

Cantata No. 4

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Sinfonia

1. Christ lay in Death's dark prison

Sinfonia
Lento



Measures 1-11 of the piano introduction. The music is in G major and 4/4 time. It features a slow, contemplative mood with a steady bass line and a more active treble line. Measure numbers 2, 4, 6, 8, and 10 are indicated above the staff.

Allegro moderato
Chorus



Vocal staves for Soprano (S), Alto (A), Tenor (T), and Bass (B). Measures 12-16. The lyrics are: S: Christ; A: Christ lay, Christ lay in Death's dark; T: Christ lay in Death's dark pri - son, Christ; B: Christ lay in Death's dark pri - son.

Allegro moderato



Piano accompaniment for the chorus, measures 12-16. The music continues with a more rhythmic and active texture, supporting the vocal lines.