

BREAK FORTH, O BEAUTEOUS, HEAVENLY LIGHT

Music: ERMUNTRE DICH, 87.87.88.77.; J. Schop, 1641; arr. J.S. Bach, *Weihnachts-Oratorium*, 1734

Text: Brich an, o schönes Morgenlicht, J. von Rist, 1641; tr. J. Troutbeck, 1873

Break forth, O beaut'ous heav'n-ly light And ush-er in the morn-ing;

The first system of the musical score is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It features a vocal melody in the treble clef and a basso continuo line in the bass clef. The vocal line begins with a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5, then a half note B4, and continues with a series of eighth and quarter notes. The basso continuo line provides harmonic support with a steady eighth-note accompaniment.

Ye shepherds, shrink not with affright, But hear the an-gel's warn-ing.

The second system continues the musical piece. The vocal melody in the treble clef has a long note on G4 at the start of the system, followed by a series of eighth and quarter notes. The basso continuo line in the bass clef continues with its accompaniment, featuring some triplet figures.

This Child, now weak in in-fan-cy, Our con-fi-dence and joy shall be,

The third system of the score. The vocal melody in the treble clef includes a dotted half note on G4. The basso continuo line in the bass clef continues with its accompaniment, maintaining the harmonic structure.

The pow'r of Sa-tan break-ing, Our peace e-ter-nal mak-ing.

The final system of the score. The vocal melody in the treble clef ends with a half note on G4. The basso continuo line in the bass clef concludes with a final cadence, ending on a whole note G3.