W. F. Bach: O Himmel, schone, F. 90

Friedemann Bach composed this work at Halle for performance on the birthday of King Frederick II "the Great" of Prussia on Jan. 24, 1758, during the second year of the Seven Years' War. The anonymous text is close to but not identical to the libretto printed by Carl Hermann Bitter from the original *Textbuch* in *Carl Philipp Emanuel und Wilhelm Friedemann Bach und deren Brüder* (Berlin, 1868), 2: 376–78. For further discussion of the circumstances of its composition, its text, and the music, please see my study *The Music of Wilhelm Friedemann Bach* (University of Rochester Press, 2010).

The sole source of the music is the autograph score, Berlin, Staatsbibliothek, Mus. ms. Bach P 323. The score is relatively legible, as Friedemann's autograph scores go, reflecting the fact that much of the work was probably parodied from existing vocal works. The sinfonia indicated in the course of the recitative no. 5 is absent, and any additional sinfonia that might have opened the work is also not present. Movements from another work of Friedemann's, such as the D-major sinfonia F. 64, might be used at those points (the first two movements at the beginning, the last movement at the point indicated in the recitative).

As the transcription is unproblematical and there are no other sources, there is no need for a list of variant readings to accompany this provisional edition.

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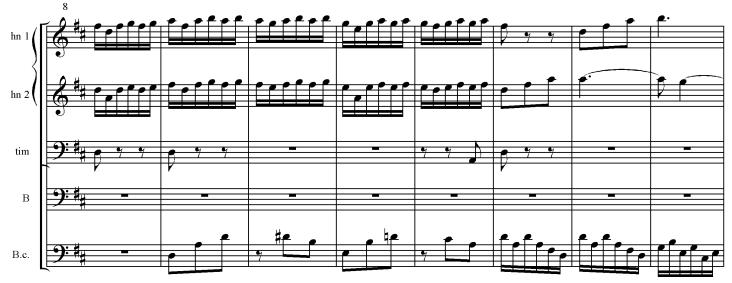


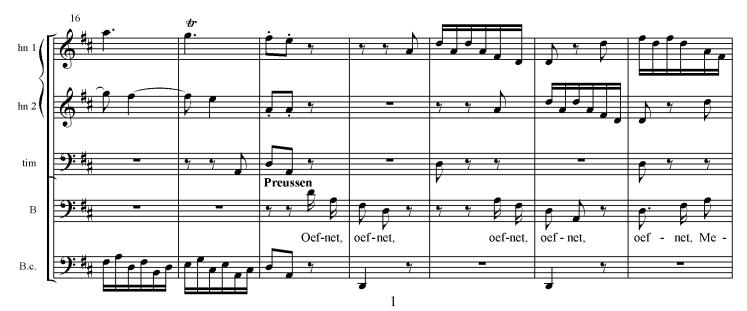




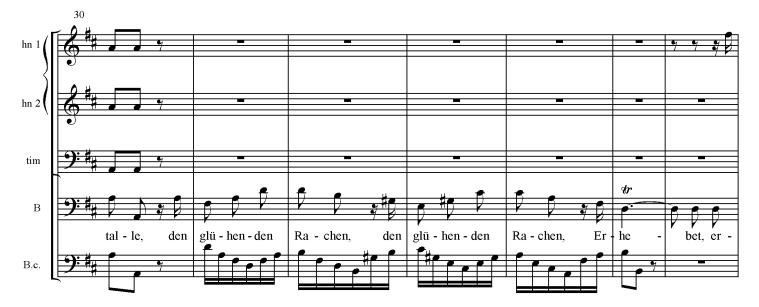


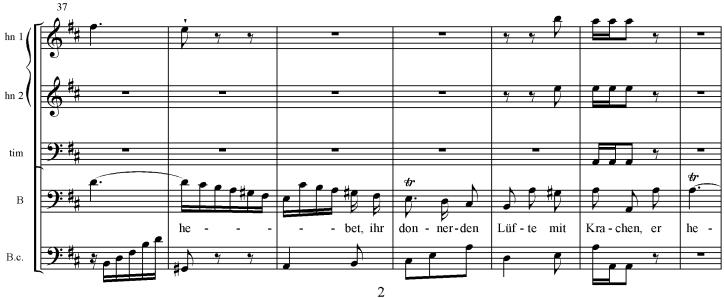


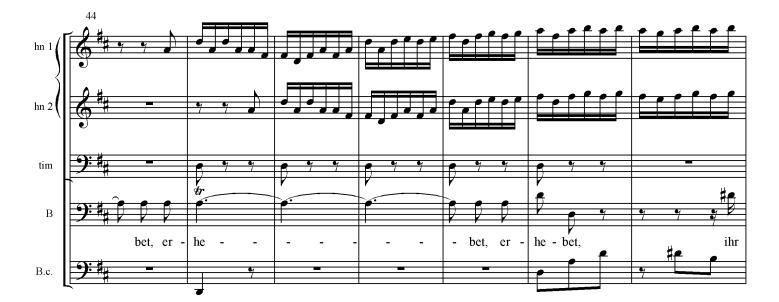


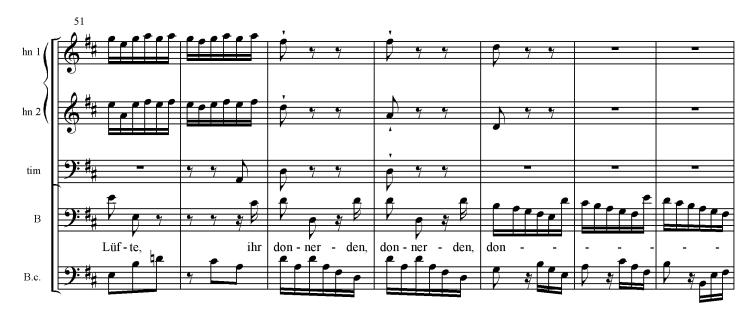


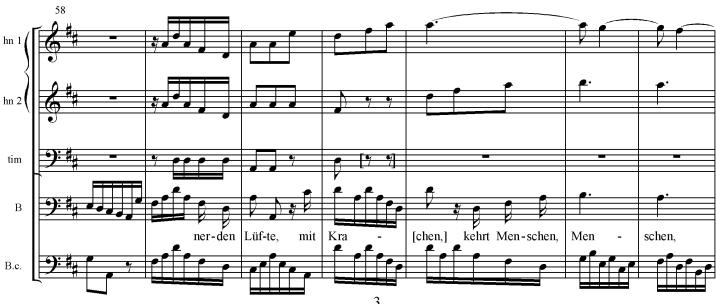


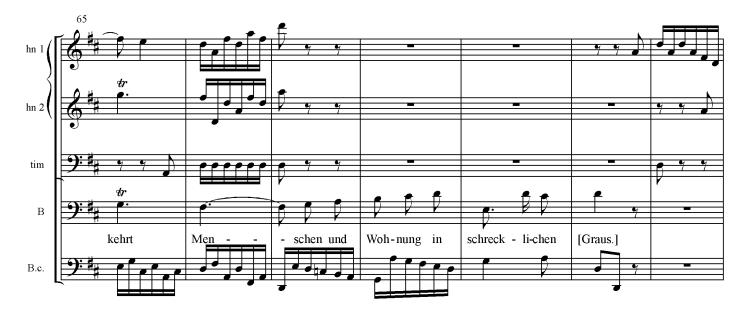


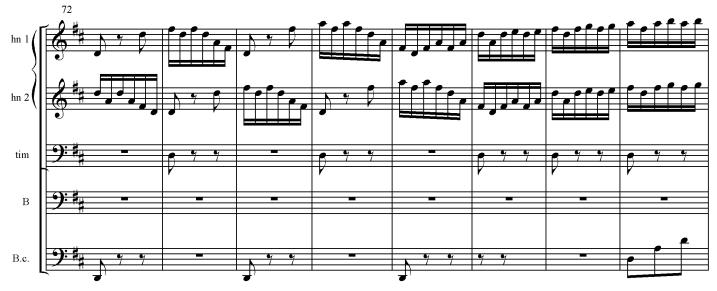








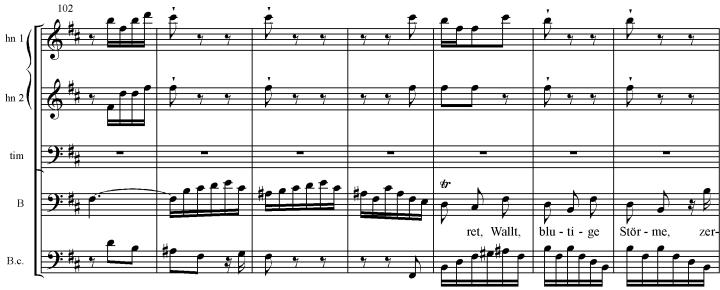


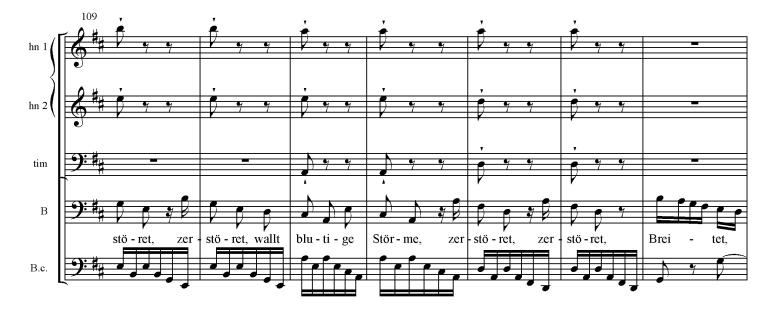


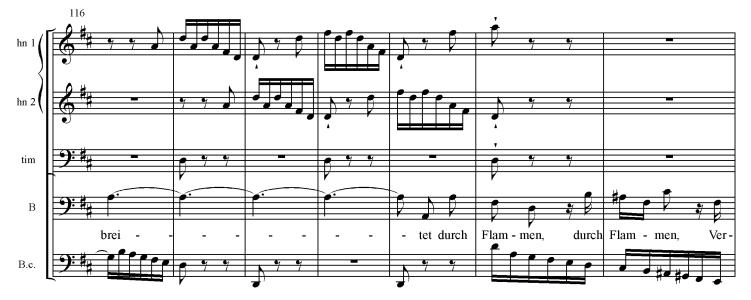


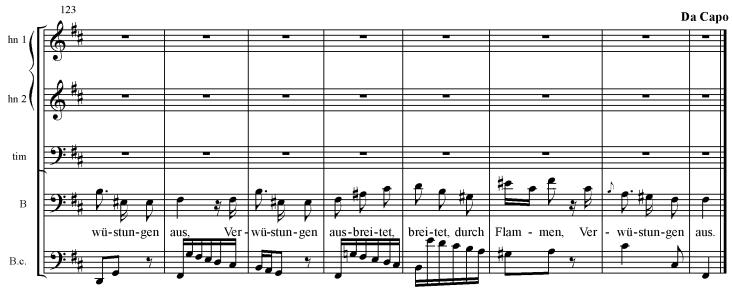


















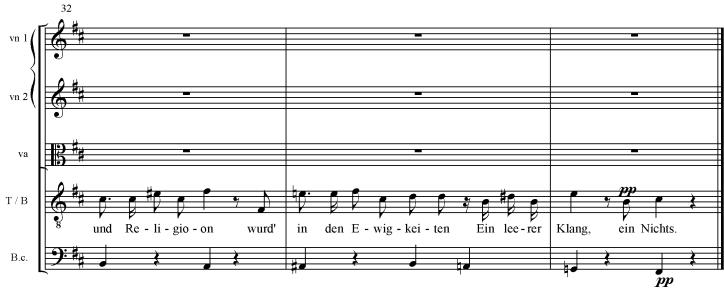








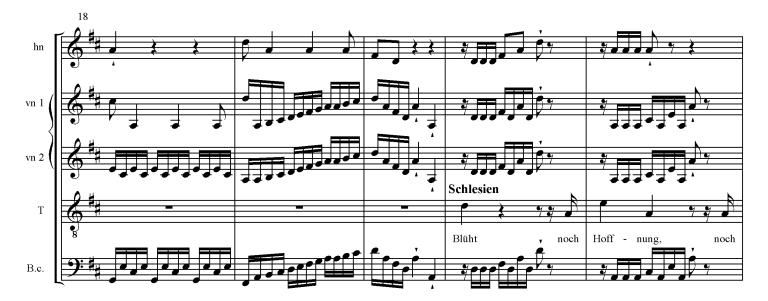


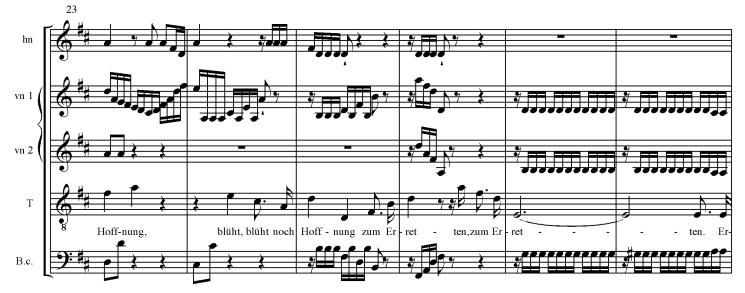


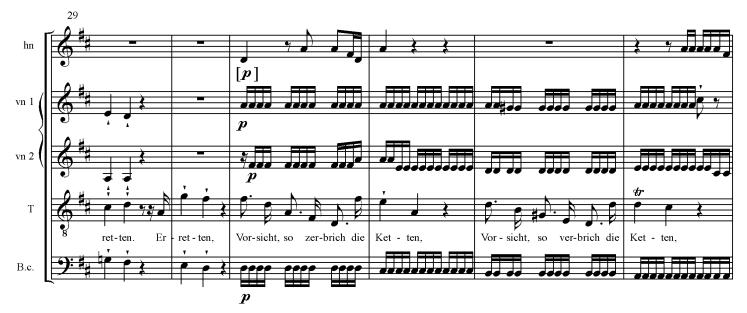




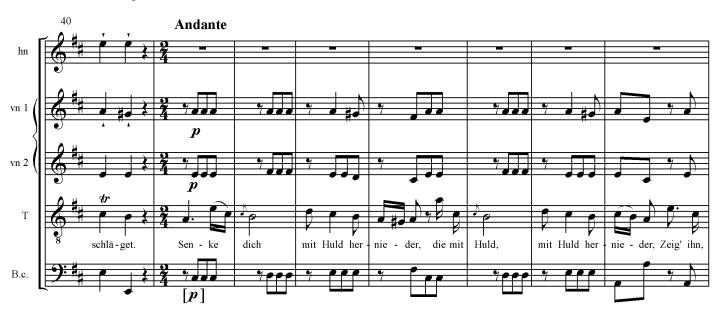






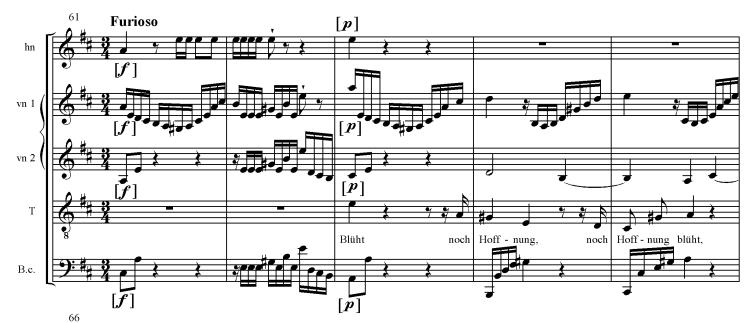


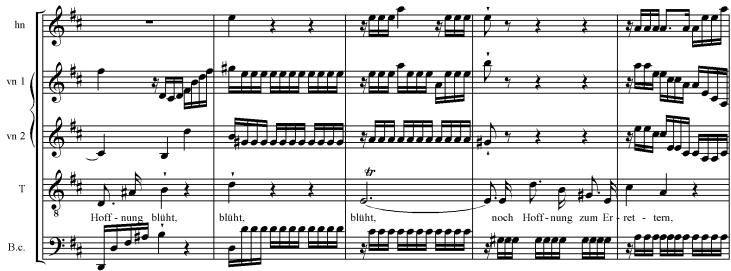






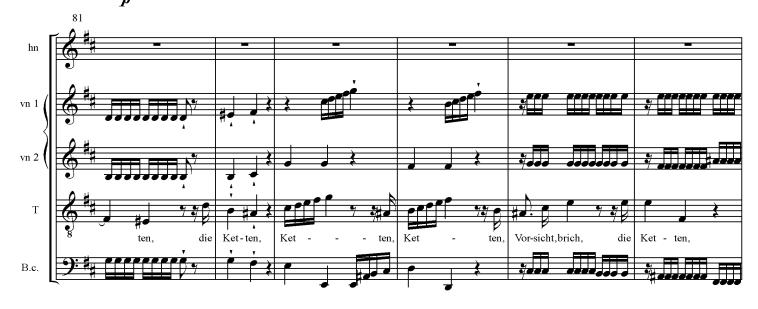


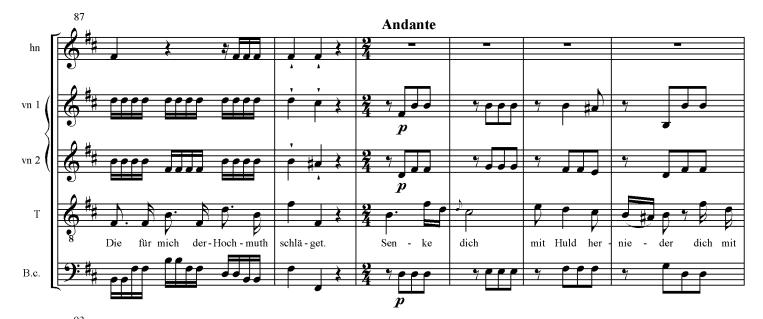




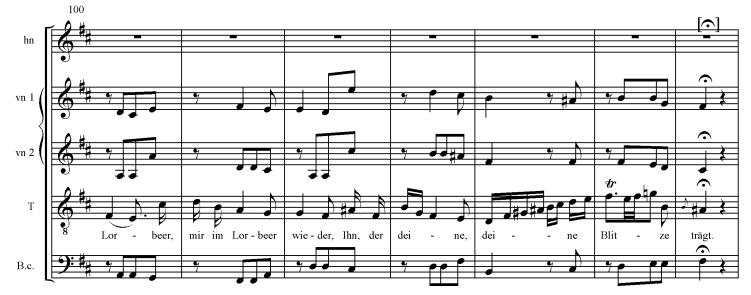


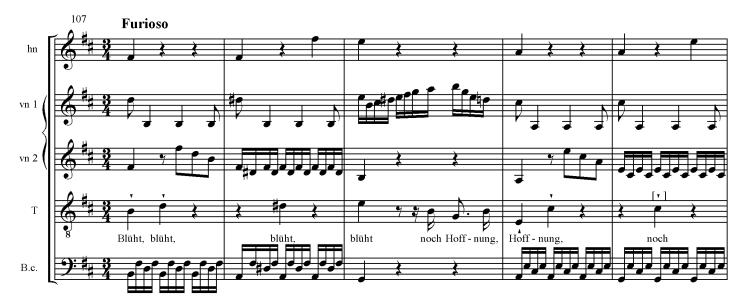


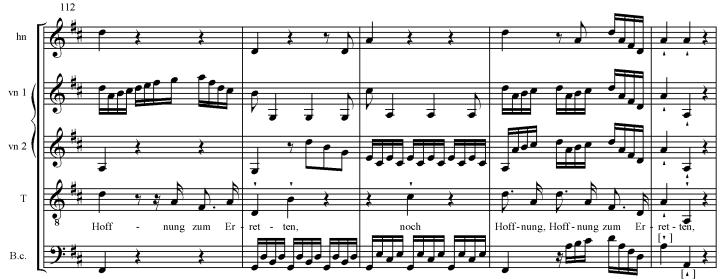


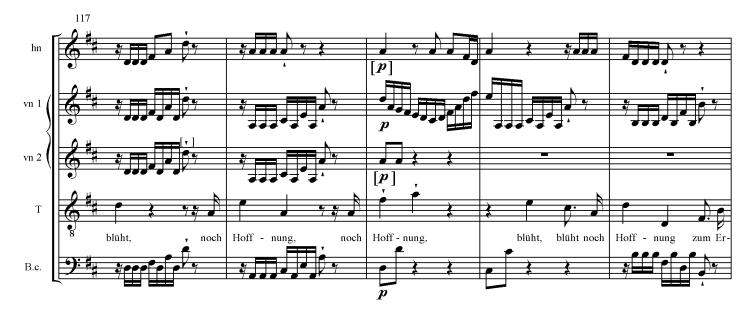






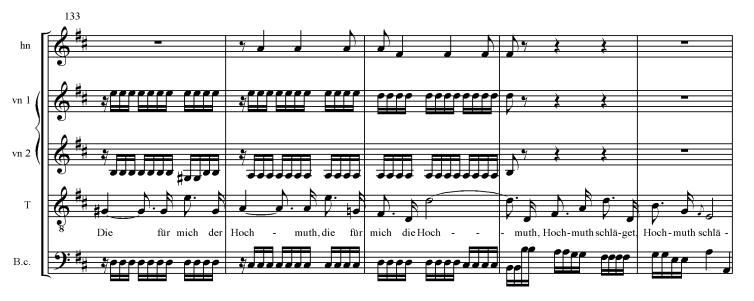














































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