con -*

4 $\frac{1}{2}$  2 6 b 4 b

11

a - ber, wenn du die Ge - fahr, Ver - damm - ter, tau - send Mil - li - o - nen  
 sid - er; though; the Last One fears dam - na - tion, for a hun - dred mil - lion

13

Jahr mit al - len Teu - feln aus - ge - stan - den, so ist doch nie d Sch  
 years in hell with all the fiends at - tend - ing, and e - ven then hi pain not

15

han - den die Zeit, e - mand zäh - len kann, fängt je - den Au - gen - blick zu dei - ner  
 end time, and the count of man, each in - stant starts a - fresh, our souls in

17

See - len ew - gem Un - ge - lück sich stets von neu - em an. —  
 e - vil for - tune to en - mesh; 'tis so since time be - gan. —



28

6 7<sup>b</sup> 6 7 6 6 7 4 3 6 7 4 3 6 6 6 6 5 5 6 6  
5 4 3 5

32

*Fine* 6 6 # 5 6 # 6 7<sup>b</sup> 6 6 6 9 3 9 3 9 5<sup>#</sup>  
5 5 5 5<sup>b</sup> 5 5 6 6 3 6 3 5<sup>#</sup>  
3

36

5 7 7<sup>b</sup> — 7 6 7 7 6 7 6 5 6 4<sup>#</sup> 7 6 4<sup>#</sup> 7  
b 5<sup>b</sup> 5 6 4 2<sup>#</sup> 4 2

40

6 5 6 6 6 4<sup>#</sup> 5 5 4 7 7 7 4 3  
4 4 4 2<sup>b</sup> 2 2 4 4 7 7 4 3

44

6 7 7 4 3 6<sup>#</sup> 4 6 7 7 6 # 6 # 6 7 6 # 6 6 # 7 4 3 6 7 4 3 6  
2 5 5 5 6 5 5

49

7 4 3 6 7 6 6 4 # 7 5 4<sup>#</sup> 5 2 7 6 4<sup>#</sup> 6 6 5<sup>#</sup> *Da capo*  
4 5<sup>#</sup> 5 2 2 2<sup>#</sup> 4 4 #

# 6. Aria (Alto, Archi, Continuo)

Musical notation for measures 1-6. The system consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The key signature has one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 3/4. The notation includes chords and melodic lines. Below the bass staff, the following figured bass notation is present: 7 5, 6, 6 7 5 #, 6 #, 4+ 6, 6 6, 6# 5, #, #.

Musical notation for measures 7-13. The system consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The key signature has one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 3/4. The notation includes chords and melodic lines. A dynamic marking *p* is present in measure 10. Below the bass staff, the following figured bass notation is present: 6 4# 2+, 7 #, 4+ 2, 6 6# #, 7 5, 6, 6 7 5 #, 6, 6 2.

Musical notation for measures 14-20. The system consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The key signature has one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 3/4. The notation includes chords and melodic lines. Below the bass staff, the following figured bass notation is present: 6 6, 6# 5, #, 6 4# 2+, 7 #, 6 6# #, 6 5b, 5, 7 #, 5, 6 5b.

Musical notation for measures 21-26. The system consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The key signature has one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 3/4. The notation includes chords and melodic lines. Below the bass staff, the following figured bass notation is present: 4+ 2, 6, 3 4+ 2, 6, 7 5, 6, 6, 5# 4# 2.

Musical notation for measures 27-32. The system consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The key signature has one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 3/4. The notation includes chords and melodic lines. Below the bass staff, the following figured bass notation is present: 6, 7, 6b, 6 5, 9 7, 8 6, 6, 6, 6 4+ 3, 6 5, 7 5, #, 7 4 2.

Musical notation for measures 33-39. The system consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The key signature has one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 3/4. The notation includes chords and melodic lines. Below the bass staff, the following figured bass notation is present: 7 5, 6, 6 7 5 #, 6 7 6, 4 2 6, 7 5, 6 4+, 6, 6, 6, 6, 6 4, 4# 2+, 6 5.

39

Musical score for measures 39-45. The system includes a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat and a bass clef staff. The music features complex chordal textures and melodic lines. A dynamic marking of *f* is present in measure 41. Below the bass staff, a series of numbers indicates fingerings: 6 5, 6 4, 6 6, 6 6, 6 5, 6 4, 5, 5, 6, 5, 7, 5, 6, #, 4, 2, 6, 7, 5.

46

Musical score for measures 46-51. The system includes a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat and a bass clef staff. The music continues with complex chordal textures. Below the bass staff, a series of numbers indicates fingerings: 5 3, 4, 2, 6, 7, 5, 6, 4, 2, 6, 6, 5, 4, 6, 4, 2, 6, 6, 7, 6, b, 6, 5.

52

Musical score for measures 52-57. The system includes a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat and a bass clef staff. The music continues with complex chordal textures. Below the bass staff, a series of numbers indicates fingerings: 9 7, 8 6, 6, 6, 6, 4, 3, 6, 7, 5, 7, 4, 2, 7, 5, 6, 6, 7, 5, #.

58

Musical score for measures 58-66. The system includes a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat and a bass clef staff. The music continues with complex chordal textures. Below the bass staff, a series of numbers indicates fingerings: 6, 6, 4, 6, 6, 6, 5, 7, 6, 4, 2, 6, 4, 2, 6, 5, 6, 6, 6, 6, 6, 6, 6, 5, 4, #.

7. Cal

Musical score for measures 67-74. The system includes a treble clef staff with a common time signature and a bass clef staff. The music continues with complex chordal textures. Below the bass staff, a series of numbers indicates fingerings: 6, 6, 8, 7, 7, 5, 2, 7, 7, 7, 6, 6, 6, 9, 6, 5, 6.

6 (12)

13

Musical score for measures 75-82. The system includes a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat and a bass clef staff. The music continues with complex chordal textures. Below the bass staff, a series of numbers indicates fingerings: 6 5, 6 5, 6 4, 3, 6, #, 7 5, 4, #, 6, 4, [8 7], 8, 7, 5, 4, 3.

# Parte seconda

## 8. Aria (Basso, Tromba, 3 Oboi, Archi, Continuo)

The musical score is presented in two systems, each with a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The first system begins with a treble clef and a common time signature (C). The first measure of the treble staff contains a trill (Tr) and a sixteenth-note figure (VI). The bass staff contains a simple accompaniment. The second system starts at measure 4. The third system starts at measure 7 and includes a trill (Tr) in the treble staff. The fourth system starts at measure 11 and features a forte (f) dynamic marking. The fifth system starts at measure 13 and features a piano (p) dynamic marking. The sixth system starts at measure 16 and features a forte (f) dynamic marking. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5 in the bass staff and 1-7 in the treble staff. A large, stylized watermark 'CARUS' is overlaid on the score.

20

*p*

4/2 6 7 # simile 4/2 6 6 4 6 # 6

This system contains measures 20 through 23. The music is in a 4/2 time signature. The right hand features a complex chordal texture with many accidentals, while the left hand plays a more rhythmic accompaniment. A dynamic marking of *p* (piano) is present at the beginning. The word *simile* is written below the staff. Fingering numbers are provided for various notes.

24

# 6 5 7 # 7 # b 7b 4/2

This system contains measures 24 through 27. The right hand continues with complex chords, and the left hand has a steady eighth-note accompaniment. Fingering numbers are indicated throughout.

28

7 # # b 6b 4 4+ b 6 6 6 4/2 6 6 7b

This system contains measures 28 through 30. The music continues with similar textures. A large watermark is visible over this system.

31

6 4b 3 6b 4h 2 6 7h 6b 6 6b 5 3 4

*f*

This system contains measures 31 through 34. The music becomes more active. A dynamic marking of *f* (forte) appears at the end of the system. A large watermark is visible over this system.

35

6 7 # 6 5 6 7 6 4

This system contains measures 35 through 37. The right hand has a more melodic line, and the left hand continues with a rhythmic accompaniment. Fingering numbers are provided.

38

6 4 5 3 8 7b 6 4 2 6 5 6

This system contains measures 38 through 41. The music concludes with a final cadence. Fingering numbers are provided.

# 9. Recitativo\* (Alto, Continuo)

Alto

Ver - laß, o Mensch, die Wol - lust die - ser Welt, Pracht,  
*For - sake, O man, the vi - ces of the world, pride,*

Continuo

3

Hof - fahrt, Reich - tum, Ehr - praise und Geld; be  
*splen - dor, rich - es, and gold, be*

5

den - ke de - ser Ze noch, da dir der Baum des Le - bens grün - et, was dir zu dei - nem  
*think thee now, fore thou gro old, ere soon thy youth and vig - or leave thee, will God in Heav'n one*

8

Frie - de die - net! Viel - leicht ist dies der letz - te Tag, kein Mensch weiß, wenn er ster - ben mag. Wie  
*day re - ceive thee? Per - chance is this thy fi - nal day! man knows not when he must a - way. How*

\* Fassung der Originalstimmen. Die einfachere Fassung der Originalpartitur ist im Anhang wiedergegeben. /  
*Version of the original set of parts. The simpler version from the original score is given as an appendix.*



13

6 7 5      6      6 6 7 6      6 6 6 6      6 6 6 6 6      6 6 6 6 6

18

6 6 4 5 #      - 6 5      5 2      - 6      6 5 5 6

23

4 6 6      6 6 6      6 6      6      6 6 6 6

28

6 6 6      6 6      6 5 4 3      6 5 5 6 5

33

6 5 4 6 5      # 5 6 6 5b 6 5      6 6 6 6 5b

38

6 5 6 6 6 # 6 6 4 3      6 5 7 #      7      6 5 2 6 6

20

42

6 6 6 6 5<sup>b</sup> 6 5 6 6 6 6<sup>b</sup> 5<sup>b</sup> 6 5 6 6<sup>b</sup> 6 6 4<sup>+</sup> 3 6 5 6 4 #

46

6 6 6 6 5 4 6 5 6 6 6 6 6 6 5 6 6 6 6 6 6 5 4

50

6 4<sup>b</sup> 2<sup>+</sup> 7 # 6 4<sup>b</sup> 2<sup>+</sup> 6 5 6 6 5 6 6 5 6 4 3

56

4 2 6 5 4 2 5 4 2 6 4 3 7 # 6 5 # 4 6 4

61

7 6 4 5 4 # 6 6 6 6 6 7 6 9 6 7 6 4 9 6 7

66

6 6 5<sup>b</sup> 6 5 # 4 2<sup>+</sup> 6 4 6 4<sup>+</sup> 2 6 5 4 2 5 6 5 6 6 6 5 6 7

70

5 6# 7 6# 7 6b 7b 6 6 6 5 6 — 7  
4 # # # # # 5b 4b 5b 5 #

75

4 6 — 7 4 6 3 4 5 3  
2 5 2 5 2

80

6 4 7 b # 4 6 # 7 5  
2+ #

84

6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6  
5 5 4+ 4+ 2+ 2+

88

6 # 6 6 5 6 6 6 6 6  
5 5

92

6 6 6 6 6 6 6 4 #

# 11. Choral

1 (7)

6 6 8 7 7 7 7 6 6 6 9 6 5 6

6 (12)

13

6 5 6 5 6 4 3 6 # 7 5 4 # 6 # 8 7 8 7 [5]

## Anhang

### 9. Recitativo (Fassung des Originalpartiturs)

Alto

Ve  
Foh

o Mensch, die Wol - lust die - ser Welt, Pracht,  
o man, the vi - ces of the world, pride,

Conto

3

Hof-fahrt, Reich-tum, Ehr-praise und Geld; be - den-ke doch in die-ser Zeit an -  
splen - dour, rich - es, and gold, be - think thee now, be - fore thou grow - est

5b 6

6

noch, da dir der Baum des Le-bens grü-net, was dir zu dei-nem Frie-de die-net! Viel-  
 old, ere soon thy youth and vig - our leave thee, will God in Heav'n one day re - ceive thee? Per -

9

leicht, ist dies der letz - te Tag, kein Mensch weiß, wenn er ster - ben muß  
 chance is this thy fi - nal day, man knows not when he must a - wa -

11

leicht, wie bald ist man-cher und kalt! Man kann noch die-se Nacht den Sarg vor dei-ne Tü - re  
 quick are man - y and cold! Per-chance this ver - y night thy corpse may from thy door be

14

brin-gen. Drum sei vor al - len Din-ge auf dei-ner See - len Heil be - dacht!  
 car - ried. Too long hast thou now tar - ried, con - sid - er well thy spir - it's plight!