ABERDEEN BACH CHOIR

Conductor: James Lobban

St. Machar's Cathedral Sunday, 24 April 2005 at 7.45p.m.

Christ lag in Todes Banden BWV4 – J.S. Bach Aus der Tiefe rufe ich, Herr, zu dir BWV131 – J.S. Bach Magnificat - Arvo Pärt Berliner Messe – Arvo Pärt

> Austin Gunn – Tenor Robert Wilson – Bass Aberdeen Sinfonietta: Leader Bryan Dargie

Admission Programme £10 Concessions £7 Children under 12 free

(Admission to Cathedral from 7.15p.m. onwards)







Toilets are located at the back of the Cathedral and in the Gatehouse.

Members of the public are asked to return to their seats when the bell rings at the end of the interval.

The audience should feel free to applaud at the end of each work.

Christ lag in Todes Banden BWV 4 - J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Born on the 21st of March 1685 in Eisenach in Thuringia, Johann Sebastian Bach went to live with his older brother, Johann Christoph, in 1694 after the death of his parents. In 1700 at the age of 15 Johann Sebastian became a member of the choir of St. Michael's Church, Lüneburg, and spent all his time composing, and studying the organ, clavichord and violin. Four years later he was appointed organist at Arnstadt, and then in 1707 moved to Mühlhausen as organist before marrying his cousin Maria Barbara. The following year, 1708 J.S. left Mühlhausen to become court organist to Duke Wilhelm Ernst of Weimar, but it was during his time in Mühlhausen that Johann Sebastian wrote both cantatas BWV 4 and BWV131.

Cantata BWV 4 is the strictest chorale-cantata Bach ever wrote, each one of the seven stanzas of Martin Luther's Easter hymn being a variation of the tune written in 1524. Although originally written in 1707, Bach later revised the work during his time in Leipzig (1724).

The cantata opens with a **Sinfonia** containing fragments of the chorale theme. **Verse 1** uses a descending step-motive from the opening notes of the chorale to suggest Christ's bondage in death, while the final *Halleluja* section in alla breve time uses brilliant syncopated running figures in 3rds to convey the joy of the resurrection.

Verse 2 is a sombre, slow duet over an ostinato bass. The closing *Halleluja* is sad.

Verse 3 Here Bach uses the opening notes of the chorale in a brilliant violin figuration to highlight Christ's victory over sin and death.

Verse 4 depicts the battle between Christ and death. The melody is in the alto part.

Verse 5 A chromatic continuo part, reminiscent of the famous lament in *Dido* and Aeneas by Henry Purcell leads to a section full of word-painting. The concluding Halleluja is at first triumphant, then more urgent and finally majestic.

Verse 6 is in reality a jig. The vocal parts indulge in chains of 3rds supported by an ostinato using a dotted rhythm.

Verse 7 is a simple four-part chorale setting to bring to an end this most powerful and extraordinary work.



Sinfonia

Verse 1 Choir

Christ lag in Todes Banden für unsre Sünd gegeben,
Er ist wieder erstanden und hat uns bracht das Leben;
Des wir sollen fröhlich sein, Gott loben und ihm dankbar sein, und singen Halleluja, Halleluja!

Verse 2 Soprano / Alto

Den Tod niemand zwingen kunnt bei allen Menschenkindern, das macht' alles unsre Sünd, kein Unschuld war zu finden. Davon kam der Tod so bald und nahm über uns Gewalt, hielt uns in seinem Reich gefangen. Halleluja! who for our sin did suffer;
He is again arisen, and life to us doth offer.
Therefore shall we joyful be, praising God right thankfully and singing Alleluia. Alleluial

Christ lay in Death's dark prison

Though all mankind were striving; fouled by our mire of sin, no perfect man was living.

So came Death, that very hour, over to us to wield his power, to hold us in his realm imprisoned. Alleluia!

Verse 3 Tenor

Jesus Christus, Gottes Sohn, an unsre Statt ist kommen und hat die Sünde weggetan, damit dem Tod genommen all sein Recht

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, then in our stead appeareth and thus our sin doth set aside; thereby from Death he teareth all his power and und sein Gewalt, da bleibet nichts denn Tods Gestalt, den Stach'l hat er verloren. Halleluja! his domain; no place is left where Death can reign, his sling away is taken. Alleluial

Verse 4 Choir

Es war ein wunderlicher Krieg da Tod und Leben rungen, Das Leben behielt den Sieg, es hat den Tod verschlungen. Die Schrift hat verkündiget das, wie ein Tod den andern frass, ein Spott

aus dem Tod ist worden. Halleluja!

It was a wondrous fight to see; Death strove with Life for power.
But Life won the victory, and so did Death devour. Scripture hath proclaimed it true that one death is swallowed up in victory. O Grave, where is now thy victory. Alleluia!

Verse 5 Bass

Hie ist das rechte Osterlamm, davon Gott hat geboten, das ist hoch an des Kreuzes Stamm in heisser Lieb gebraten, das Blut zeichnet unser Tür, das hält der Glaub dem Tode für, der Würger kann uns nicht mehr schaden. Halleluia!

Here is the perfect Paschal Lamb, whom God with man hath shared, and high upon the cross of shame in fire of love prepared. His Blood is marked upon our door for Faith to hold Death's face before; the slayer can no more destroy us. Alleluia.

Verse 6 Soprano / Tenor

So feiren wir das hohe Fest mit Herzensfreud und Wonne, das uns der Herr erscheinen lässt, er ist selber die Sonne, der durch seiner Gnaden Glanz erleuchtet unsre Herzen ganz, der Sünden Nacht ist verschwunden. Halleluja!

So feast we on this day most high; to joy all hearts be given, to joy which doth our Lord supply, who is our Sun in heaven. He, through his beams of love and grace, His light within our hearts doth place; the night of sin is departed. Alleluia.

Verse 7 Chorale

Wir essen und leben wohl In rechten Osterfladen, Der alte Sauerteig nicht soll sein bei dem Wort der Gnaden Christus will die Koste sein und speisen die Seel allein, der Glaub will keins andern leben. Halleluja!

We feed in the Heavenly way, true Paschal Bread possessing; in the old leaven never may be found thy Word of Blessing.
Christ shall our refreshment be, and feast our souls eternally; our faith would not else be living. Alleluia!

Aus der Tiefe rufe ich, Herr, zu dir BWV 131 - J.S. Bach

Soon after his arrival at the church of St. Blasius in Mühlhausen in September 1707, Bach made friends with Georg Eilmar, Archdeacon of the city and pastor of the Marienkirche. Aus der Tiefe was written at the request of Eilmar and combines Psalm 130, De profundis, with two verses of a 16th century Lenten hymn Herr Jesu Christ. It is the earliest cantata by Bach to survive, and according to C.S. Terry may have been intended for the commemoration of a fire which destroyed a large part of the city in May/June 1707. Throughout the work Bach interprets the words of Psalm 130 with the utmost skill. In the opening chorus for example the initial Adagio "Aus der Tiefe" is suddenly interrupted by a Vivace section, "Herr, höre meine Stimme" (Lord, hear my supplication), while the word "Flehens" (pleading) is set to long melismas.

Sinfonia and chorus

Aus der Tiefe rufe ich, Herr, zu dir, Herr, höre meine Stimme, lass deine Ohren merken auf die Stimme meines Flehens!

Arioso (bass) and chorale (sopranos)

So du willst, Herr, Sünde zurechnen, Herr, wer wird bestehen?
Denn bei dir ist die vergebung, dass man dich fürchte. Erbarm dich mein in solcher Last, nimm sie aus meinem Herzen, Dieweil du sie gebüsset hast am Holz mit Todesschmerzen, auf dass ich nicht mit grossem Weh in meinen Sünden untergeh, noch ewiglich verzage.

Choir

Ich harre des Herrn, meine Seele harret, und ich hoffe auf sein Wort.

Aria (tenor) and chorale (altos)
Meine Seele wartet auf den Herrn
von einer Morgenwache bis zu der
andern. Und weil ich denn in

Out of the deep have I called unto thee, O Lord; Lord, hear my voice. O let thine ears consider well the voice of my complaint.

If thou Lord, wilt be extreme to mark what is done amiss. O Lord who may abide it? For there is mercy with thee: therefore shalt thou be feared. Compassion on my burden take - my heart there from securing – for which thou didst atonement make, the Cross and death enduring. So may I not in depths of woe and sin to my destruction go, eternally despairing.

I look for the Lord: my soul doth wait for him: in his word is my trust.

My soul fleeth unto the Lord; before the morning watch, I say, before the morning watch. And since I still in my meinem Sinn, wie ich zuvor geklaget, Auch ein betrübter Sünder bin, den sein Gewissen naget, und wollte gern im Blute dein von Sünden abgewaschen sein wie David und Manasse.

esteem, as I before lamented, myself wretched sinner deem, whom conscience hath tormented, I pray that in thy Blood I be now washed from sin's defilement free, like David and Manasseh.

Chorus

Israel, hoffe auf den Herrn; denn bei dem Herrn ist die Gnade unt viel Erlösung bei ihm. Und er wird Israel erlösen aus allen seinen Sünden. O Israel, trust in the Lord, for with the Lord there is mercy: and with him is plenteous redemption.

And he shall redeem Israel from all his sins.

مه مه مه INTERVAL OF FIFTEEN MINUTES مو په مو په

Magnificat - Arvo Pärt (1935 -)

Born on the 11th of September 1935, Pärt graduated from Tallinn Conservatory in 1953. His early compositions were neo-classical in style, and while working as a technician for Estonian Radio (1958-1967), he composed more than 50 film scores and other theatre music. In 1962 he began studying serial composition and continued to work in this way throughout the 1960s despite earning an official rebuke from the Soviet authorities.

For a time Pärt abandoned composition completely and spent time meditating and studying religion. When he did start writing again, around 1976, his music emerged completely changed.

"I have discovered it is enough when a single note is beautifully played," he has said. "This one note, or a moment of silence, comforts me. I work with

very few elements – with one voice, with two voices. I build with primitive materials – with the triad, with one specific tonality. The three notes of a triad are like bells. And that is why I call it 'tintinnabulation.' The result is music of undramatic, uneventful, monk-like simplicity." [The Class fm guide to Classical Music – Jeremy Nicholas.]

In 1980 Pärt emigrated first to Vienna and then to Berlin, and in 1982 completed a setting of the St. John Passion. The **Magnificat** was written in 1989 and is dedicated to Christian Grube and the Domchor Berlin. Throughout much of the movement an initial statement by 2 voices is answered in turn by various groupings in 3 parts.

Luke 1: 46

My soul doth magnify the Lord and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden.

For behold from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.

For he that is mighty hath magnified me and holy is his name.

And his mercy is on them that fear him throughout all generations.

He hath shewed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

He hath put down the mighty from their seat and hath exalted the humble and meek.

He hath filled the hungry with good things and the rich he hath sent empty away.

He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel.

As he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed forever. My soul doth magnify the Lord.

The Berliner Messe was written in 1990 and revised in 1997 and again in 2002.

KYRIE

Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison, Kyrie eleison.

Lord have mercy upon us, Christ have mercy upon us, Lord have mercy upon us.

GLORIA

Gloria in excelsis Deo, et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis.

Laudamus te, benedicimus te, adoramus te, glorificamus te. Gratias agimus tibi propter magnam gloriam tuam. Domine Deus, Rex caelestis, Deus Pater omnipotens, Domine Fili unigenite, Jesu Christe. Domine Deus, Agnus Dei, Filius Patris, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis; qui tollis peccata mundi, Suscipe deprecationem nostram, qui sedes ad dexteram Patris, miserere nobis. Quoniam tu solus Sanctus, tu solus Dominus, tu solus Altissimus, Jesu Christe, cum Sancto Spiritu, in Gloria Dei Patris. Amen.

Glory to God in the highest, and in earth peace and goodwill to all men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we adore Thee, we glorify Thee. We give thanks to Thee for Thy great glory. O Lord God, Heavenly King, God the Father almighty. O Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son. O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father. Thou that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer.

Thou that sittest at the right hand of the Father, have mercy upon us. For Thou only art holy, thou only art the Lord. Thou only, O Jesus Christ, art most high, together with the Holy Ghost, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

FIRST ALLELUIA

Alleluia, alleluia. Emitte Spiritum tuum, et creabuntur, et renovabis faciem terrae. Alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia. Send forth your Holy Spirit: they will multiply, and you will renew the whole face of the earth. Alleluia.

SECOND ALLELUIA

Alleluia, alleluia. Veni, Sancte Spiritus, reple tuorum corda fidelium, et tui amoris in eis ignem accende. Alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia. Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful, and kindle in them the fire of your love. Alleluia.

VENI SANCTE SPIRITUS

Veni, Sancte Spiritus, et emitte caelitus lucis tuae radium. Veni, pater pauperum, veni dator munerum, veni, lumen cordium. Consolator optimae, dulcis hospes animae, dulce refrigerium.

Holy Spirit, Lord of light, from the clear celestial height thy pure beaming radiance give. Come, thou father of the poor, come with treasures which

endure; come thou light of all that live! Thou, of all consolers best, thou, the soul's delightful guest, dost refreshing peace bestow.

In labore requies, in aestu temperies, in fletu solatium. O lux beatissima, reple cordis intima tuorum fidelium. Sine tuo nomine, nihil est in homine, nihil est innoxium. Lava quod est sordidum, riga quod est aridum, sana quod est saucium. Flecte quod est rigidum, fove quod est frigidum, rege quod est devium. Da tuis fidelibus, in te confidentibus, sacrum septenarium. Da virtutis meritum, da salutis exitum, da perenne gaudium. Amen. Alleluia.

Thou in toil art comfort sweet, pleasant coolness in the heat; solace in the midst of woe. Light immortal, light divine, visit thou these hearts of thine, and our inmost being fill. If thou take thy grace away, nothing pure in man will stay; all his good is turned to ill. Heal our wounds, our strength renew; on our dryness pour thy dew, wash the stains of guilt away. Bend the stubborn heart and will, melt the frozen, warm the chill, guide the steps that go astray. Thou, on us who evermore thee confess and thee adore, with thy sevenfold gifts descend. Give us comfort when we die, give us life with thee on high, give us joys that never end. Amen. Alleluia.

CREDO

Credo in unum Deum, Patrem omnipotentem factorem caeli et terrae, visibilium omnium et invisibilium. Et in unum Dominum, Jesum Christum, Filium Dei unigenitum, et ex patre natum ante omnia saecula. Deum de Deo, lumen de lumine, Deum verum de Deo vero, genitum non factum, consubstantialem Patri, per quem omnia facta sunt, qui propter nos homines et propter nostram salutem descendit de coelis.

Et incarnatus est de spiritu sancto ex Maria virgine, et homo factus est. Crucifixus etiam pro nobis sub Pontio Pilato, passus et sepultus est. Et resurrexit tertia die secundum scripturas. Et ascendit in caelum, sedet ad dexteram Patris, et iterum venturus est cum Gloria judicare vivos et mortuos, cujus regni non erit finis. Et in spiritum sanctum, Dominum et vivificantem, qui ex Patre Filioque procedit, qui cum Patre et Filio simul adoratur et conglorificatur, qui locutus est per prophetas. Et unam sanctam catholicam et apostolicam Ecclesiam. Confiteor unum baptisma in remissionem peccatorum, et exspecto resurrectionem mortuorum et vitam venturi saeculi. Amen.

I believe in one God. The Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God of God,

Light of Light, very God of very God. Begotten not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made. Who for us men, and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was made incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, and was made man. He was crucified also for us, suffered under Pontius Pilate, and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of the father. And he shall come again to judge both the quick and the dead, whose Kingdom shall have no end. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and giver of life. Who proceedeth from the Father and the Son. Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, who spoke by the Prophets. I believe in one Catholic and Apostolic church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins. And I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

SANCTUS

Sanctus, sanctus, Dominus Deus Sabaoth. Pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria tua. Hosanna in excelsis.

Holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth. Heaven and earth are full of thy glory. Hosanna in the highest.

BENEDICTUS

Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini. Hosanna in excelsis.

Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

AGNUS DEI

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona nobis pacem.

Lamb of God who takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. Lamb of God who takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. Lamb of God who takest away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

Austin Gunn (Tenor) is currently studying at the Alexander Gibson Opera School, Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama. Recent operatic performances include Nemorino (L'elisir d'amore), Bardolfo (Falstaff), Pang (Turandot), Pedrillo (Die Entführung aus dem Serail), Don Ottavio (Don Giovanni), Fairfax (the Yeoman of the Guard), Walter Raleigh (Merrie England), Family Member (Seven Deadly Sins).

In oratorio and recital performances Austin has performed as soloist in most of the best loved repertoire, and rarer early, contemporary and romantic music, in venues throughout the U.K. including St. Paul's Cathedral, Covent Garden, Birmingham Symphony Hall, Saddlers Wells, Kensington Palace and King's College, Cambridge with conductors including Sir David Wilcocks, Andre Martin, Neville Creed, Peter Schreier, Hilary Davan Wetton, Bob Chilcott and Paul Spicer.

Recording and film credits to date include an album of experimental music for the University of Westminster, 'Nessun Dorma' on Tyne Tees Television and as the singing voice of a German soldier in the American television series 'Band of Brothers' directed by Steven Spielberg and Tom Hanks.

Robert Wilson (Bass) joined Aberdeen Bach Choir in 1995. Prior to moving to Aberdeen in 1971, he was a choral scholar at The Queen's College, Oxford and a member of Guildford Cathedral Choir.

In the event of an emergency, the audience is asked to remain seated until given instructions by the stewards.

ABERDEEN BACH CHOIR - MEMBERS

SOPRANOS:

Ruth Babington; Lisa Blacklaw; Sarah Craggs; Gillian Dickie;
Anne Farquhar; Judy Fraser; Johanna Gatz; Kate Graham; Muriel Harle;
Kathleen Haw; Anne Henderson; Lorna Herbert; Pamela Hoy;
Christine Irving; Jane Jones; Fiona Knox; Kate Love; Margaret Macaulay;
Kate Mason; Sandra Massey; Barbara Milne; Jeanette Morgan; Jan Ord;
Gosia Peplinska; Alison Purvis; Elma Reid; June Rhind; Lesley Robertson;
Alice Ronsberg; Ulrike Sauer-Stammeijer; Pamela Shand; Angela Slater;
Dawn Smith; Mari Sterten; Tilly Thomas; Miek Van der Velde; Grace Wallace;
Anne Woodward; Lynda Wyer.

ALTOS:

Debbie Barber; Tasha Beckly; Frances Bole; Libby Brand; Maggie Brooks; Margot Buchan; Val Casely; Kathleen Christie; Barbara Crane; Pat Cruickshank; Brenda Davy; Cathy Dover; Anke Fischer; Liz Foubister; Ros Grant; Jean Henderson; Emma Hills; Susan Jones; Judy Junker; Jo Kitching; Kristina Lauche; Brigid Lefevre; Isobel Malcolm; Lesley MacNay; Frances Milne; Marta Moody; Lesley Mowat; Adele Perry; Margaret Rayner; Lynne Soulsby; Margaret Spence; Jean Still; Anne Wilcox.

TENORS:

David Coleman; Stuart Donald; Ian Downie; Tony Grubb; Bruce Irvine; David Kitching; Chris Leigh; Jim McHattie; Drummond McNicol; Sandy Simpson; Mike Thomas; Michael Thomson; Fraser Westwood; Bruce Wyer.

BASSES:

Tom Batey; Gordon Bellemer; Andrew Bole; Ben Davies; James Friend; Tom Hall; John Harle; Roger Hessing; Jason Hobbs; John Hutcheson; Jim Kiddie; George Lawrence; Peter Michie; Bill Noble; Chris Osman; Alan Scott; Dr. Duncan Shaw; Peter Smail; Herman van Hoorst Vader; Bert Wallace; David Way; Robert Wilson.

Rehearsal Pianist: Harry Williamson.

ABERDEEN SINFONIETTA

Violins: Bryan Dargie (leader)

Teresa Boag Agnes Bradley Midge Fowlie Ruth Kalitski Rachel Mackison

Sue Muir Shelagh Reid

Nathalie Vanballenberghe

Dirk Van Loon

Michaela Wiedermann

Violas: Julian Marx

Mary Anne Alburger

Isabella Pillath Sandra Thomson

'cellos: Gareth John

Hilary Cromar Mary Dargie Hilary McCosh

Double Basses: Peter Wiltshire

Ray Leonard

Oboe: Ann Lillya

Bassoon: Kate Masson

Organ: Roger Williams

ABERDEEN BACH CHOIR

Founded as the Aberdeen Bach Society by Charles Sanford Terry in 1913 and reconstituted as Aberdeen Bach Choir in 1956. The choir usually performs two main recitals a year, at least one of which normally features a work by J.S. Bach. The repertoire of the choir is comprehensive and varied and past recitals have included works such as:

Missa 'Bell'Amfitrit'Altera', Psalm: Domine Exaudi - Lassus

Vespro Della Beata Vergine, 1610, Christmas Vespers - Monteverdi Nimm von uns. Herr du treuer Gott: Jesu, meines Lebens Leben: Der Herr ist mit mir - Buxtehude Beatus Vir - Vivaldi St. Matthew Passion, Mass in B Minor, Christmas Oratorio, Easter Oratorio - Bach "Paukenmesse", "Maria Theresa" Mass -Haydn Mass in D Major "Missa Sanctae Theresiae" - Michael Haydn "Great" Mass in C Minor, Requiem - Mozart Missa Choralis - Liszt Requiem - Cornelius Mass in F Minor, Motets - Bruckner Symphony of Psalms - Stravinsky Messe du jubile - Daniel-Lesur The Twelve - Walton Messe Solennelle - Langlais Hymn to St. Cecilia, St. Nicolas -Britten Chichester Psalms - Bernstein Benedictus - Howard Blake Russian Requiem - Pehkonen Te Deum - Arvo Pärt Gloria, Requiem - John Rutter Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis, The Lamb - John Tavener The Chronicle of Saint Machar - John McLeod (commissioned by the choir)

The Aberdeen Bach Choir is always keen to recruit new members. Anyone interested in joining the ranks of the choir should contact the secretary: Sandra Massey, 1 Caroline Place, Aberdeen. AB25 2TH Telephone: 01224 630536

Aberdeen Bach Choir Website: www.aberdeenbachchoir.org.uk

Rehearsals are on Tuesday evenings, from 7.30p.m. until 9.30p.m. in the hall of St. Margaret's School, 17 Albyn Place, Aberdeen.

ABERDEEN BACH CHOIR

Conductor: James Lobban

50th Anniversary Season 2005-2006

St. Machar's Cathedral Sunday 4 December, 2005 at 7.45p.m.

Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme – J.S. Bach Missa Trinitatis – Johann Michael Haydn

Sopranos: Nicola Jane Kemp; Margaret Macaulay
Alto: Clare McCaldin
Tenor: Mark Wilde
Bass: Neil Baker

Aberdeen Sinfonietta: Leader - Bryan Dargie

This event has been made possible in part by support from:





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