

# Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light

Choral from "The Christmas Oratorio"

Johann Sebastian Bach

(1685-1750)

Adagio

SOPRANO  
ALTO

TENOR  
BASS

*f* Break forth, O beau - teous heav'n - ly light, And ush - er in the

morn - ing; Ye shep - herds, shrink not with af - fright, But

hear the an - gel's warn - ing. This Child, now weak in

in - fan - cy, Our *cresc.* con - fi - dence and joy shall be, The *ff*

pow'r of Sa - tan break - ing, Our *p* peace e - ter - nal mak - ing.

The score is written for Soprano/Alto and Tenor/Bass parts. It features a treble clef for the upper part and a bass clef for the lower part. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is common time (C). The tempo is marked 'Adagio'. The score includes dynamic markings such as *f*, *cresc.*, and *ff*. The lyrics are printed below the notes.

**TITLE:** *Break Forth, O Beauteous, Heavenly Light*  
**LARGER WORK:** *Christmas Oratorio*  
**COMPOSER:** Johann Sebastian Bach  
**SCORING:** SATB and continuo (edition only has vocal parts)  
**SOURCE OF EDITION:** *Christams Oratorio (G. Schirmer, 1909)*  
**EDITOR:** Rafael Ornes (ed. 12/13/98, rev. 1/10/99)

**ORIGINAL GERMAN TEXT:**

Brich an, o schönes Morgenlicht, und lass den Himmel tagen!  
Du Hirtenvolk, erschrecke nicht, weil dir die Engel sagen:  
Dass dieses schwache Knäbelein soll unser Trost und Freude sein,  
Dazu den Satan zwingen und letztlich Frieden bringen.