

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 notation includes various musical symbols such as notes, rests, and beams, along with structural annotations.

Key analytical features include:

- Structural Lines:** Solid black lines represent the primary structural lines (Kursatz) for both staves. These lines are often slanted to indicate the overall pitch contour of the phrase.
- Phrasing and Grouping:** Solid magenta lines and dashed magenta lines are used to group notes into phrases or segments, highlighting the hierarchical structure of the music.
- Labels:** Blue letters 'P' (Prädikation, Predication) and 'N' (Nukleation, Nucleation) are placed above or below notes to indicate their functional role in the Schenkerian analysis. For example, in the Treble staff, 'P' labels are above the 3rd, 5th, and 7th notes, while 'N' is below the 2nd note. In the Bass staff, 'P' labels are above the 1st and 3rd notes, and 'N' is above the 5th note.
- Accents:** Red accents (^) are placed above the 3rd, 5th, and 7th notes of the Treble staff, indicating points of emphasis or structural importance.
- Formal Structure:** Green letters 'I' (Introduction), 'V' (Versus), and 'I' (Conclusion) are placed below the Bass staff, marking the beginning, middle, and end of the piece.