

Bach to School

"A Goldberg Variation"

**PRESENTED BY THE
WASHINGTON BACH CONSORT**



ANDREW COHEN

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF "A GOLDBERG VARIATION"

SOME MUSIC IS TIMELESS. BACH WROTE HIS MUSIC MANY YEARS AGO, BUT IT IS JUST AS IMPORTANT TODAY AS IT WAS IN HIS TIME.

FOR MANY YEARS, PEOPLE FORGOT ABOUT BACH. HIS TIMELESS MUSICAL MESSAGE WAS ALMOST LOST COMPLETELY! LUCKILY, SOME PEOPLE FOUND HIS WORK AND STARTED PLAYING IT AGAIN, AND THEY CHANGED THE WORLD - JUST AS BACH DID IN HIS TIME.

ALL OF US AT THE WASHINGTON BACH CONSORT HOPE THAT YOU WILL HELP DR. GOLDBERG KEEP BACH'S MUSIC ALIVE FOR THE FUTURE. ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS LISTEN!

ERIC SHIMELONIS
DIRECTOR, "A GOLDBERG VARIATION"



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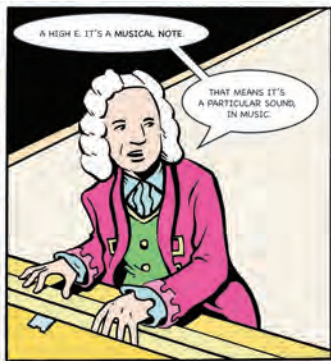
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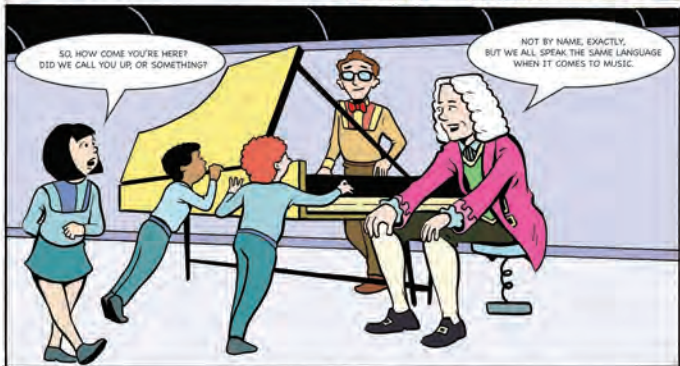










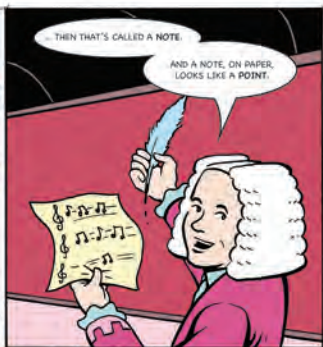






LET ME SHOW YOU.
IF I GET DR. GOLDBERG
TO MAKE HIS SOUND -

EEEEEEEEEE



... THEN THAT'S CALLED A NOTE.

AND A NOTE, ON PAPER,
LOOKS LIKE A POINT.



AND IF I PLAY MUSIC ON THE HARPSICHORD,
IN RESPONSE TO DR. GOLDBERG'S VOICE -

... THEN THAT'S CALLED
COUNTERPOINT!



IT'S LIKE THE HARPSICHORD
AND THE VOICE ARE HAVING
A CONVERSATION.

EXACTLY!

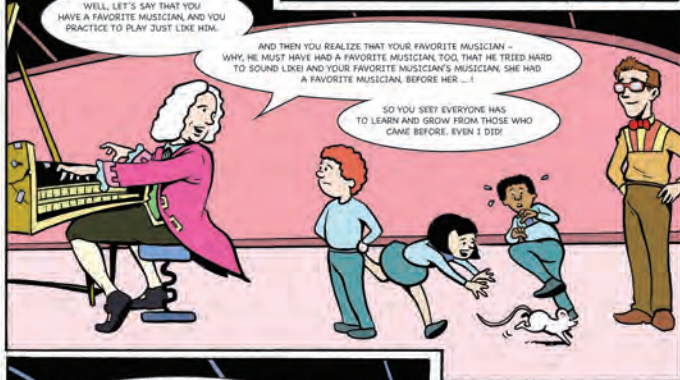


BY PLAYING THE MUSIC
ONE WAY, SUCH AS AT A FAST SPEED,
OR TEMPO, I CAN MAKE DR. GOLDBERG
REACT A CERTAIN WAY.

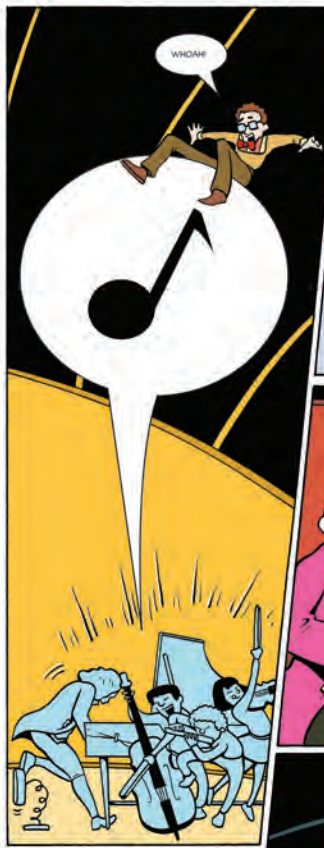


BUT, BY CHANGING THE
RHYTHM, OR THE TIME BETWEEN
NOTES, I CAN MAKE IT SOUND
SLOWER AND SADDER -

AND SEE THE EFFECT
ON DR. GOLDBERG, NOW!









OF COURSE, OF COURSE!

HERE, TRY PLAYING THIS VERSION OF THE SONG THAT WE JUST PLAYED.



EXACTLY! VARIATIONS ARE PIECES THAT ARE MADE FROM, OR ARE INSPIRED BY, OTHER TUNES OR THEMES. IT'S LIKE "CAUSE AND EFFECT" EXCEPT, IN THIS CASE, IT'S "THEME AND VARIATION"

"VARIATIONS" ... SAY, EACH THAT REMINDS ME! DIDN'T YOU AND MY GREAT ... I MEAN, MY GREAT GREAT ... ER, THAT IS ...



BY THE WAY, DO YOU KNOW WHAT IT'S CALLED WHEN YOU TAKE A PARTICULAR TUNE, OR SONG, AND CHANGE IT OR TRANSFORM IT INTO A NEW ONE?

MAKING A "VARIATION"?



... MY ANCESTOR!

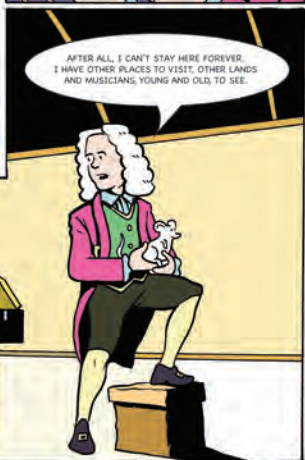
DIDN'T YOU ONE TIME WRITE SOME VARIATIONS FOR AN ANCESTOR OF MINE?



QUITE TRUE, DR. GOLDBERG. IN THE 1700'S, I WROTE 30 VARIATIONS ON A THEME FOR YOUR ANCESTOR, YOUR GREAT, GREAT, GREAT ...

... GREAT, GREAT, GREAT ...

... GREAT GRANDFATHER. IN FACT, TO THIS DAY, THEY'RE STILL CALLED THE "GOLDBERG VARIATIONS."





FACTS and TERMS



JOHAN SEBASTIAN BACH (1685-1750)
A GERMAN COMPOSER AND MUSICIAN, REVERED FOR HIS EXCEPTIONAL USE OF MUSICAL FORMS AND TECHNIQUES, SUCH AS THEME, VARIATION, RHYTHM AND COUNTERPOINT. BORN IN THE TOWN OF EISENACH, BACH COMPOSED IN A STYLE KNOWN AS **BAROQUE**, MEANING DECORATIVE AND FANCY. HE WROTE BOTH **SACRED** MUSIC FOR THE CHURCH AS WELL AS **SECULAR** MUSIC FOR FAMOUS PEOPLE.

THEME: A MUSICAL IDEA OR SUBJECT

VARIATION: THE REPETITION OF A THEME IN AN ALTERED FORM

POINT: THE WRITTEN FORM OF A NOTE

COUNTERPOINT: HAVING TWO LINES OF MUSIC RELATE TO EACH OTHER

NOTE: A MUSICAL SOUND

RHYTHM: THE MOVEMENT FROM NOTE TO NOTE

TEMPO: THE SPEED OF THE MUSIC

CANON: DIFFERENT MUSICIANS PLAYING THE SAME TUNE AT DIFFERENT TIMES, TO MAKE A MORE COMPLEX WORK

FUGUE: A COMPOSITION OF MUSICAL TUNES THAT ARE PLAYED AND REPEATED IN A VERY COMPLEX FORM



THE GOLDBERG VARIATIONS
A SERIES OF CHALLENGING KEYBOARD PIECES, WRITTEN BY BACH, AND CONSISTING OF AN ARIA AND THIRTY VARIATIONS. THEY WERE WRITTEN FOR JOHANN GOLDBERG (1727-1756).

THE MUSIC

Goldberg Variations: Aria and Variations 1, 2, 4, 7, 29, 30

Keyboard Concerto in D

Adagio Keyboard Partita #4 in D

Musical Offering: Canon Perpetuus

Art of the Fugue: Contrapunctus I and IX

Musical Offering: Ricercar

Brandenburg Concerto # 3, Allegro

PLAY BY ERIC SHIMELONIS



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COMIC WRITTEN AND DRAWN BY ANDREW COHEN

Andrew Cohen is a comic booker in Washington, D.C. In addition to the comics that he has made for the Washington Bach Consort, he has self-published mini-comics, such as "Howzit Funnies" and "Dr. W." His comic "Surrealia: Chapter One," with Billy Lopez, appeared in "Mount Hope," the literary journal of Roger Williams University. He contributed to the Eisner Award nominated "Trickster," and his story for the Harvey Award nominated "District Comics" was excerpted in the Washington City Paper. He is an original member of the D.C. Conspiracy comics collective and helps put out the free comic newspaper, Magic Bullet.

His work can be seen at www.howzitfunnies.blogspot.com



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