

The

MAGNIFICENT

7

Great Composers in Song

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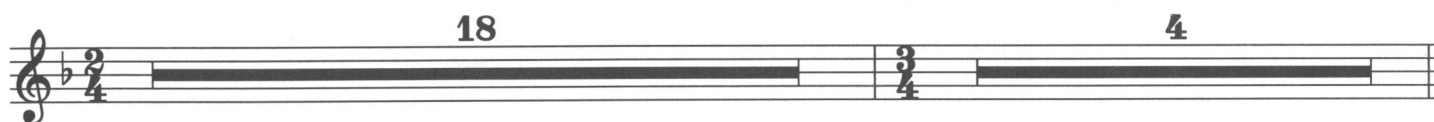
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1. OPENING FANFARE



Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

If you wanted to trace the Bach family back through five generations, you would find that nearly everyone in the family was a musician. JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH was born on March 21, 1685, in Eisenach, Germany. He was the youngest of three sons born to Johann and Elizabeth. His mother died when he was only nine and a year later, as he was beginning to study the violin, his father passed away. So by the age of ten JOHANN SEBASTIAN was an orphan.

He was sent to live with his older brother, Johann Cristoph. Since money was tight, JOHANN SEBASTIAN was placed into a choir school where his tuition, room and board were paid and he could receive free musical training. He learned a lot about music there. When his voice changed and he could no longer sing in the Boys' Choir, he became the organist at the school.

From the very beginning BACH loved music. It is said that he once walked over two hundred miles to hear the famous organist Dietrich Buxtehude play a concert.

He worked in several churches throughout his life, writing music for his choirs and for the organ, sometimes a new piece every week. Many of the churches who hired him did not appreciate his talent. One church official said, "We can't use genius. What we need is someone to play the church music in a respectable and conventional manner."

In general, BACH was a happy person and great teacher. He was married twice and was a loving and playful father to his twenty children; many of them also became professional musicians.

BACH is one of the most important and productive musicians and composers who ever lived. In addition to hundreds of musical works, he is remembered for developing the Tempered Scale which we use when we tune keyboards today. Some of his most famous compositions include *Preludes and Fugues of the Well-Tempered Clavichord*, *Air for the G String*, *Tocatta and Fugue in C minor*, *Mass in B minor*, and *The Brandenburg Concertos*.

Blind and in failing health, BACH died on July 28, 1750, of a stroke. The town newspaper carried only a brief notice of his death. His huge family was left without any inheritance and had to be supported by public charity. Sadly, his music lay unwanted in church cupboards where some of it was used to wrap sandwiches for students' picnic lunches. It was many years before the world realized what it had lost.

3. ONE OF TWELVE WHEN HE WAS BORN

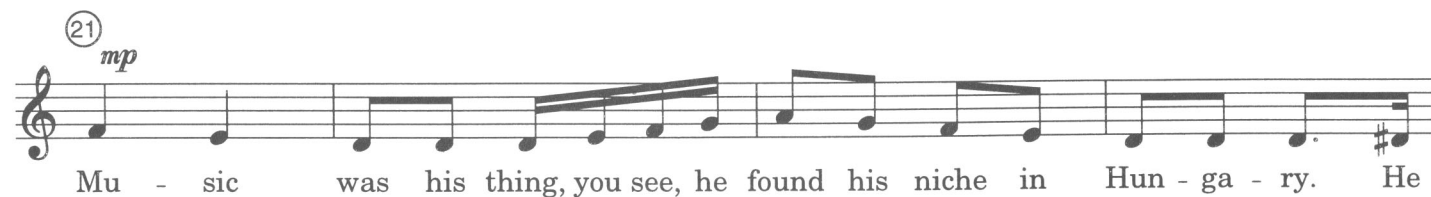
("Surprise Symphony")

FRANZ JOSEPH HAYDN

Moderately fast, with marked rhythm (♩ = ca. 72)



1. One of twelve when he was born; you would think he'd be for - lorn.
2. Folks who knew him in his day called him "Pa - pa," so they say.



D. C. (to beginning)
(2nd time, Fine)

