

Prelude in C Major

From "The Well-Tempered Clavier," Vol. 1

Moderato M. M. ♩ = 66 - 76

Johann Sebastian Bach

1 3 5 *simile*

4

1 3 5 *più f* *p*

7

1 3 5 *più f* *p*

10

1 2 5 12 4 12 4 13 5

14

1 2 5 1 3 5 ^a 1 2 5

This is one of J. S. Bach's most famous compositions. It is the first prelude in his WELL-TEMPERED CLAVIER, Volume I. This book contains 24 preludes and fugues, one in each major and minor key, and helped to firmly establish the modern system of tempered tuning of keyboard instruments.

(a) Measures 16 through 20 (inclusive) are omitted from the original manuscript but appear in the Well-Tempered Clavier.



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Cover art: Landscape with Roman ruins, 1740
by Giovanni Antonio Canaletto (1697–1768)
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17

Musical notation for measures 17-19. The right hand plays a continuous eighth-note pattern. The left hand plays a bass line with dotted rhythms. Fingerings are indicated as 1 2 5 and 1 3 5.

20

Musical notation for measures 20-22. The right hand continues the eighth-note pattern. The left hand has a bass line with a *crescendo* marking. A circled 'b' is in the top right corner. Fingerings are indicated as 2 3 5, 1 3 5, and 1 2 4.

23

Musical notation for measures 23-25. The right hand continues the eighth-note pattern. The left hand has a bass line with *poco a poco* markings. Fingerings are indicated as 1, 1 2 4, and 1 3 5.