

Learning Bank



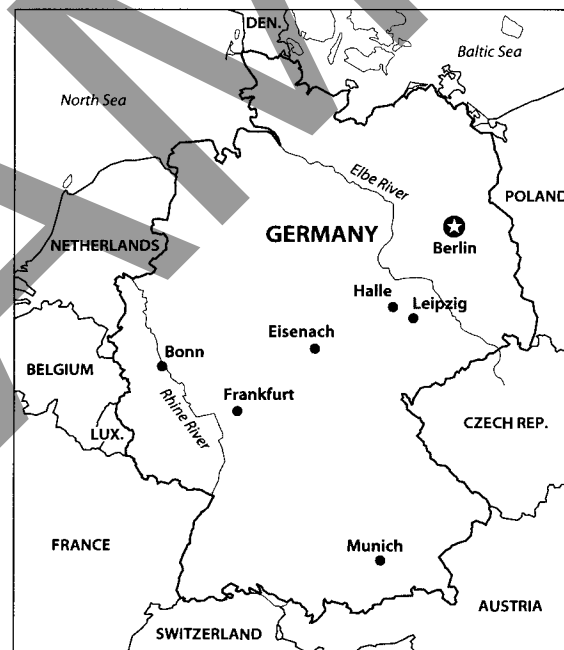
Johann Sebastian Bach was a member of a very famous family of musicians. From the 1500s to the early 1800s, this German family produced a vast number of musicians from fiddlers and town musicians to cantors, music directors, and composers. The greatest among them was Johann Sebastian.

Born in 1685 in the town of Eisenach, he spent most of his life in the nearby city of Leipzig. As a youngster, he learned the violin, harpsichord, organ, and studied composition. His first musical instruction came from his father, and when his father died, he went to live and study with his elder brother, Johann Christoph, an organist. While in school, his non-music studies included Latin, math, history, geography, heraldry, and German poetry.

As an adult, Bach spent his entire career working for the churches of Europe and royalty, as a teacher, cantor, master organist, director, and composer. He wrote vocal and instrumental music for many purposes, including keyboard exercises, chamber music, and pieces such as cantatas for weekly church services. During his lifetime, Bach wrote over 1,000 pieces and over 300 of them were cantatas. Most of his works were sacred and/or keyboard music, from large-scale oratorios (dramatic sacred vocal works) to preludes and fugues. In the realm of string solo and chamber music, he became highly regarded for his six Brandenburg Concerti, violin sonatas, and six suites for unaccompanied cello.

Bach remained active for the majority of his final years. About one year before his death, however, the severity of his cataracts caused him to become completely blind. His work output fluctuated, but on July 28, 1750 he died after suffering a stroke.

Johann Sebastian Bach is not only considered the greatest composer of the Baroque Period of music, but perhaps one of the most productive musical geniuses of Western music.



A map of Germany as it looks today.

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NOTE: This Learning Bank is provided on all student parts.

10

9 11 12

Vlns. 1 (mf) 2 (f)

Vla. (mf)

Cello (mf)

Str. Bass (mf)

Str. Bass (Alt.) (mf)

Keybd. (mf)

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for measures 9 through 12. It features six staves: Violins 1 and 2, Viola, Cello, String Bass, and Keyboard. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. Measure 9 is marked with a box containing the number 10. Measures 11 and 12 are marked with measure numbers 11 and 12 respectively. Dynamics include *mf* and *f*. There are various articulations such as accents and slurs. A large watermark is visible across the page.

13 14 15 16

Vlns. 1 (f) 2 (f)

Vla. (f)

Cello (f)

Str. Bass (f)

Str. Bass (Alt.) (f)

Keybd. (f)

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for measures 13 through 16. It features the same six staves as the previous block. Measure 13 is marked with a box containing the number 13. Measures 14, 15, and 16 are marked with measure numbers 14, 15, and 16 respectively. Dynamics include *f*. There are various articulations such as accents and slurs. A first ending bracket is present at the end of measure 16. A large watermark is visible across the page.

17 2. 18 19

1 Vlns. 2 Vlns. Vla. Cello Str. Bass Str. Bass (Alt.) Keybd.

20 21 22 rit. rit.

1 Vlns. 2 Vlns. Vla. Cello Str. Bass Str. Bass (Alt.) Keybd.

SAMPLE

SAMPLE

KFS