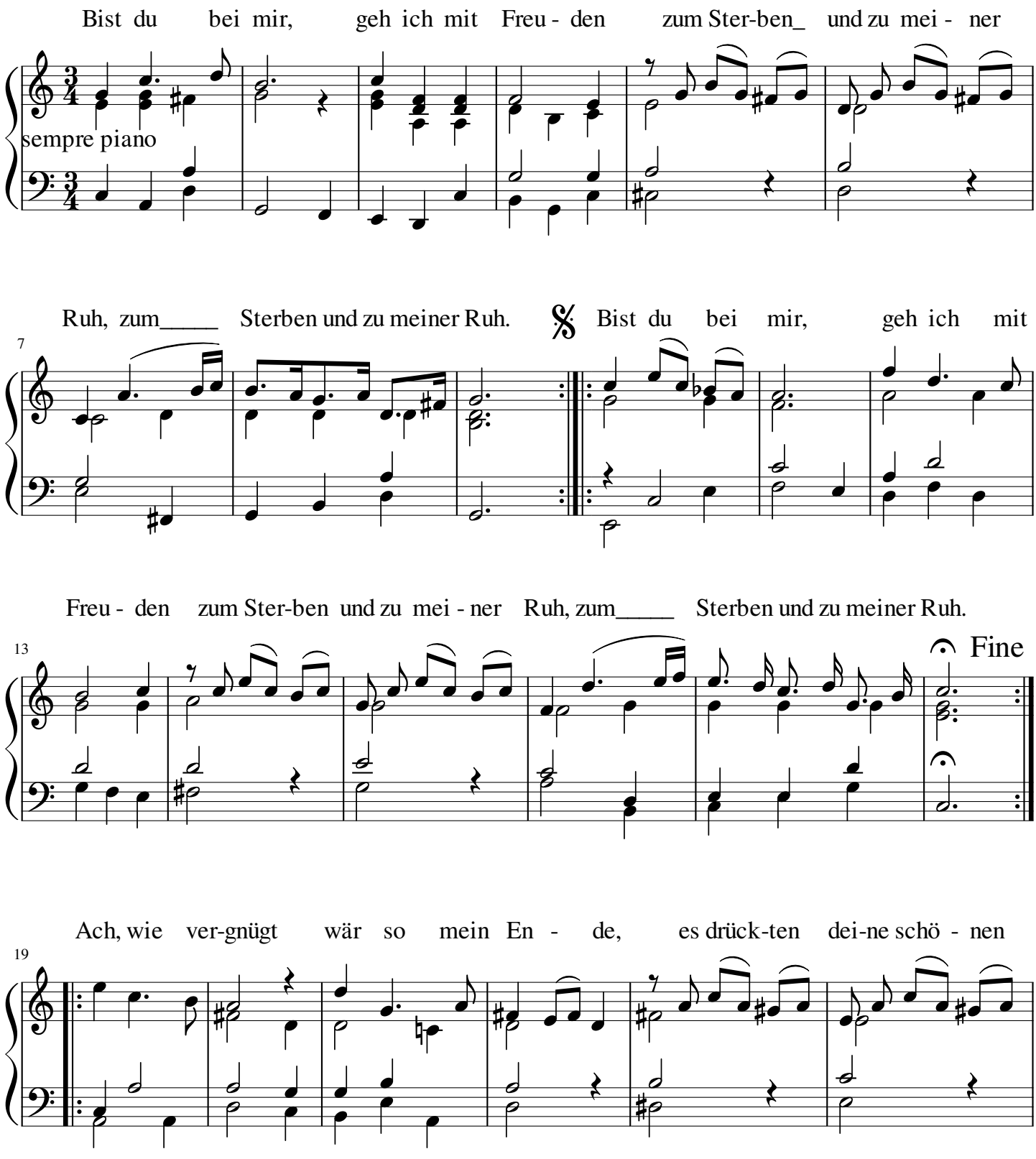
Bist du bei mir (If you are with me)

Aria from Opera:
Diomedes oder die triumphierende Unschuld (cf. BWV 508)

Gottfried Heinrich Stölzel



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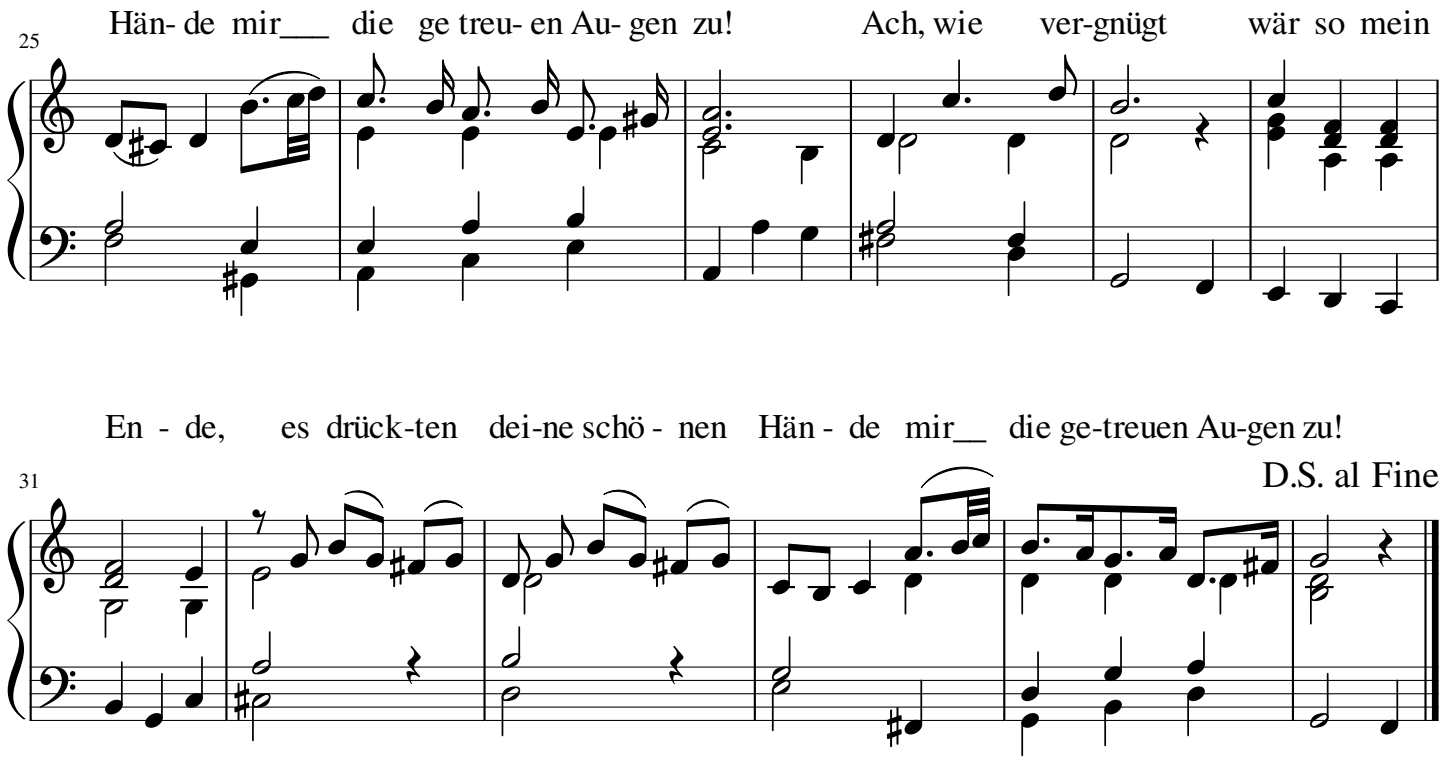

Bist du bei mir, geh ich mit Freuden
zum Sterben und zu meiner Ruh.
Ach, wie vergnügt wär so mein Ende,
es drückten deine schönen Hände
mir die getreuen Augen zu!

When thou art near, I go with joy
To death and to my rest.
O how joyous would my end be,
If your fair hands
Would close my faithful eyes.

In 1717–18 Gottfried Heinrich Stölzel was for a short time court Kapellmeister in Bayreuth. There his opera Diomedes, a.k.a. Die triumphierende Unschuld (the triumphant innocence), was premiered on 16 November 1718. Apart from a few arias the music of this opera is lost. A version for soprano, strings and continuo of its aria "Bist du bei mir" survives in an 18th-century manuscript owned by the Sing-Akademie zu Berlin (See Facsimile Aria 4 p. 7: http://hz.imslp.info/files/imglnks/usimg/0/02/IMSLP426446-PMLP178856-diomedes.pdf).

A version for voice and continuo of "Bist du bei mir" is among the pieces Anna Magdalena Bach wrote down as No. 25 in her notebook from 1725. That version is slightly modified in its Bc part and is known as BWV 508.

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