

Bach to School

"Bach in Time"



Presented by the
WASHINGTON BACH CONSORT

ANDREW COHEN

FROM THE FOUNDER

Even though the music of Bach was written 300 years ago, it is as fresh and fun to listen to now as ever.

It might surprise you that there are many more people who listen to Bach's music today than there were in Bach's time!

All of us at the Washington Bach Consort hope that you enjoy the performance of "Bach in Time" and that the music of Bach will be a part of the music that you listen to all during your lives.

J. Reilly Lewis
Washington Bach Consort
Founder



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If you are interested in supporting Bach to School by making a gift directly to the program, please contact the Washington Bach Consort, 202.429.2121, www.bachconsort.org or info@bachconsort.org

"BACH TO SCHOOL"

In far off outer space, an unmanned satellite sails among distant stars.

At least, they SAY that it's unmanned...

But, if we listen... there's music!



And, if we look in the window ... we see a person!



Who is he? Well, let's ask him!

Eh?

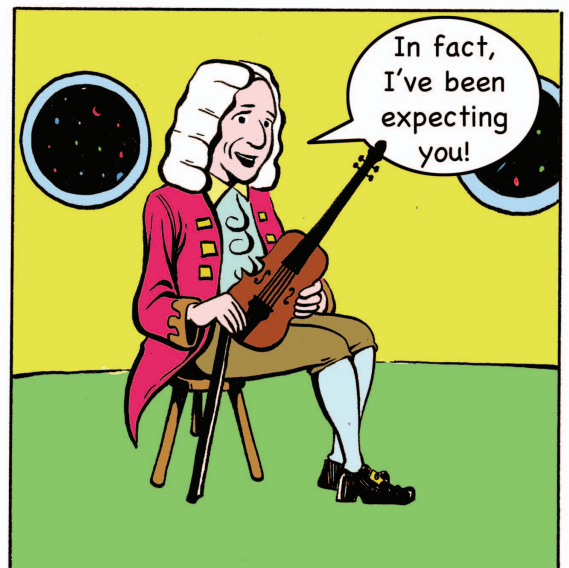


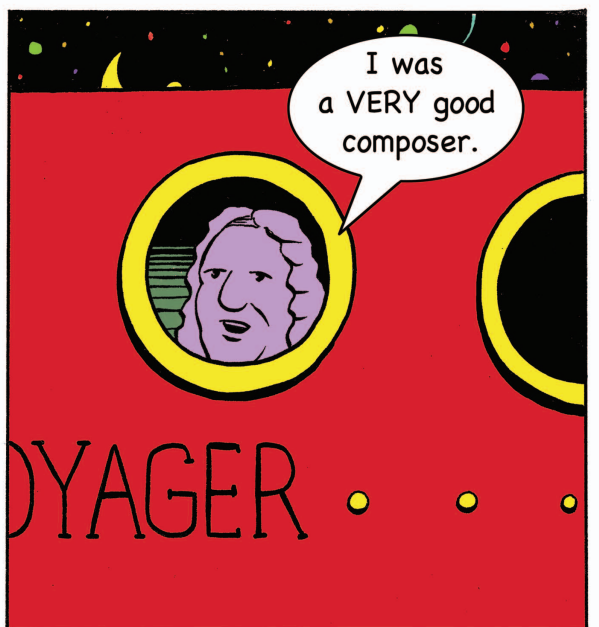
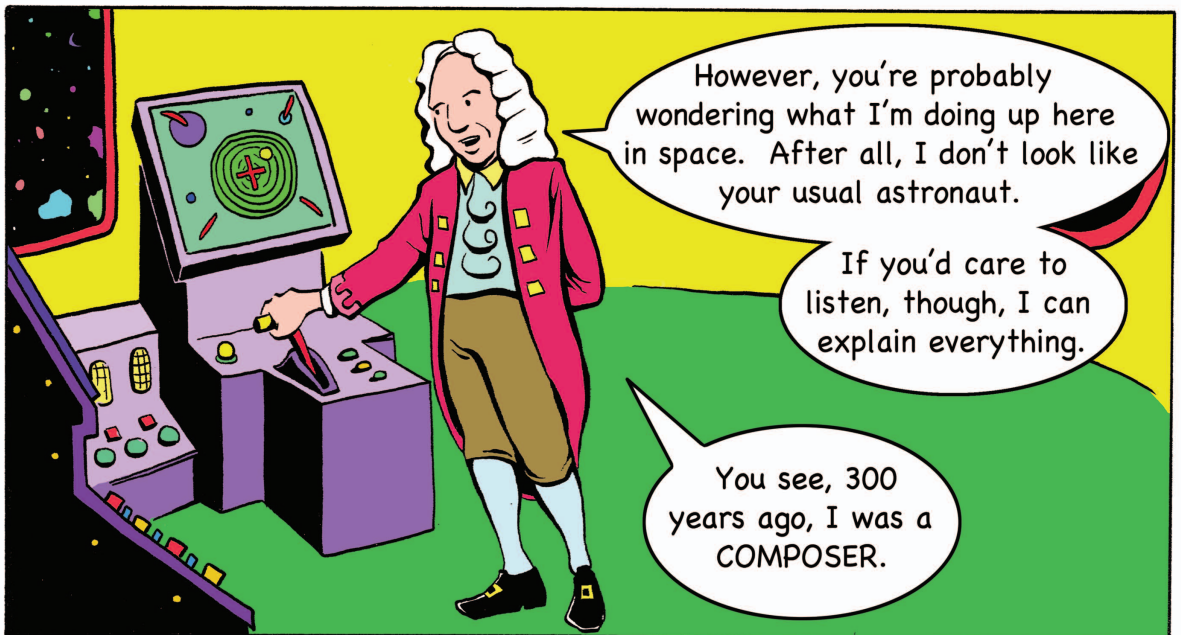
Oh! It's you!

Do come in, will you?



In fact, I've been expecting you!





I was born in 1685, in a German town called Eisenach



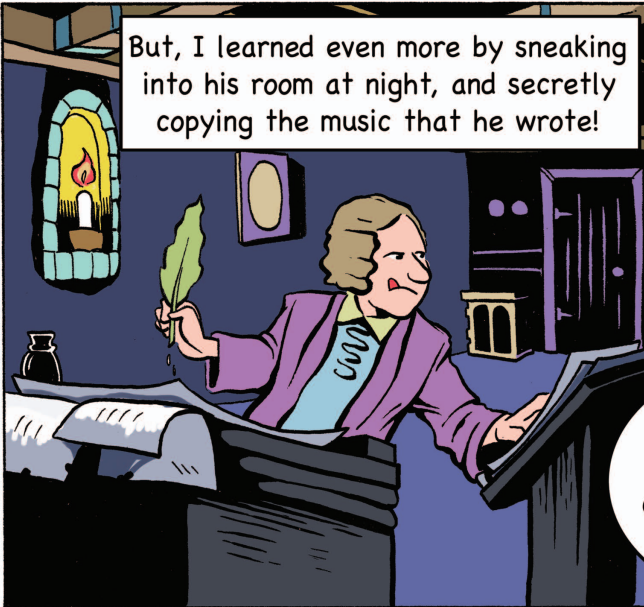
It was a very cheery house, and a very fine place to live.



Sadly, though, my parents died when I was 10, and I went to live with my older brother, Christian.

Christian was a musician, too - and quite good! He taught me a lot about music.

But, I learned even more by sneaking into his room at night, and secretly copying the music that he wrote!

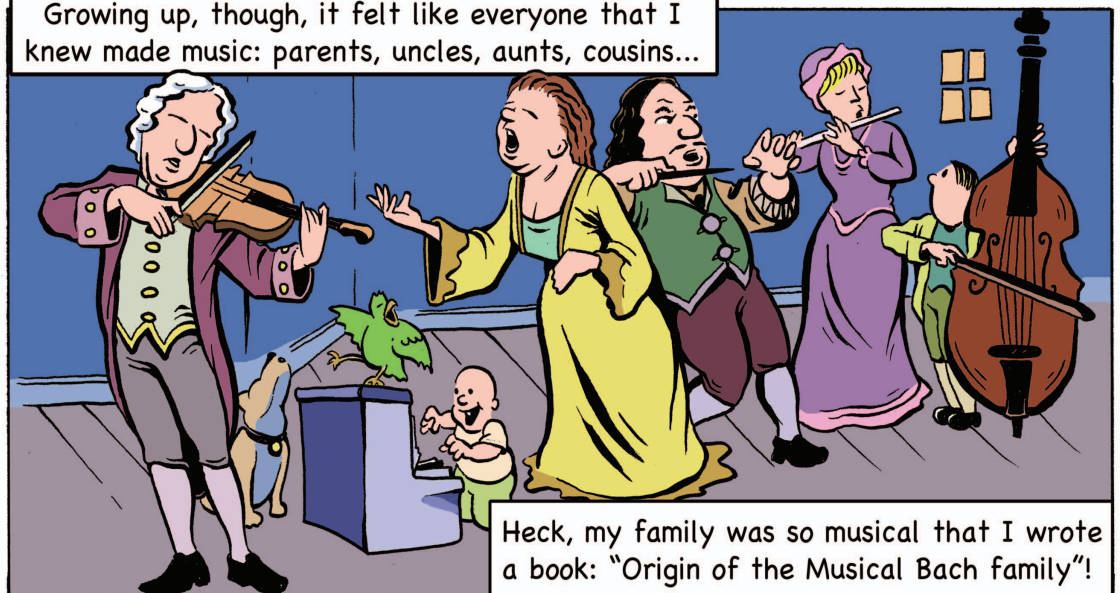


I had to be really, really careful about doing this, though ...

After all, you know what big brothers can do when they find you with their stuff!



Growing up, though, it felt like everyone that I knew made music: parents, uncles, aunts, cousins...



Heck, my family was so musical that I wrote a book: "Origin of the Musical Bach family!"



Back then, I spared nothing for music.

Once, I walked hundreds of miles to hear my most favorite musician.



I didn't even have enough money to get a room at an inn!



You can sleep out here, if you want.

I was quite cold.

And very uncomfortable.

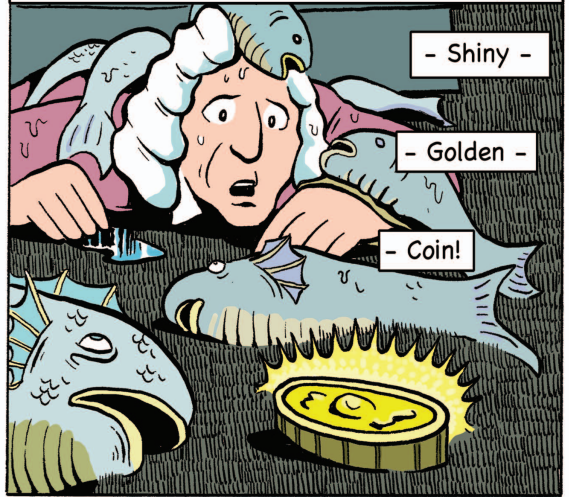


And that was BEFORE the bucket of dead fish!



Dead and SMELLY fish, I might add!

But then, what ALSO fell on me, with all of those dead fish? Why, a bright-



- Shiny -

- Golden -

- Coin!

Yes, it was a gold coin! Just enough money to rent a room for the night and to get some dinner!



And a hot bath, too!

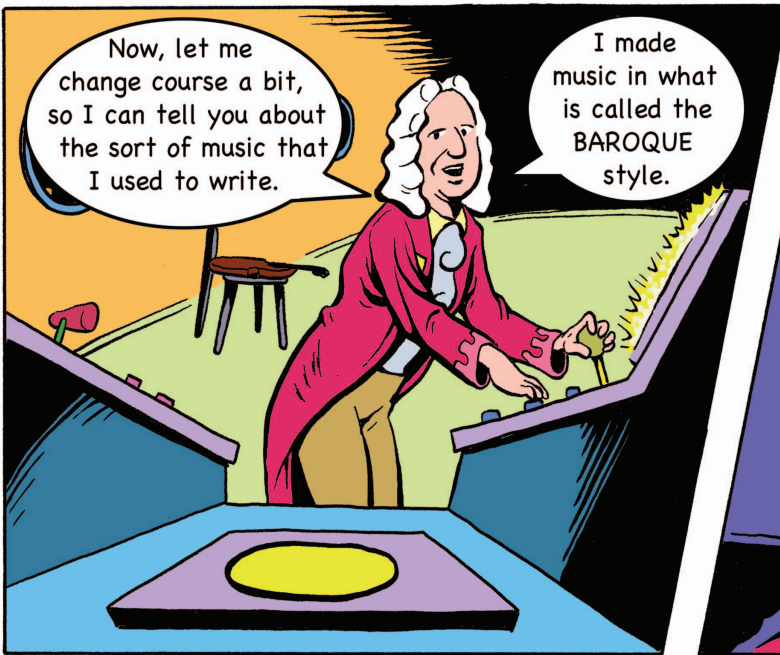


It was an adventure, for sure, but the music made it all worthwhile! I liked it so much that I even extended my trip for several weeks, just to hear more!

I walked miles and miles to hear the music that I loved.

Tell me, what do YOU love, and how far would YOU go to experience it?





Now, let me change course a bit, so I can tell you about the sort of music that I used to write.

I made music in what is called the **BAROQUE** style.



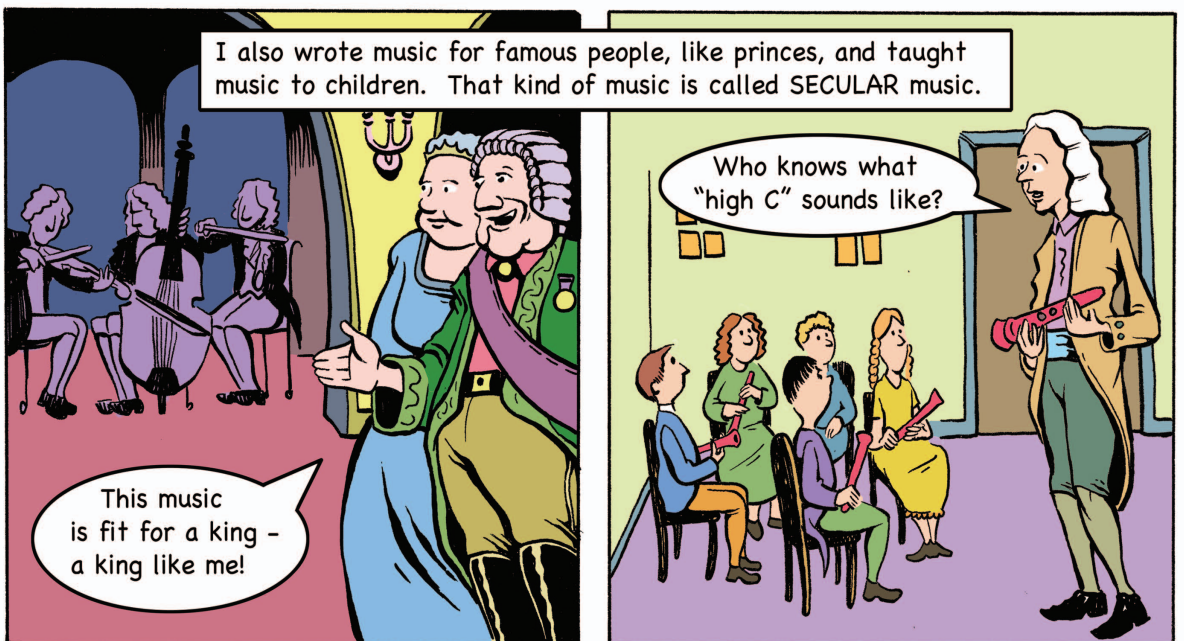
"Baroque" sounds like "broke," but it means that my music was very decorated and fancy... a bit like a Christmas tree!



I wrote some music for the church, called **SACRED** music.

Sacred music often uses the **ORGAN**, an instrument that can weigh **THOUSANDS** of pounds!

I call this organ the "Big Squeaker."



I also wrote music for famous people, like princes, and taught music to children. That kind of music is called **SECULAR** music.

This music is fit for a king - a king like me!

Who knows what "high C" sounds like?



I wrote music for many different instruments, too...



The CELLO makes a deep sound when you rub its strings with a bow made of wood and horsehair



The sound from an ORGAN comes when air blows through its pipes.

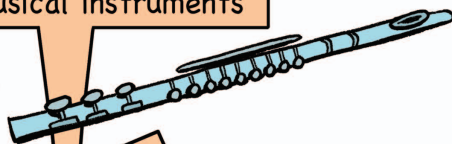


Some pipes can be as thin as a finger. Others can be larger than a person!

An OBOE makes a mellow sound with a vibrating reed



Here's the FLUTE - the earliest of all musical instruments



The VIOLIN is like a small cello. It has a higher pitched sound, or "voice."



These instruments look alike, but, in a HARPSICHORD, the strings are plucked.



In a PIANO, the strings are hit with a hammer!



When many instruments play together, we call it an **ORCHESTRA**. A group of singers - like these - is a **CHORUS**.



On the other hand, when a singer or musician is all by herself, we call it a **SOLO**.



There are lots of other things a musician can play with. **PITCH**, for instance, is how high or low the music sounds.



The lowest pitch is the **BASS** singer.



Next lowest is the **TENOR**



Next highest is the **ALTO**

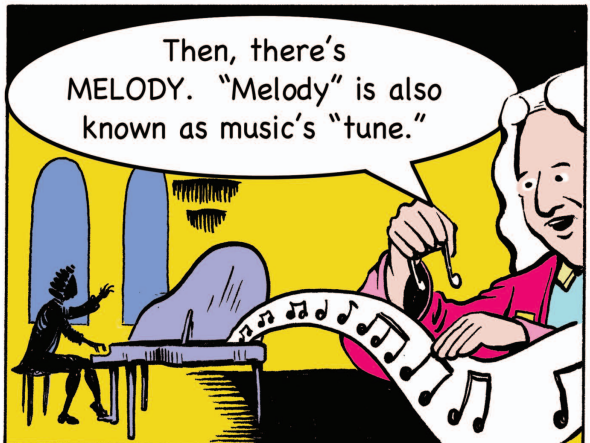


The highest pitch is the **SOPRANO**

METER gives music its "beat" - that's the thing that you can dance to!



Then, there's **MELODY**. "Melody" is also known as music's "tune."



DYNAMICS means volume.



When you play two notes at the same time, you play in **HARMONY**. It helps make music more interesting and enjoyable.



But of all techniques, COUNTERPOINT is my favorite!

Imagine, if you will...

... a FLUTIST

... and a VIOLINIST.



But wait!



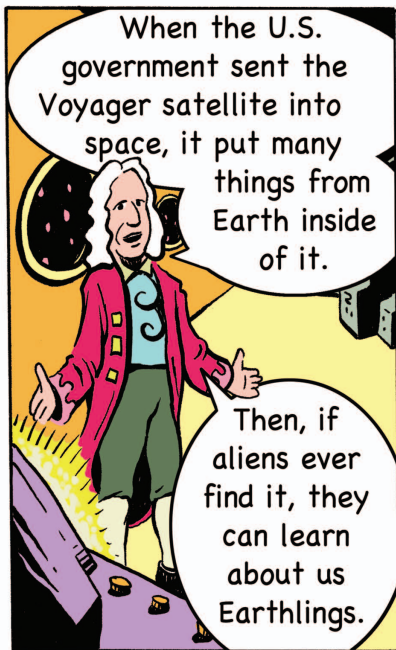
See how the music from the two instruments interacts?



One goes high, the other low... one fast, the other slow...

It's almost as if the instruments are having a conversation!





PLEASE TELL ME, IS IT "A", "B" OR "C"?



Let's have some fun! Here are some trivia questions for you to answer. If you're not sure, think back on the performance you saw and look back on the comic you just read.

- 1) How many musical pieces did Bach compose?
a) 20 b) 5,000 c) 1,200
- 2) A harpsichord has strings that are:
a) Hammered b) Pulled c) Plucked
- 3) "Baroque" is a word that means:
a) Simple b) Decorated c) Broken
- 4) The earliest musical instrument is:
a) Flute b) Violin c) Oboe
- 5) The singer with the highest pitch is called:
a) Bass b) Tenor c) Soprano
- 6) Which instrument makes sound by air blowing through pipes?
a) Piano b) Organ c) Harpsichord

SHEEP MAY SAFELY GRAZE

You heard musicians play and sing "Sheep May Safely Graze". As you listened, did you imagine the scenes that the music was describing?



In the box below, describe in words, or draw a picture, of what you were imagining while the music was playing:

Describe the music. Was it:

- a) Fast and quiet?
- b) Slow and quiet?
- c) Slow and loud?

You heard four instruments during the performance. Can you identify them by filling in the missing letters below?

V _ O _ _ N

C _ L _ O

_ A _ P S _ C _ O _ D

_ B O _

A MUSICAL KIND OF WORD FIND

We've gone over a lot of new words together. Can you help me keep track of all of them?



Help Bach find these words:

BACH
BAROQUE
VIOLIN
VOICE

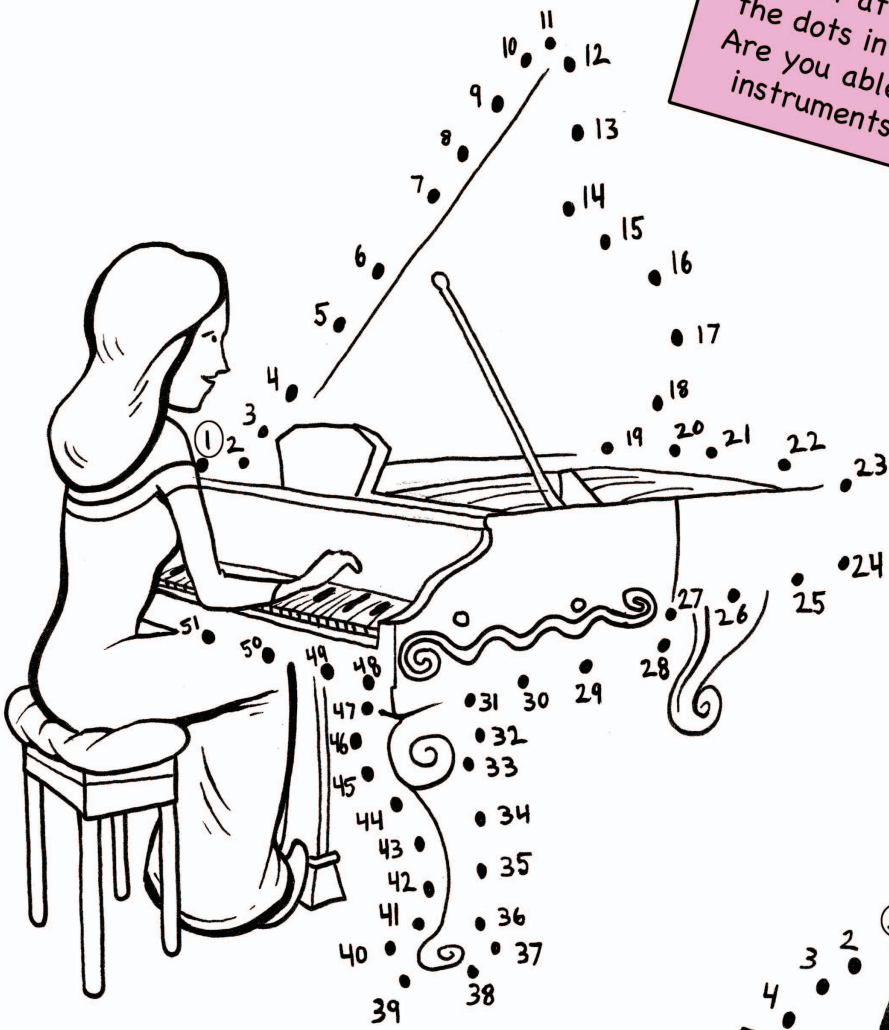
FLUTE
CANON
CELLO
FUGUE

MELODY
TUNE
TENOR
CHORUS

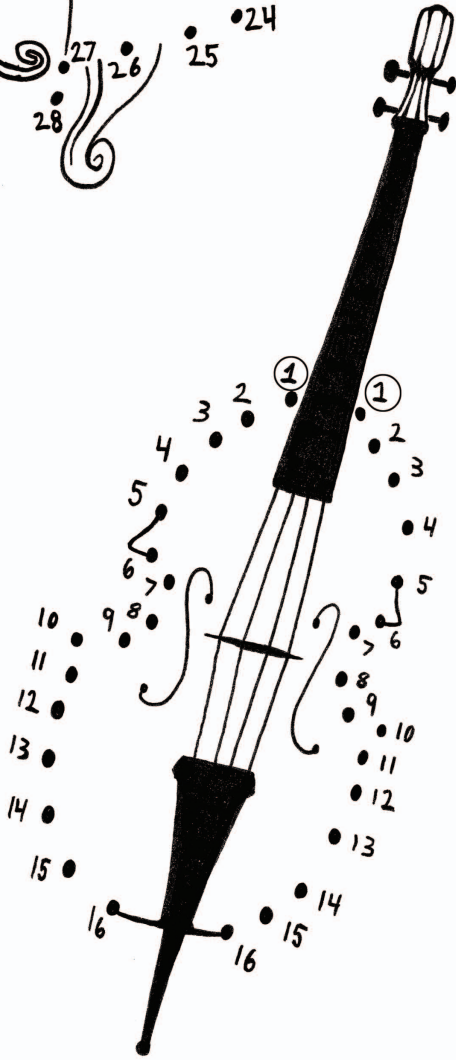
B C H C A B E O J L G S
B C E J J E S X U B C C
O V N L M K P T Q W P S
D Q X A L E Q W F L O T
X P P M T O V L Z F S L
W I L U L I P Z D U O B
R S L T O Z V Y Z G O A
O F U L C A N O N U E R
Q R I R K N H C T E C O
G N W S O N V E T M I Q
H T Q G Z H N E T P O U
W B D Z G O C L N N V E
J V U R R Q A M W U I F
J Y D O L E M G K Q T J
N Z X P Y R L P M T J U

J.S. BACH'S "CONNECT THE DOTS"

Start at ① and connect the dots in numerical order. Are you able to identify the instruments on this page?



After you've connected all of the dots, grab some markers or colored pencils and color in the pictures!

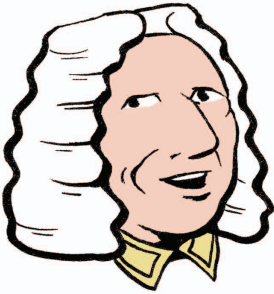


NOW IT'S YOUR TURN



Do you like drawing?
My grandson - also named Johann Sebastian Bach - was an excellent painter. Perhaps you'd like to draw me a picture? How about you draw your OWN version of me, or perhaps your favorite instrument.

LET'S DO A QUICK REVIEW



Whew! Between the performance that you saw, and this comic, we sure covered a lot of stuff! Let's take a quick moment and review some of the things that we learned about.

Music

The Baroque period: 1600 - 1750

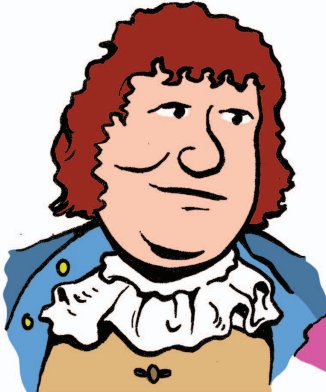
Musical Instruments

Cello
Oboe
Violin
Harpsichord
Piano
Organ
Flute

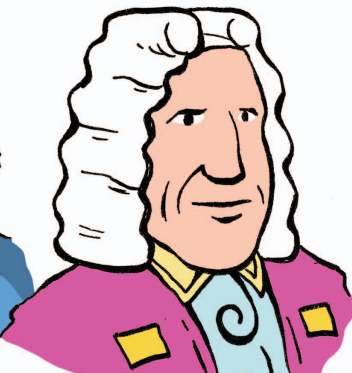
Musical Terms

Cantata
Pitch
Dynamics
Counterpoint
Meter
Harmony
Round

Composers



Dietrich
Buxtehude
Danish composer
1637 - 1707



Johann Sebastian
Bach
German composer
1685 - 1750



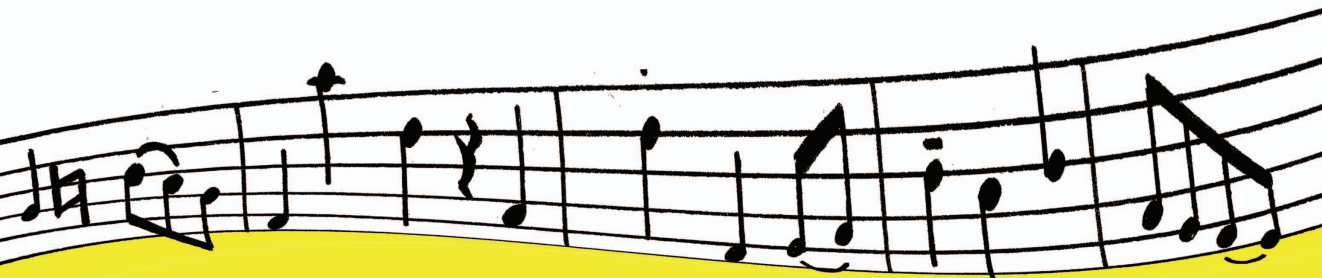
Johann
Pachelbel
German composer
1653 - 1706

That sure is a lot!
Look back at all that we've covered -
what else can you add
to this page?



THE MUSIC

Bouree from Orchestral Suite No. 1
Sheep May Safely Graze, BWV 208
Trio for oboe, Violin and cello from Cantata 208
Bouree I from Orchestral Suite No. 1
Movement 7 from Cantata 202
Excerpts from Chorale and Aria No. 2 from Cantata 80
Two-part Invention No. 8
"Echo" Aria from Cantata 213
Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring from Cantata 147
Brandenburg Concerto No. 4 - Final Movement

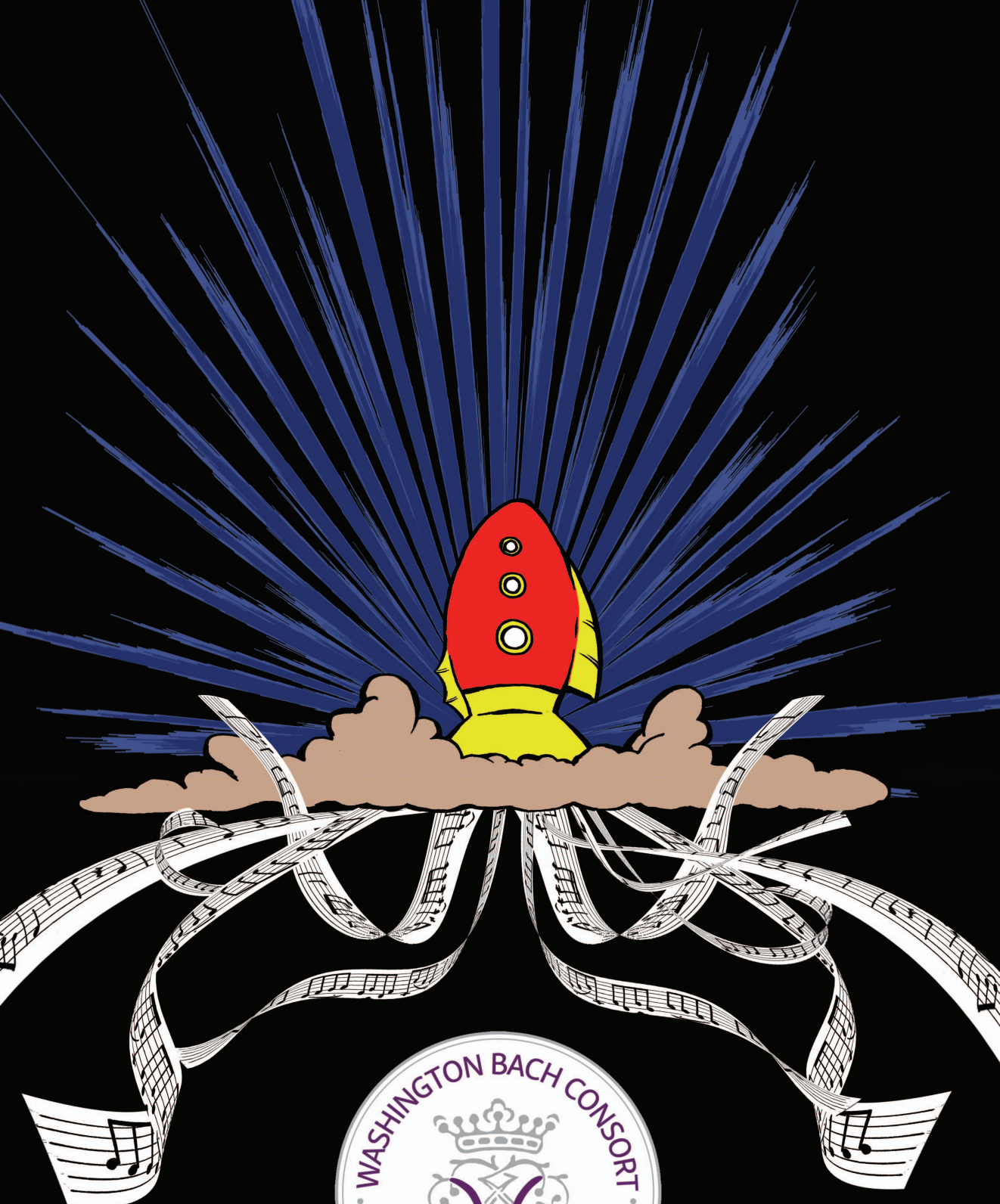


WASHINGTON BACH CONSORT

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Program by Andrew Cohen

Andrew Cohen is a comic book artist and original member of the DC Conspiracy, a comic book collective. He is the current editor of "Magic Bullet", a free comic newspaper. His book, "Surrealia: Chapter One", with Billy Lopez, appeared in "Mount Hope", the literary journal of Roger Williams University. His comic, "Dark was the Night", created for the Harvey Award nominated "District Comics", was featured in the Washington City Paper.



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