

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, presented in a Schenkerian analytical style. The score is written for two staves, Treble and Bass, in the key of D major (indicated by two sharps). The music is characterized by a simple, homophonic texture with a clear harmonic structure.

Key analytical features include:

- Interval Labels:** Blue letters 'P' (Perfect) and 'N' (Neutral) are placed above or below notes to indicate the intervals between them. For example, in the Treble staff, 'P' labels are above the first four notes, and 'N' is below the fifth note. In the Bass staff, 'P' labels are above the first two notes, and 'N' is below the third note.
- Red Roman Numerals:** Red numerals with a circumflex (^) are placed above the staff to indicate the harmonic structure. These include $\hat{3}$, $\hat{2}$, and $\hat{1}$ in the Treble staff, and $\hat{1}$ in the Bass staff.
- Green Roman Numerals:** Green numerals with a circumflex (^) are placed below the staff to indicate the harmonic structure. These include $\hat{1}$, \hat{V} , and $\hat{1}$ in the Bass staff.
- Interval Arcs:** Solid purple arcs connect notes that are a perfect interval apart (P), while dashed purple arcs connect notes that are a neutral interval apart (N). These arcs are used to trace the harmonic relationships throughout the piece.
- Staff Structure:** The score is divided into measures by vertical bar lines. The first measure is marked with a green 'I' below the Bass staff, and the final measure is marked with a green 'I' below the Bass staff. A green 'V' is also present below the Bass staff in the final measure.