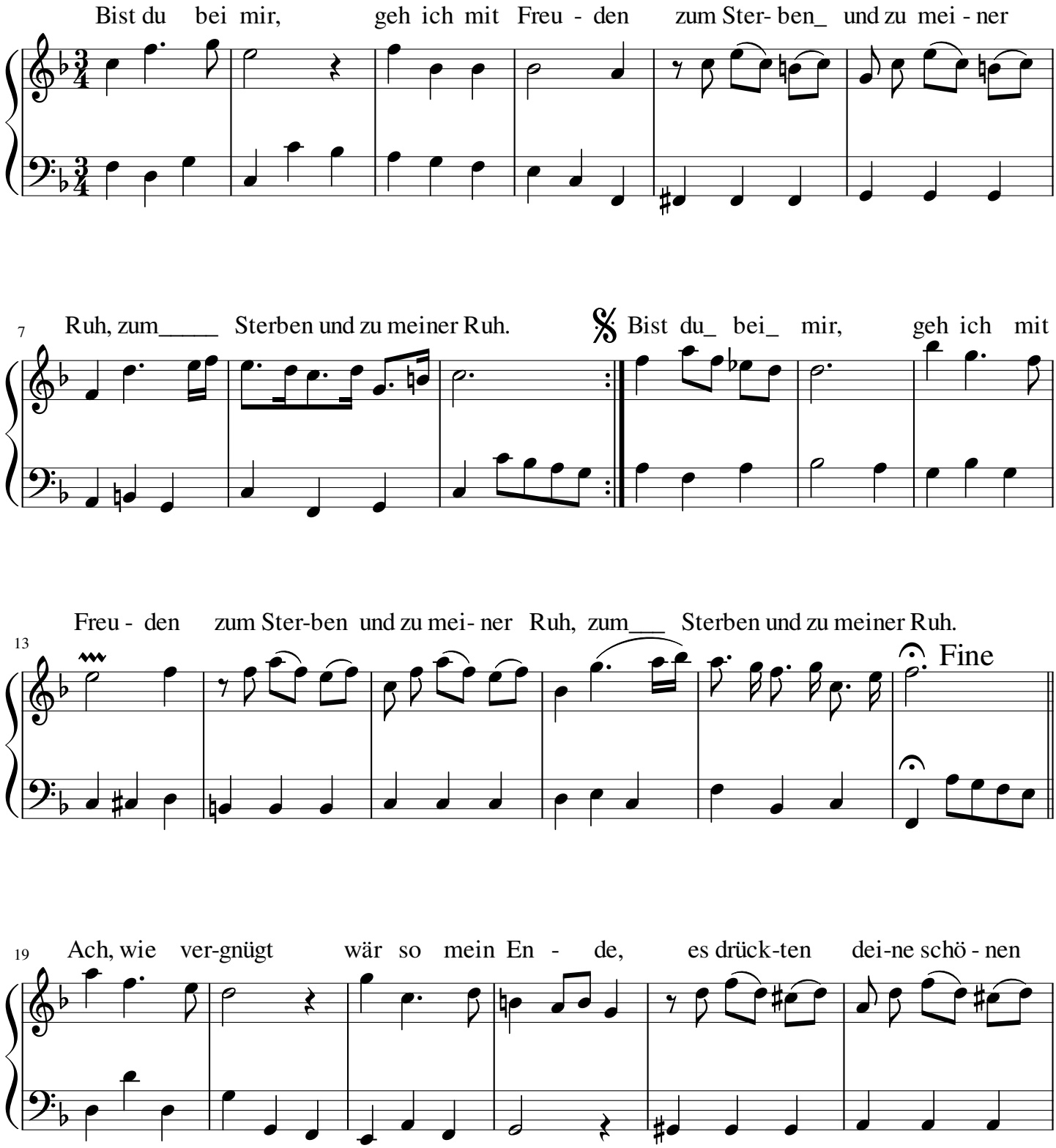
Bist du bei mir

Notebook of Anna Magdalena Bach 2, 1725, BWV 508

Gottfried Heinrich Stölzel
Copy by Anna Magdalena Bach



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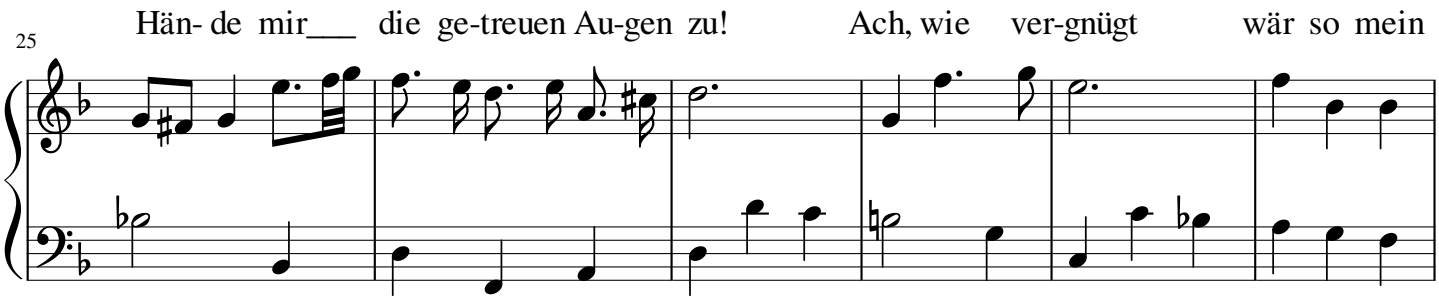

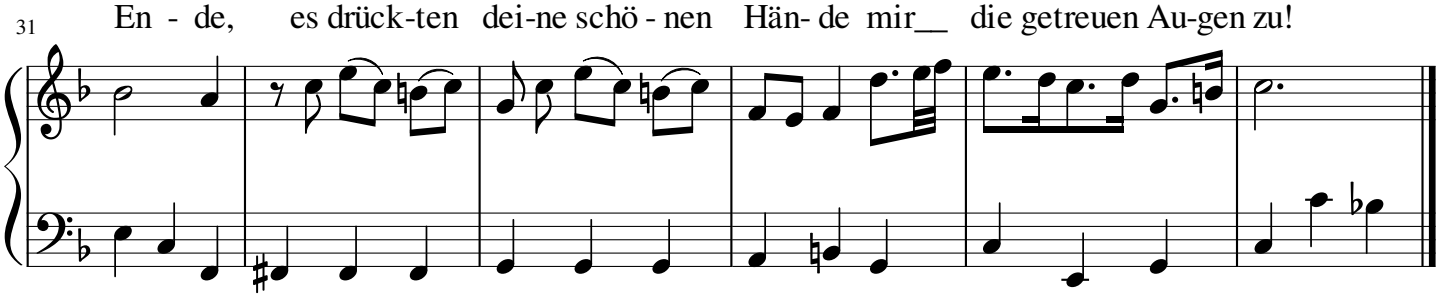

D.S. al Fine

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.

This aria is from Gottfried Heinrich Stölzels opera Diomedes, a.k.a. Die triumphierende Unschuld (the triumphant innocence), which was premiered on 16 November 1718. (See Facsimile Aria 4 p. 7: http://hz.imslp.info/files/imglnks/usimg/0/02/IMSLP426446-PMLP178856-diomedes.pdf).

The presented version for voice and bass 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 a slightly modified in its bass line (For instance, some harf notes were split into two quarters sometimes with an octave interval) and is known as BWV 508. The original autograph in the hand writing of Anna Magdalena presents only the melody and the bass line without any cord symbols (unfigured bass).

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