

J. S. BACH

OVERTURE IN FRENCH STYLE BWV 831
FOR THE KEYBOARD

EDITED BY HANS BISCHOFF



AN ALFRED MASTERWORK EDITION



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Cover art: Vanitas Still Life (1662)
By Edwaert Collier (Dutch, ca. 1642–1708)
Oil on canvas

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Overture in French Style

(Partita in B minor)

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)
BWV 831

Grave (♩ = 69)

ff *grandioso*

NB. 1

a)

1-5

3

1

1

1 (b) (b)

4

1 3

3

3

NB. 2

mf

5

2

1

5

2

4

2

7

b)

5 4

2

2

cresc.

f

1

4

5

10

5

1

cresc.

4

1 3

1

3

4-5

2

4

1) Most of the 32nd notes in the opening and concluding sections of the Overture appear in *C* as sixteenths, e.g.,  appears as . A few scattered sixteenths appear as eighth notes. The *A* and *B* printings contain a more sharply pointed rhythm than the *C* manuscript.

2)  in *C*.

NB. 1 The grace notes in the introduction are generally to be played quickly. However, those indicated with the letter *a*) are to be played as quarter notes, the ones indicated with a *b*) as eighth notes (i.e., the grace note and the resolution forming a group of two eighth notes).

NB. 2 The oblique line probably indicates an arpeggio without an acciaccatura.

COURANTE 1)

Allegro (♩ = 160)

mf

f

p

mp

4

7

10

13

1) The Courante, Gavottes and Passepiés appear in the new printing of *B*; this is no more accurate than *A*.
C contains the Courante without any variants, but it does present a clear text.

2) Distortions in *A* and *B*.

SARABANDE

Andante con espressione (♩ = 72)

The musical score is for a Sarabande in D major, 3/4 time, with a tempo of Andante con espressione (♩ = 72). The piece is written for piano and consists of five systems of music, each with a measure number in a box at the beginning.

System 1 (Measures 1-4): The piece begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic and a *molto legato* instruction. The right hand features a series of eighth and sixteenth notes, while the left hand plays a steady eighth-note accompaniment. Fingering numbers (1-5) are indicated above and below the notes.

System 2 (Measures 5-8): The music continues with a crescendo (*cresc.*) leading to a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The right hand has a melodic line with some grace notes, and the left hand continues its accompaniment. Fingering is shown throughout.

System 3 (Measures 9-13): This system includes a repeat sign. The first ending (marked 1.) leads back to an earlier section, while the second ending (marked 2.) concludes the phrase. The dynamic is piano (*p*). Fingering is indicated.

System 4 (Measures 14-17): The music becomes more active with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The right hand has a more complex melodic line with grace notes, and the left hand features a more varied accompaniment. Fingering is shown.

System 5 (Measures 18-21): The piece concludes with a decrescendo (*dim.*). The right hand has a final melodic flourish, and the left hand provides a concluding accompaniment. Fingering is indicated.