

J. S. Bach, final chorale from Cantata No. 78, "Jesu, der du meine Seele"

For most of his life Bach's primary job was to provide music for his town's Lutheran chapel. A Cantata is a musical sermon that lasts about a half hour, and it usually concludes with a rousing, 4-part setting of a familiar Lutheran tune. These chorales are an important model for contemporary rules of part writing.

The end of each phrase in a Chorale is typically marked with a fermata. Thus it is easy to see where each cadence is, and track the occasional detours into new keys.

Study each cadence below. When the key appears to change, indicate that with a key label (like "g:"). Mark the important roman numerals, and indicate the cadence type with an abbreviation (like PAC, IAC, HC, Plag., etc.)

Herr! ich glau - be, hilf mir Schwa - chen, lass mich ja ver - za - gen nicht;

du, du kannst mich stär - ker ma - chen, wenn mich Sünd' und Tod an - flicht.

Dei - ner Gü - te will ich trau - en bis ich fröh - lich wer - de schau - en

dich, Herr Je - su, nach dem Streit in dem sü - ssen E - wig - keit.