

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 steady eighth-note accompaniment in the bass and a melody in the treble.

Key analytical features include:

- Structural Levels:** The score is divided into three main sections marked by red numbers 1, 2, and 3 at the top, corresponding to Schenkerian levels I, V, and III respectively. Level I is marked with a green 'I' at the beginning and end. Level V is marked with a green 'V' near the end. Level III is marked with a red '3' at the beginning of the first section.
- Phrasing and Grouping:** Solid black lines connect notes across measures, indicating phrasing. Dashed purple lines connect notes across measures, indicating a more fundamental structural connection.
- Annotations:** Blue letters 'P' (Präzisierung, or 'Prolongation') and 'N' (Nachklang, or 'Nachklang') are placed above or below notes, indicating specific analytical points. For example, 'P' is placed above the first note of the first section, and 'N' is placed below the first note of the second section.
- Accompaniment:** The bass line features a steady eighth-note accompaniment, while the treble line features a melody with a descending eighth-note pattern in the first section.