

CORO

# Publishing

www.corroonline.org

Johann Hermann Schein (1586-1630), along with Heinrich Schütz and Samuel Scheidt, was one of the leading German composers of the early seventeenth century. His career mirrors that of his successor, J. S. Bach, in that he spent time in the ducal court at Weimar (1615-1616) after which he served as Thomaskantor in Leipzig until his untimely death in 1630. Schein was an important bridge between the polyphonic, “Palestrina-style” compositional practices of the Renaissance and the *nuovo musicale* practices of Baroque that featured monody supported by vertically composed harmonic structures realized with figured bass notation. His compositions prior to the middle part of the decade 1610-1620 were influenced by Calvisius (who immediately preceded him as Thomaskantor), Handl and Lassus. Following the publication of the first part of his *Opella nova* in 1618, his compositional output shifted to the new *en vogue* model of solo voice(s) with instrumental accompaniment. While the texts of his secular music were all self-composed, his sacred compositions were largely set to texts by Martin Luther (1483-1546). This “fantasia” on Luther’s *Ein fest Burg ist unser Gott* comes from *Opella nova I* and is typical of Schein’s voicing preference: 2 treble lines over a figured bass. The arrangement works equally well with men's voices, and, therefore, I have made versions for both women's chorus and men's chorus with the usual modern-day clefs.

- *Matthew Olman*

A mighty fortress is our God,  
a sword and shield victorious;  
he breaks the cruel oppressor's rod  
and wins salvation glorious.  
The old evil foe  
[has] sworn to work us woe!  
With *dread* craft and [dreadful] might  
he arms himself to fight.  
On earth he has no equal.

No strength of ours can match his might!  
We would be lost, rejected.  
[But] *Yes* now a champion comes to fight,  
whom God himself elected.  
You ask who this may be?  
The Lord of hosts is he!  
*Jesus Christ our Lord,*  
[Christ Jesus, mighty Lord,]  
God's only Son, adored.  
He holds the field victorious.

- English Translation from 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship (adapted)

# A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

*Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott*

Psalm 46 adaptation

Original German text by Martin Luther

English text from Lutheran Book of Worship (1978)

Music by Martin Luther (1528)

arr. Johann Herman Schein

Opella nova I, No. 21 (1618)

ed. Matthew Oltman

SA

A might - y for - tress is — our God, a sword and shield vic - to - rious;  
Ein fes - te Burg ist un - ser Gott, ein gu - te Wehr und Waf - fen;

he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and wins sal - va - tion glo - rious.  
er hilft uns frei aus al - ler Not, die uns jetzt hat be - trof - fen.

The old — e - - vil foe, sworn to work us woe,  
Der al - te bö - - se Feind, mit Ernst er's jetzt meint,

With dread craft and might he arms him-self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.  
groß Macht und viel List sein grau - sam Rü - stung ist, auf Erd ist nicht seins glei - chen.

10 (♩ = 78)

No strength of ours — can match — his might!  
Mit un - ser Macht — ist nichts — ge - tan,

We would — be  
wir sind — gar

15

We would be lost, re - ject - ed, we would be  
 wir sind gar bald ver - lo - ren, wir sind gar

lost, re - ject - ed, we would be  
 bald ver - lo - ren, wir sind gar

19

lost, re - ject - ed, we would be lost, re - ject -  
 bald ver - lo - ren, wir sind gar bald ver - lo -

lost, re - ject - ed, we would be lost, re - ject -  
 bald ver - lo - ren, wir sind gar bald ver - lo -

22

ed. A cham-pion comes, a cham-pion comes, yes now a cham -  
 ren, es steit' für uns, es steit' für uns, es steit' für uns

ed. A cham-pion comes, a cham-pion comes, yes now a  
 ren, es steit' für uns, es steit' für uns, es steit' für

27

- pion comes to fight, whom God him-self e -  
der re - - chte Mann, den Gott hat selbst er -

cham - pion comes to fight,  
uns der re - - - - chte Mann,

32

lect ed, whom God him-self, whom God him-self e -  
ko - - ren, den Gott hat selbst, den Gott hat selbst er -

whom God him-self e - lect ed, whom God him-self e -  
den Gott hat selbst er - ko - - ren, den Gott hat selbst er -

37

lect ed. You ask who this may be? You ask who  
ko - - - ren, fragst du, wer der ist? fragst du, wer

lect ed. You ask who this may be? You ask who this  
ko - - - ren, fragst du, wer der ist? fragst du, wer der

41

this may be? The Lord, the Lord, the Lord of hosts  
 der ist? Er heißt, er heißt er heißt er heißt

may be? The Lord, the Lord, the Lord of  
 ist? Er heißt, er heißt, er heißt, er

46

is he! Je - sus Christ our Lord, Je - sus Christ our Lord, Je - sus Christ our  
 Je - su Christ, der Herr Za - ba - oth, der Herr Za - ba - oth, der Herr Za - ba -

hosts is he! Je - sus Christ our Lord, Je - sus Christ our Lord, Je - sus Christ our  
 heißt, Je - su Christ, der Herr Za - ba - oth, der Herr Za - ba - oth, der Herr Za - ba -

50

Lord, God's on - ly son, a - dored. He holds, He holds the field vic - to -  
 oth, und ist kein and - rer Gott, das Feld, das Feld muß er be - hal -

Lord, God's on - ly son, a - dored, He holds, He holds the field vic -  
 oth, und ist kein and - rer Gott, das Feld, das Feld muß er be -

54

rious, He holds the field vic - to - rious,  
 ten, das Feld muß er be - hal - ten,

to hal - - rious,  
 hal - - ten,

He holds the field vic - to -  
 das Feld muß er be - hal -

58

He holds the field vic - to - rious, He holds the field vic - to - rious,  
 das Feld muß er be - hal - ten, das Feld muß er be - hal - ten,

rious,  
 ten,

He holds the field vic - to - rious, He  
 das Feld muß er be - hal - ten, das

62

He das holds the field vic - to - rious.  
 das Feld muß er be - hal - ten.

holds the field vic - to - rious.  
 Feld muß er be - hal - ten.

# CORO

## Publishing

With CORO Publishing, CORO has created an innovative way to encourage new choral publications to be written for the choral community. CORO Publishing actively seeks new and unpublished choral works of the highest level, as well as modern editions of earlier works. With new choral pieces, we focus mainly on octavos for unaccompanied chorus and chorus with piano or small instrumental ensembles. CORO Publishing also looks to the standard choral repertoire of the western canon and creates new editions in order to bring these compositions to a broader range of modern performers and audiences alike.

When working with a composer on a new composition, CORO Publishing is in a unique situation by being directly linked with the CORO Vocal Artists; from the beginning, a dialogue is opened between the composer and the conducting staff of CORO. This dialogue allows these new compositions to be rehearsed with the CORO Vocal Artists and fine tuned while in the final stage of composition. CORO Vocal Artists record these new publications for commercial distribution in audio and video formats and the octavo is then published through CORO Publishing. CORO Publishing actively searches for compositions that meet these requirements as well as establishing relationships with other publishing companies that would benefit from the collaborative nature of CORO.

For more information on CORO Publishing  
visit our website at:  
[www.coroonline.org](http://www.coroonline.org)

or contact us at:  
[info@coroonline.org](mailto:info@coroonline.org)

# coro