

# Johann Sebastian Bach

(YO-hahn suh-BAST-yun BOCK)

1685 – 1750



- Bach was one of the most important composers of the Baroque era.
- He was very disciplined as a student and composer.
- When he was a teenager, he was forbidden by his teacher (his brother) to use a book of music. Bach spent six months secretly copying all of the music by moonlight. He ruined his eyesight doing this.
- He also traveled thirty miles one way, by foot, to hear the great organist Dietrich Buxtehude perform.
- Bach lived at a time when musicians had to have a patron in order to earn money. This was someone who paid them to compose and perform, but who told them what to compose and when to perform.
- His great talents as a composer are still recognized today and his music is often performed.
- Over the course of his life Bach composed 224 cantatas, 15 motets, 24 masses, 199 chorales, 96 songs and arias, 330 organ works, 222 keyboard works, 6 pieces for solo lute, 40 chamber pieces, 30 orchestral works, and 6 canons. That's almost 1200 pieces of music!



Listen to Toccata and Fugue in D minor

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