

Prelude and Fugue in C *from the Well-Tempered Clavier BWV 846*

Johann Sebastian Bach

Arranged by James Pybus

The Well-Tempered Clavier, Book 1 by J.S. Bach written in 1722, dates from the six year period (1717-1723) when Bach was Capellmeister to Prince Leopold of Anhalt-Cöthen. The following inscription appears on the title page in Bach's own hand:

The Well-Tempered Clavier or Preludes and Fugues through all the tones and semitones including those with a major third or Ut Re Mi as well as those with a minor third or Re Mi Fa. For the profit and use of musical youth desirous of learning and especially for the pastime of those already skilled in this study composed and prepared by Johann Sebastian Bach, at present Capellmeister to His Serene Highness the Prince of Anhalt-Cöthen and director of His Chamber Music. Anno 1722.

The Prelude No. 1 in C major is probably the most familiar of the 48 preludes Bach wrote for this set, due in large part to Gounod's *Ave Maria*, which he wrote by adding a beautiful melodic line above Bach's broken arpeggios. This adaption for saxophone quartet is a simple study in line, and as such should be played with an even, well-balanced sound from all four voices. Work for a very smooth legato, a steady pulse and an awareness of the harmonic intensity as the piece progresses. The Fugue in C major should be played with affirmation and conviction. Bach made use of the device of *stretto* (introducing the subject in another voice before the last entrance is finished) to great effect. This is a very technically demanding arrangement to be sure, but ultimately well worth the effort required for a satisfying performance. There are many fine recordings available of *The Well-Tempered Clavier*. It is suggested that the performers avail themselves of Canadian pianist Angela Hewitt's interpretation on the Hyperion label.

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DIFFICULTY RATING: Medium-Difficult
Saxophone Quartet (SATB)

PRELUDE AND FUGUE IN C
from The Well-Tempered Clavier BWV 846

J.S. Bach
(1685-1750)
Arranged by James Pybus

PRELUDE
Andante ♩ = 60

Score for Soprano Saxophone, Alto Saxophone, Tenor Saxophone, and Baritone Saxophone. The score is divided into measures 1 through 15. The key signature is C major (one sharp, F#). The tempo is Andante (♩ = 60). The dynamics range from *mf* (mezzo-forte) to *f* (forte).

Measures 1-3: Soprano Saxophone (B♭) and Tenor Saxophone (B♭) play a melody. Alto Saxophone (E♭) and Baritone Saxophone (E♭) play a bass line. Measure 1 starts with a *mf* dynamic. Measure 2 has a *mf* dynamic. Measure 3 has a *mf* dynamic.

Measures 4-7: Soprano Saxophone (B♭) and Tenor Saxophone (B♭) play a melody. Alto Saxophone (E♭) and Baritone Saxophone (E♭) play a bass line. Measure 4 starts with a *mf* dynamic. Measure 5 has a *mf* dynamic. Measure 6 has a *mf* dynamic. Measure 7 has a *mf* dynamic.

Measures 8-11: Soprano Saxophone (B♭) and Tenor Saxophone (B♭) play a melody. Alto Saxophone (E♭) and Baritone Saxophone (E♭) play a bass line. Measure 8 starts with a *mf* dynamic. Measure 9 has a *mf* dynamic. Measure 10 has a *mf* dynamic. Measure 11 has a *mf* dynamic.

Measures 12-15: Soprano Saxophone (B♭) and Tenor Saxophone (B♭) play a melody. Alto Saxophone (E♭) and Baritone Saxophone (E♭) play a bass line. Measure 12 starts with a *f* dynamic. Measure 13 has a *f* dynamic. Measure 14 has a *f* dynamic. Measure 15 has a *f* dynamic.

16 17 18 19

Sop

Alto

Ten

Bari

mp

p

20 21 22 23

Sop

Alto

Ten

Bari

mp

cresc. poco a poco

cresc. poco a poco

cresc. poco a poco

24 25 26 27

Sop

Alto

Ten

Bari

28 29 30 31

Sop

Alto

Ten

Bari

f

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32 33 34 35 *poco rall.*

Sop

Alto

Ten

Bari

f

f

f

f

FUGUE

36 Poco andante $\text{♩} = 60$ 37 38 39

Sop

Alto

Ten

Bari

mf

mf

mf

mf

40 41 42 43

Sop

Alto

Ten

Bari

mf

44 45 46 47

Sop

Alto

Ten

Bari

mf

mf

mf

mf

48 *tr* 49 50 51

Sop *f* *p* *cresc. poco a poco*

Alto *f* *p* *cresc. poco a poco*

Ten *f* *p* *cresc. poco a poco*

Bari *f* *p* *cresc. poco a poco*

52 53 54 *tr* 55

Sop

Alto

Ten

Bari

56 57 58 *tr* 59

Sop *ff* *mf*

Alto *ff* *mf*

Ten *ff* *mf*

Bari *ff* *mf*

60 61 *rall.*

Sop *p*

Alto *p*

Ten *p*

Bari *p*

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