



Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Background

Johann Sebastian Bach was a musical genius who lived at the end of the Baroque era. Recognized as one of the greatest composers of all time, he wrote in almost every musical genre of his time and was especially successful at contrapuntal technique.

Born into a large family of musicians, Bach spent his entire life in the Thuringia area of Germany. After early training in organ and violin, he performed as an organist in Arnstadt and Mülhausen. During his subsequent assignment as court organist and chamber musician to the Duke of Weimar, Bach wrote most of his finest organ works and a number of sacred and secular works. Moving to Cöthen, he wrote his chief orchestral and chamber music works as Kapellmeister and Director of Chamber Music for the Prince of Anhalt.

In 1722, Bach was appointed Cantor at St. Thomas' Church in Leipzig, where he spent his remaining years composing most of his great church music. It was in Leipzig that he completed

the majority of his chorale cantatas, which were required for use in the Lutheran worship services and other occasions.

The famous melody known as *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring* appears in the sixth and tenth movements of Bach's Cantata No. 147, **Herz und Mund und Tat und Leben**. Written for the Feast of the Visitation, the cantata was first performed in Leipzig on July 2, 1723. In it, Bach set Johann Schop's chorale melody using different verses of Martin Jahn's German text of 1661 for the two movements. Bach scored the movements for S.A.T.B. voices with trumpet, strings and continuo as accompaniment.

This solo voice edition includes a keyboard accompaniment fashioned by the editor from Bach's orchestral parts. The editor has also provided tempo and dynamic indications and has transposed the original from G Major to F major. For performance at weddings, it may be especially useful as a prelude, a prayer response, or during communion.

JESU, JOY OF MAN'S DESIRING

Verse 1 by ROBERT BRIDGES
Verse 2 by PATRICK M. LIEBERGEN

from Cantata no. 147, **HERZ UND MUND UND TAT UND LEBEN**
by JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH (1685-1750)
Edited and arranged by PATRICK M. LIEBERGEN

ACCOMP.

Energetically (♩ = ca. 76)

8 9 *mf*

1. Je - su, joy of man's de -
2. Son of God with joy a -

12

sir - ing,
bound - ing,

Ho - ly to wis - dom,
Come to us that
(this)

16

love — most — bright.
ho - ly — night.

20