



# **Fuga super: Jesus Christus unser Heiland**

**from Clavierübung III, BWV 689**

*by J. S. Bach*

**plus the chorale, BWV 363**

*Arranged and Typeset by Peter Billam*

**For SATB Recordors**

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## Fuga super: Jesus Christus unser Heiland

The 3rd book of J. S. Bach's *Clavierübungen* was published in 1739. Just after the Chorale Preludes (for organ) and before the 4 Duets (presumably for harpsichord), there is a Fugue, on the same hymn-tune subject as the previous chorale prelude, marked *Fuga super: Jesus Christus unser Heiland. a 4. Manualiter*, BWV 689, in 4 voices, written on two staves (no pedals) in f minor. (See e.g. Dover, JSB Organ Music, p.147)

It's quite unusual to base a fugue on a hymn-tune subject, mostly the subject has to be purpose-designed, but this one works beautifully, with close stretti and a grand augmented entry near the end. It's a lovely fugue, flowing and sonorous, full of gravitas.

It was originally published here in the original key f minor; some passages particularly in the tenor line lay in the weak low register and used the low Eb a great deal. Therefore it is now published two semitones higher in the far more practical key of g minor. This demands a high C# of the soprano in bar 38, but it is at least comfortably placed between two high D's.

Few changes are necessary: In bar 15, Bass, bottom D quaver omitted In bar 19, Bass, bottom D up an octave. In bars 30 first three notes, Tenor up an octave. In bar 47, Bass, the first quaver has now been re-included.

Certain optional divisi have been written out to assist balance. The Bass divisi in bars 17–19 and 43–46 may be needed to support the tenors in their low register. If multiple Soprani are playing, the high passage from 37–41 should be played by just one of them. If just one Soprano is playing, the Altos should divide in the last three beats of bars 66, and in bar 67. The proportions of all these divisi should be adjusted so as to balance the fugal voices.

Also included is Bach's Chorale setting of the same tune, BWV 363. This has been transposed up three semitones from e minor into g minor in order to fit on SATB recorders.

Peter J Billam  
[www.pjb.com.au](http://www.pjb.com.au)

# Chorale: Jesus Christus unser Heiland

Je - sus Chri - stus, un - ser Hei - land, der von uns den

5  
Got - tes - zorn wand, durch das bitt - re Lei - den

10  
sein half er uns aus der Höl - len Pein.

# Fuga super: Jesus Christus unser Heiland

5

10

15

8 20

First system of musical notation, measures 8 to 20. It consists of four staves: Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass. The music is in G minor and 3/4 time. Measure numbers 8 and 20 are indicated above the staves.

25

Second system of musical notation, measures 21 to 25. It consists of four staves: Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass. The music continues in G minor and 3/4 time. Measure number 25 is indicated above the staves.

Third system of musical notation, measures 26 to 30. It consists of four staves: Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass. The music continues in G minor and 3/4 time.

30

Fourth system of musical notation, measures 31 to 35. It consists of four staves: Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass. The music continues in G minor and 3/4 time. Measure number 30 is indicated above the staves.

8 35 *à 1*

8 40 *tutti*

8 45

8 50



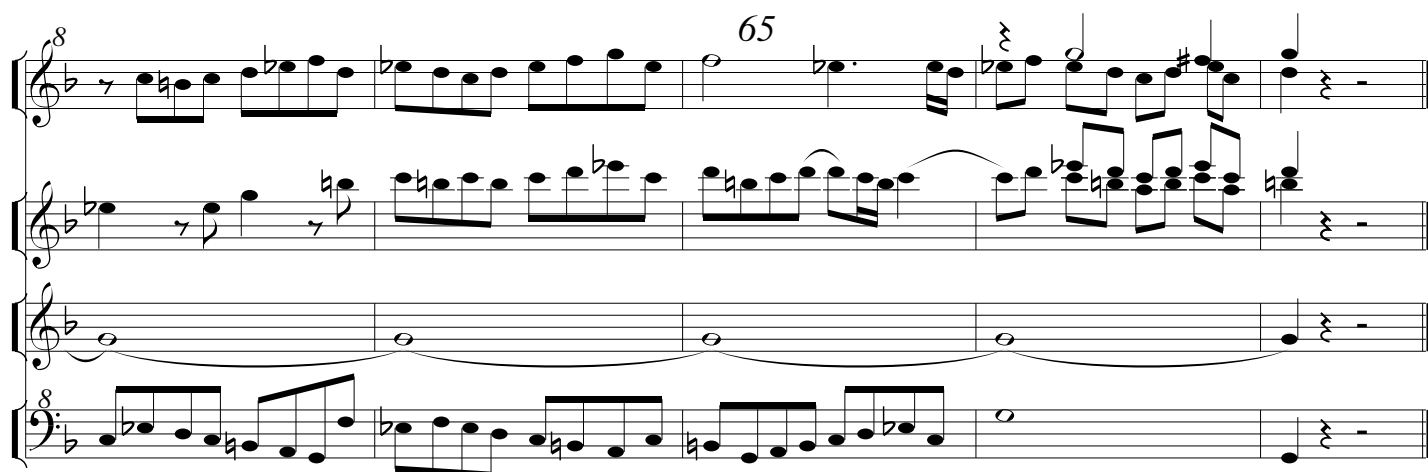
First system of musical notation, measures 48-54. It features four staves: two treble clefs (Soprano and Alto) and two bass clefs (Tenor and Bass). The music is in G minor with a common time signature. The Soprano and Alto parts have a melodic line with various ornaments and slurs. The Tenor and Bass parts provide harmonic support with rhythmic patterns.



Second system of musical notation, measures 55-59. Measure 55 is marked with a '55' above the staff. The musical texture continues with intricate melodic lines in the upper staves and rhythmic accompaniment in the lower staves.



Third system of musical notation, measures 60-64. Measure 60 is marked with a '60' above the staff. This system shows a continuation of the fugue's complex interweaving of voices.



Fourth system of musical notation, measures 65-69. Measure 65 is marked with a '65' above the staff. The system concludes with a final cadence in the lower staves.

# Soprano Recorder

5

10

15

20

25

30

35

40

*tutti*

45

50

55

60

65

# Alto Recorder

5

10

15

20

25

30

35

40

45

50

55

60

65

# Tenor Recorder

5

10

15

20

25

30

35

40

45

50

55

60

65

# Bass Recorder

5



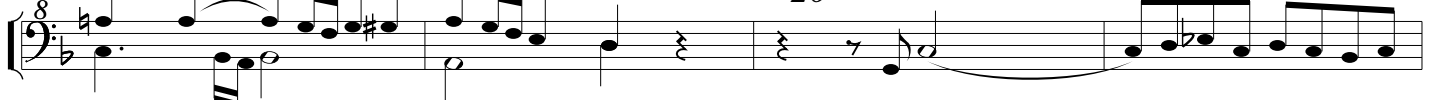
10



15



20



25



30



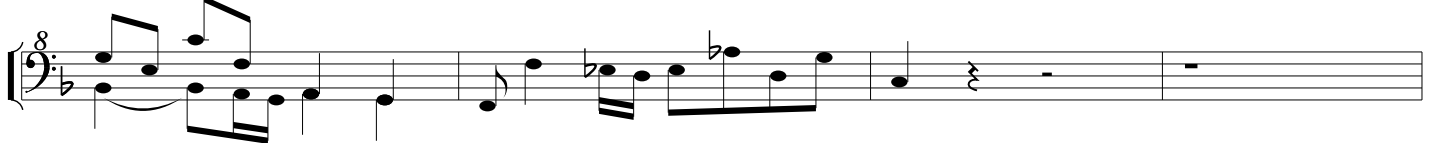
35



40



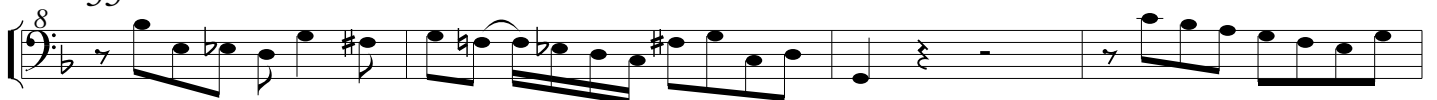
45



50



55

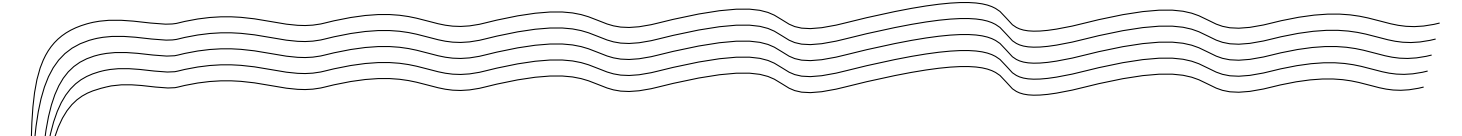


60



65





**Peter Billam** was born in London in 1948, studied piano, and lived in Switzerland from 1973 to 1983, where he studied composition, classical guitar, flute and voice, worked as Musical Director of the *Théâtre Populaire Romand*, and as recording engineer, record producer and computer programmer. He moved to Tasmania in 1983, lectured in composition at the Conservatorium, conducted recorder ensembles and choirs, studied recorder, voice and harpsichord. He founded **www.pjb.com.au**, becoming the first composer to sell scores on-line, with on-line delivery, taking scores from Composer to Performer in one immediate step. *Www.pjb.com.au* offers a new approach to music publishing. These pieces are **written to be read, made to be played !**

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**Arrangements** include: By J. S. Bach: *Trio BWV 655*, piano and flute; *Vor deinen Thron BWV 668*, piano; *Fugue in F minor BWV 689*, SATB recorders; *Flute Sonata BWV 1031* transposed into G major for alto recorder and keyboard; *Flute Sonata BWV 1032* completed by Peter Billam for flute and keyboard, also in C major for alto recorder, and in G major for descant; *Ricercare a 3*, from the *Musikalisches Opfer* for keyboard; *Ricercare a 6*, for sSATBG recorders, or strings, or two keyboards; *Fuga Canonica in Epiadiapente* for keyboard and melody instrument; from the *Art of Fugue: Contrapuncti 1, 4 and 9* for keyboard, and *Contrapunctus 14* as completed by D. F. Tovey, for keyboard, or for SATB recorders, or for strings; *Passacaglia and Fugue in c* for piano four hands; *Chorales with Descant* for melody instrument and piano; *Cello Suites I, II and III* for flute or alto recorder, *Forty Chorales* for piano, *Der Geist hilft* for SATB-SATB recorders. By Johannes Brahms: *Fugue in Ab minor for organ*, for SATB recorders and gamba, in A minor; *Choralvorspiele for organ* with previous settings by Isaac, Bach, Praetorius, recorders. *John Carr*, *Divisions on an Italian Ground*, flute or recorder and guitar. By G. F. Händel: *Concerto Grosso in A minor* op 6 no 4, harpsichord and recorders; *Recorder Sonata in Bb* no 5, in G for tenor recorder and keyboard. *Claudio Monteverdi*, *Ecco Mormorar l'Onde*, SSATB recorders. By Franz Schubert: *Four Songs*, voice and guitar; *Schubert Dances*, recorders and guitar, *Schubert Dances*, piano 4 hands. *Scriabin*, *Two Preludes op.67*; *Five Preludes op.74*, piano. *Telemann*, *Twelve Flute Fantasias*, recorder. *John Wilbye*, *Draw on sweet Night*, SSATB recorders, and for flute choir. *Twelve Italian Songs*, voice and guitar; *Fourteen Folk Dance Tunes*, recorder and guitar; *Bushband Dances*, violin, piano accordeon and banjo; *Easy Classical Pieces*, Bb trumpet and piano.

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