

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Johann Sebastian Bach, a German composer, had numerous relatives who were musicians: over a span of seven generations, 193 of 200 were musicians. Bach's parents died when he was 10 years old, so his eldest brother, Johann Christoph, raised him. His brother died when Johann Sebastian was 15. Following that, he lived at the St. Michael School where he studied music and was a choirboy. At 19, Bach obtained a position as organist at a church in Arnstadt. Throughout his life he held positions at various churches and in royal courts; for almost 30 years he was director of music at the St. Thomas School in Leipzig. From two marriages Bach had twenty children, several of whom became well-known musicians. On his second wife's 25th birthday, he gave her (Anna Magdalena) a notebook containing pieces for members of the family to play. His best-known easier clavier pieces come from this notebook. Bach's complete works fill 46 large volumes containing choral music, concertos, orchestral and chamber works, and organ and clavier music.

Minuet in G Major

from *Notebook for Anna Magdalena Bach*

J.S. Bach

Allegretto

mf

5

5 1

5

1 2 1

5 1

5 1

4 1 2 1

1 3 2 1 2