

Wenn wir in höchsten Nöten sein (BWV 641)

Analysis from Gene Biringer's Schenker Text, Ex. 5-27

J.S. Bach

The image displays a musical score for the chorale 'Wenn wir in höchsten Nöten sein' (BWV 641) by J.S. Bach, in G major. The score is presented in two staves, Treble and Bass, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The music is analyzed using Schenkerian techniques, indicated by various annotations:

- Red annotations:** Above the staff, red numbers 3, 2, and 1 are placed above a thick black line, likely indicating a structural level or measure group.
- Blue annotations:** The letters 'P' (Primitiv) and 'N' (Nachklang) are placed above or below notes, indicating specific harmonic or melodic functions.
- Purple annotations:** Solid purple lines connect notes across measures, representing a melodic or harmonic line. Dashed purple lines connect notes across measures, representing a structural or harmonic line.
- Green annotations:** The letters 'I', 'V', and 'I' are placed below the staff, likely indicating the beginning, middle, and end of a phrase or section.

The score shows a complex melodic and harmonic structure, with a prominent descending line in the Treble staff and a corresponding ascending line in the Bass staff. The analysis highlights the underlying structure of the piece, showing how the surface melody and harmony are derived from a deeper, more fundamental level.