

Year	DB's age	Event in Buxtehude's life	JSB's age
c1637	0	supposedly born in Helsingborg (Sweden) father is an organist	
1641	4	family moves to Elsinore (Denmark)	
1657	20	becomes organist in Helsingborg	
1660	23	becomes organist in Elsinore	
1667	30	Franz Tunder, organist at St. Mary's in Lübeck, dies	
1668	31	Buxtehude becomes organist at St. Mary's in Lübeck marries Tunder's daughter	
1678	41	introduces sacred dramatic works to Abendmusik	3
1703	66	visited by Handel and Mattheson	18
1705-06	68-99	visited by Bach	20
1707	70	dies in Lübeck	22

Abendmusik

- hour-long afternoon concerts held on the five Sundays preceding Christmas
- not a part of DB's church duties, nor obligatory for choir or instrumental players
- financed via sales of printed programs and contributions of local merchants
- concerts might include cantatas, oratorios, other vocal works, and/or organ music
- Bach most probably heard the oratorio *Castrum doloris*, performed Dec. 2 and 3 1705, for which only the libretto has survived; *Castrum doloris* included muted strings, trumpets, and trombones
- indication that oratorios of Abendmusiken included mixtures of choruses, recitatives, strophic arias, and chorale settings; instrumental participation was considerable

Buxtehude's Vocal Music

- most surviving works are from manuscripts, copied from autographs; many works assumed lost
- no complete chronology of vocal works, only established dates for the copying of works
- most vocal works copied sometime between 1680-87
- very little vocal music survives after 1687
- mainly German and Latin sacred texts, either biblical prose or strophic poetry
- genres are not clearly delineated, often blending into and mixed with one another

Categories of Buxtehude's Vocal Music

Concertos:	27	
Ciacconas:	6	
Arias:	41	
Chorale Settings:	16	
Dialogues:	4	
Cantatas:	27	
<i>Concerto-Aria Cantatas:</i>		21
<i>Chorale-Aria Cantatas:</i>		1
<i>Concerto-Chorale Cantatas:</i>		1
<i>Concerto-Aria-Chorale Cantatas:</i>		4

Typical Stylistic Characteristics of Vocal Music Genres**Concertos**

- composed from biblical prose
- irregular rhythms and phrase structures
- contrapuntal texture (or at least imitative, i.e. *concertato*)
- phrases of text generate musical sections of the piece (but not separate movements)
- often strong stylistic contrast between sections
- musical motives tossed from one performer to another (vocal or instrumental)

Arias

- composed from strophic poetry, mostly German, many from hymns
- regular phrase structure
- homophonic texture
- often include an instrumental ritornello to articulate divisions between strophes
- single movement work

Chorale settings

- scored with instruments (e.g. similar to concerto texture)
- homophonic within the voice parts
- four-part vocal harmonization
- use of chorale melodies and texts

Cantatas

- never specifically referred to as such in Buxtehude's
- combine independent movements from different genres to form a composite work
- typically include concerto and aria movements
- often open with an instrumental sonata movement

Scoring of Buxtehude's Cantatas**Concerto-Aria Cantatas (21):**

BuxWV	Title	Vocal Parts	Instrumentation
19	<i>Drei schöne Dinge sind</i>	SB	2vn,vle/bn,bc
24	<i>Eins bitte ich vom Herrn</i>	SSATB	2vn,2va,bn,bc
30	<i>Fürchtet euch nicht</i>	SB	2vn,bc
33	<i>Gott fähret auf mit Jauchzen</i>	SSB	2vn,2va,trbn,2cornts,2tpt,bn,bc
35	<i>Herr, auf dich traue ich</i>	S	2vn,bc
39	<i>Herr, wenn ich nur dich habe</i>	S	2vn,vle/vadagamba,bc
46	<i>Ich habe Lust abzuschneiden</i>	SSB	2vn,vle/bn,bc
47	<i>Ich habe Lust abzuschneiden [rev.]</i>	SSB	2vn,vle,bc
48	<i>Ich halte es dafür</i>	SB	vn,violetta,vle,bc
50	<i>Ich suchte des Nachts</i>	TB	2vn,2ob,vle,bc
54	<i>Ist es recht</i>	SSATB	2vn,2va,vle,bc
55	<i>Je höher du bist</i>	SSB	2vn,vle,bc
75.1	<i>Membra Jesu (Ecce super montes)</i>	SSATB	2vn,vle,bc
75.2	<i>MJ (Ad ubera portabimini)</i>	SSATB	2vn,vle,bc
75.3	<i>MJ (Quid sunt plagae istae)</i>	SSATB	2vn,vle,bc
75.4	<i>MJ (Surge, amica mea)</i>	SSATB	2vn,vle,bc
75.5	<i>MJ (Sicut modo geniti infantes)</i>	ATB	2vn,vle,bc
75.6	<i>MJ (Vulnerasti cor meum)</i>	SSB	5vadagamba,bc
75.7	<i>MJ (Illustra faciem tuam)</i>	SSATB	2vn,vadagamba,bc
77	<i>Nichts soll uns scheiden</i>	SAB	2vn,vle,bc
122*	<i>Schlagt, Künstler, die Pauken</i>	SSAB	2tpt,2vn,2va,vle,timp, bc

*secular work

Chorale-Aria Cantata (1):

BuxWV	Title	Vocal Parts	Instrumentation
86	<i>O Gott, wir danken deiner Güte</i>	SSATB	2vn,vle,bc

Concerto-Chorale Cantata (1):

BuxWV	Title	Vocal Parts	Instrumentation
29	<i>Frohlocket mit Händen</i>	SSATB	2tpt,4vn,vle,bc

Concerto-Aria-Chorale Cantata (4):

BuxWV	Title	Vocal Parts	Instrumentation
4	<i>Alles, was ihr tut mit Worten</i>	SATB	2vn,2va,vle,bc
34	<i>Gott hilf mir</i>	SSSATBB	2vn,2va,vle,bc
51	<i>Ihr lieben Christen, freut euch nun</i>	SSATB	3vn,2va,vle,3cornts,2tpt,3trbn,bc
112	<i>Wo soll ich fliehen hin</i>	SATB	2vn,2va,vle,bc

Normative Form of a Buxtehude Concerto-Aria Cantata(as evidenced by the cycle of 7 Cantatas in BuxWV 75 *Membra Jesu Nostri*)(1) *Ecce super montes*Sonata
Concerto (SSATB)
Aria (SSATB)
Aria (Soprano)
Aria (Bass)
Concerto (SSATB)(2) *Ad ubera portabimin*Sonata
Concerto (SSATB)
Aria (Tenor)
Aria (Alto)
Aria (SSB)
Concerto (SSATB)(3) *Quid sunt plagae istae*Sonata
Concerto (SSATB)
Aria (Soprano)
Aria (Soprano)
Aria (ATB)
Concerto (SSATB)(4) *Surge amica mea*Sonata
Concerto (SSATB)
Aria (Soprano)
Aria (ATB)
Aria (Soprano)
Concerto (SSATB)(5) *Sicut modo geniti infantes*Sonata
Concerto (ATB)
Aria (Alto)
Aria (Tenor)
Aria (Bass)
Concerto (ATB)(6) *Vulnerasti cor meum*Sonata
Concerto (SSB)
Aria (Soprano)
Aria (Soprano)
Aria (Bass)
Concerto (SSB)(7) *Illustra faciem tuam*Sonata
Concerto (SSATB)
Aria (ATB)
Aria (Alto)
Aria (SSATB)
Amen Concerto (SSATB)**Other Examples of the Form of Buxtehude's Cantatas***Ich habe Lust abzuschneiden*, BuxWV 46Sonata
Concerto (SSB)
Aria (Soprano)
Aria (Soprano)
Aria (Bass)
Concerto (SSB)
Sonata*Alles was ihr tut mit Worten*, BuxWV 4Sonata
Concerto (SATB)
Sonata
Aria (SATB) (3 strophes)
Aria (Bass)
Chorale (SATB)
Sonata
Concerto (SATB)

TEXT SOURCES*Ich habe Lust abzuschneiden*

Concerto: Paul's Epistle to the Philippians 1:23

Arias: poem by Michael Walter from a Lied in the Neu-erfundene Geistliche Wasser-Quelle (1658)

Alles, was ihr tut

Concerto: Colossians 3:17

Bass aria: Psalms 37:4

Chorale: two verses from "Aus meines Herzens Grunde" by Georg Niede (c1587)

Membra Jesu Nostri: III: Ad manus "Quid sunt plagae istae"

Concerto: Zacharias 13:6 ("What are these wounds in the midst of thy hands?")

Arias: excerpt from "Salve mundi, salutare" ("Heal, Health of the World"), a medieval passion hymn cycle by the poet Arnulf von Löwen (c. 1200-1250).

RECORDINGSDietrich Buxtehude, "Ich habe Lust abzuschneiden," *Cantatas* (France: Erato, 1988).

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