The MAYRON COLE PIANO METHOD

Joy of Man's Desiring

About the Composer...

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)



Born in Eisenach, Germany, Johann Bach was part of the most musically talented family ever known to the world. Tracing the family's musical origins back to the early 1600s, it was found that almost every male in the large Bach family had become a professional musician. Being a professional musician in that era meant performing music in the royal courts, in the churches, and in the villages (weddings and funerals). The name "Bach" eventually became the German word for "village musician". Many of the female Bachs became professional singers. When the Bachs had family reunions it was like a large music festival with choruses singing lustily and improvising their way through sometimes bawdy lyrics.

Bach's father was the town music director and taught Bach to play the violin and harpsichord. All of the child's uncles were professional musicians and introduced young Bach to the art of organ playing. Bach's parents died when he was ten years old and he went to live with his older brother who was a church organist. His brother, Johann Christoph Bach, taught young Johann to play the clavichord and introduced him to other great composers' works. In 1703, Bach auditioned for an organist's job but failed the audition! He then took up a post as court musician in Weimar but it was actually more the job of a lackey. One day, in 1705, Bach left Weimar and walked over 500 miles (round trip) to visit the great musician, Buxtehude. Buxtehude offered Bach a job as an apprentice if Bach would marry Buxtehude's daughter. Bach refused the offer and returned to Weimar.

By 1706, Bach needed more money so he took the lucrative post as organist at a church in Muhlhausen, Germany. Four months after arriving in Muhlhausen Bach married his second cousin, Maria Barbara Bach. They had seven children but only four reached adulthood. Two of them, Wilhelm Friedemann Bach and Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach, later became important composers. After a year in Muhlhausen, Bach was financially enticed back to Weimar to become the court organist and choir master. A year later, Bach was offered a well-paying job working as director of music for Prince Leopold of Kothen. Bach took the job and moved his young family to Kothen. In 1720, while Bach was traveling abroad with Prince Leopold, Bach's wife suddenly died. The following year, Bach met and married Anna Magdalena Wilcke, a young soprano who performed at the court in Kothen. Together, they had thirteen more children; six of the children survived to adulthood. Three of those children also became significant musicians.

J S Bach is considered to be the greatest of the Baroque composers! His music has inspired many musicians and composers through the years. Bach had eye surgery and died in 1750 "from the unhappy consequences of the very unsuccessful eye operation."

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Joy of Man's Desiring

(orchestrated accompaniment has a 2 measure count-in)



(wedding music)

J.S. Bach

Moderato ♪ = 60mm

F R E E P I A N O M E T H O D . C O M
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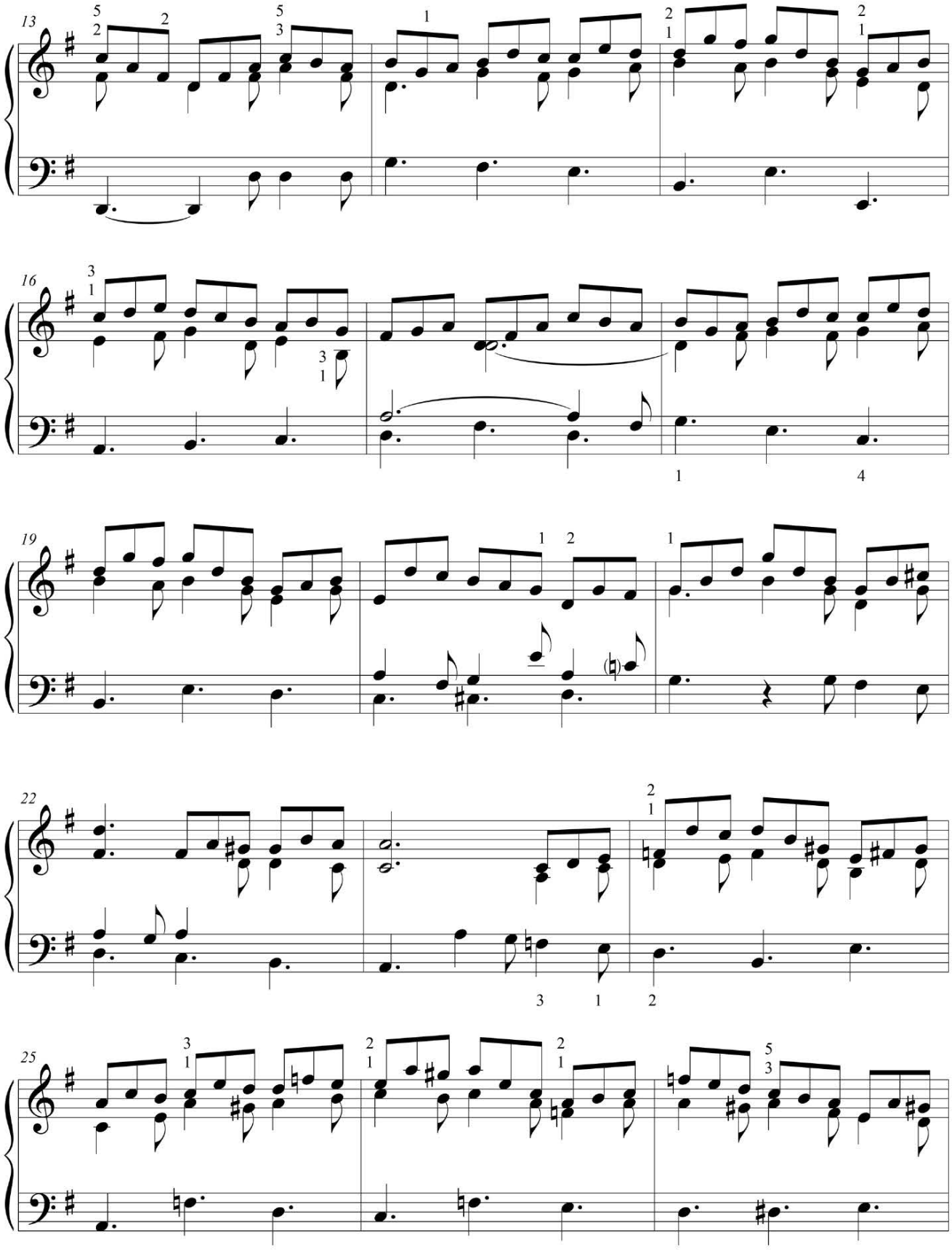

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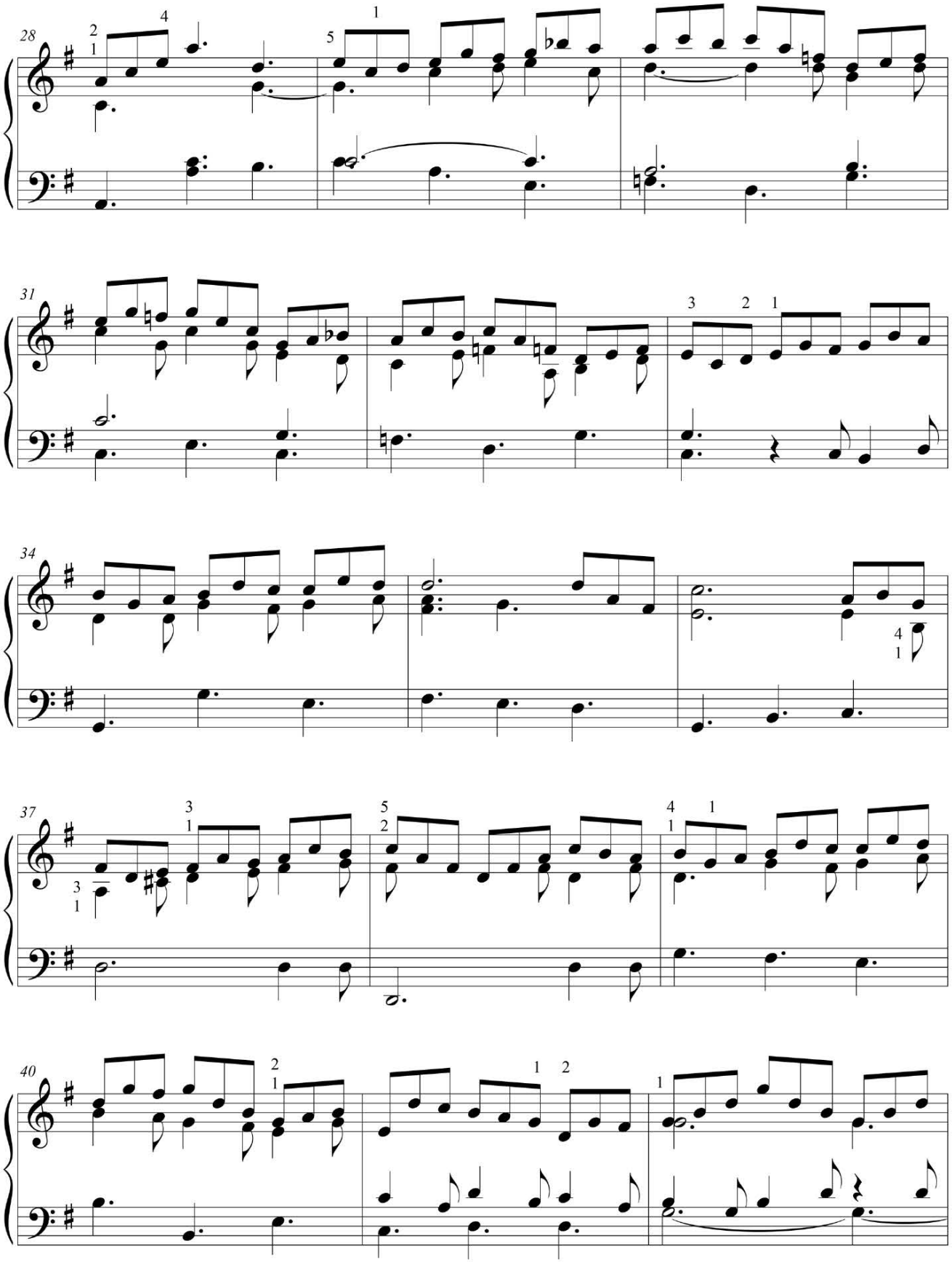

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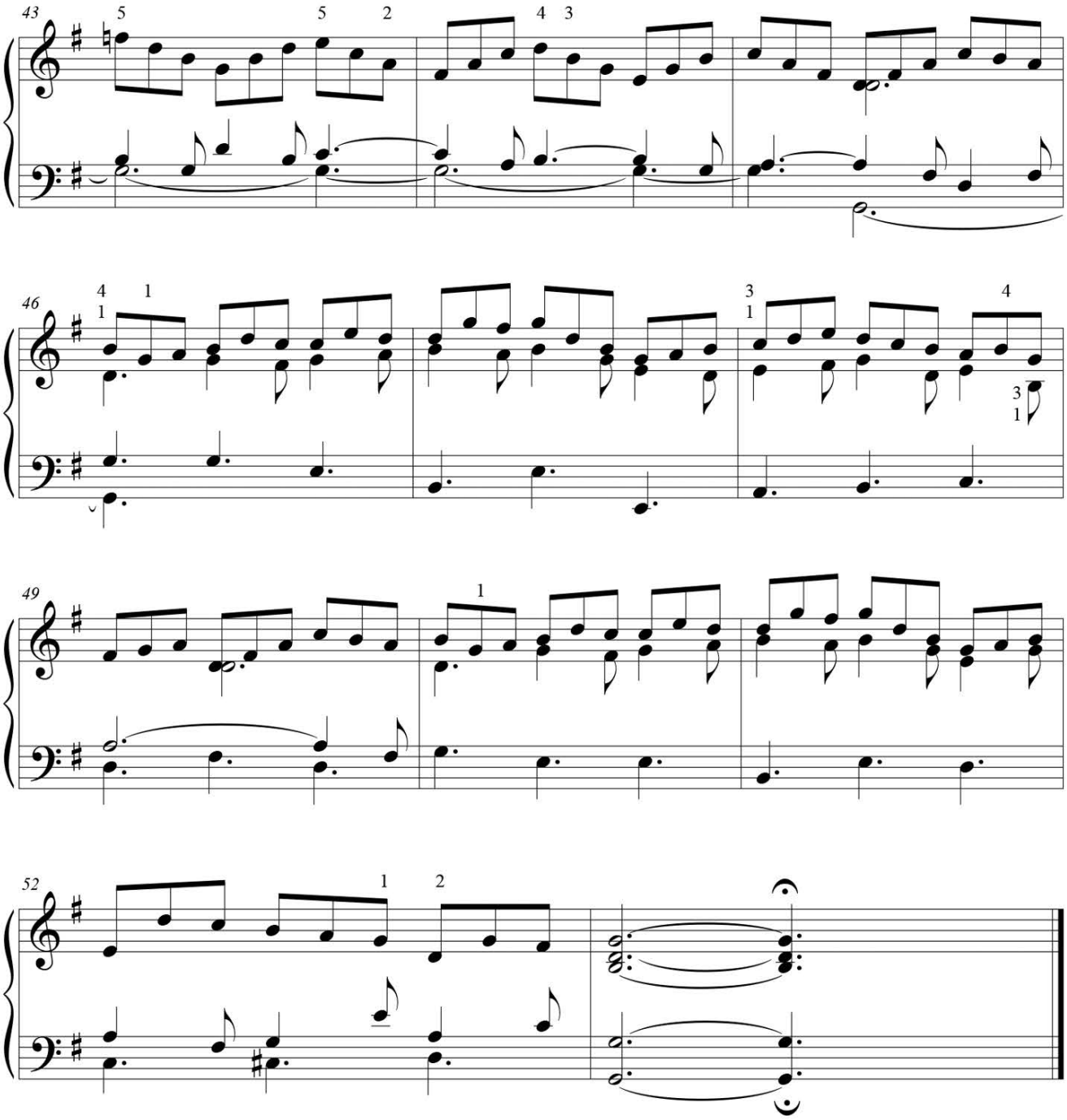

You may have noticed that there are no dynamic markings or phrase marks in Joy of Man's Desiring. This is because Bach wrote this piece for the harpsichord which does not play dynamics, nor does it have a sustain pedal. The fingering was added by Mayron Cole.



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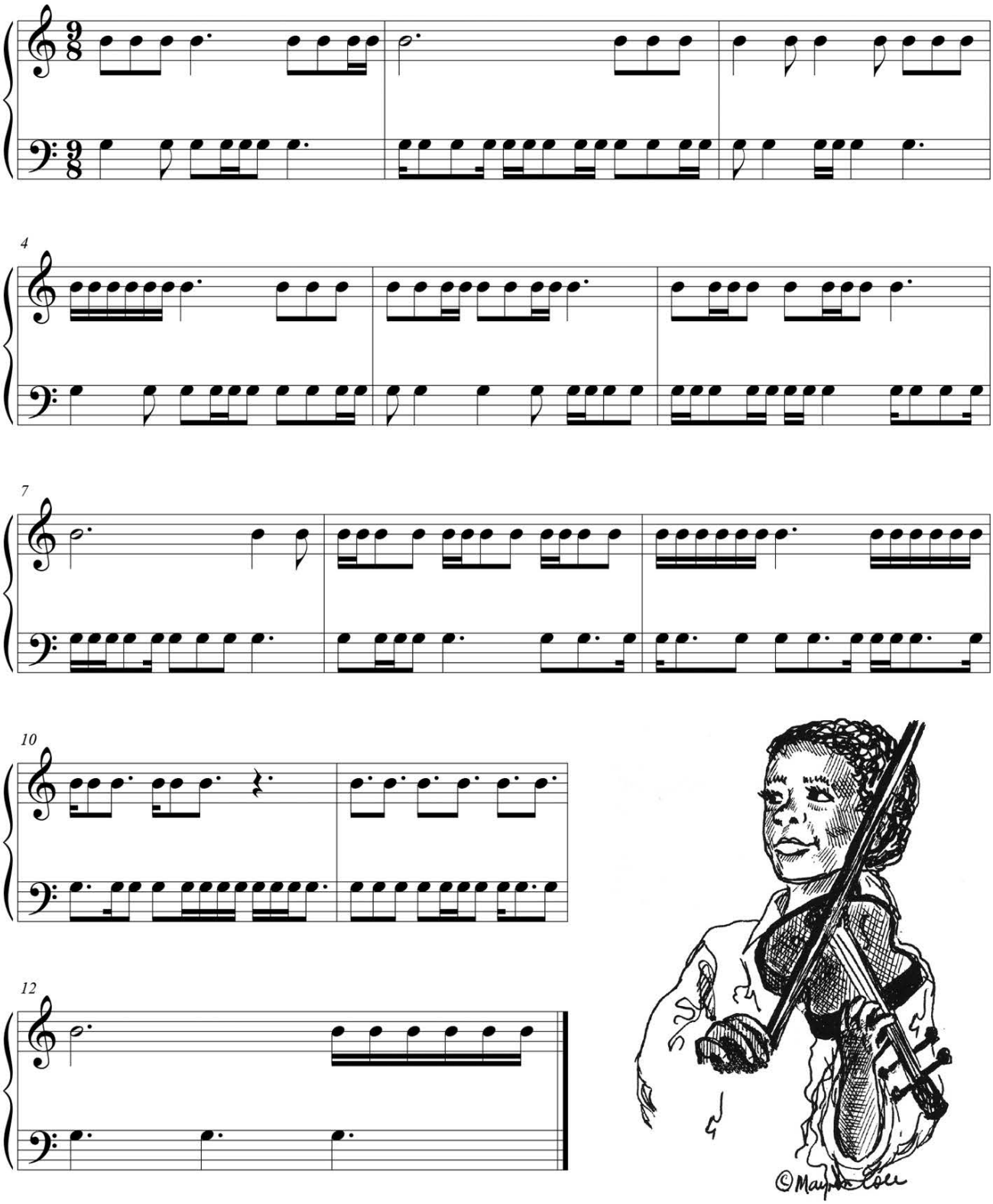
Rhythm Taps That J.S. Bach Would Have Liked

Mayron Cole



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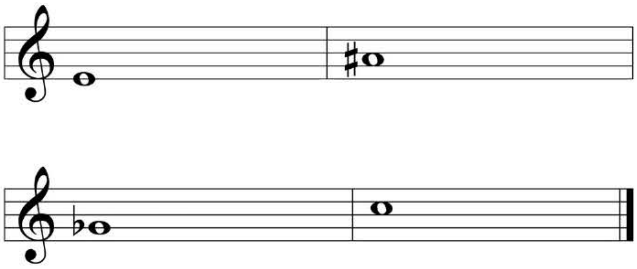
Test Your Superb Theory Knowledge!

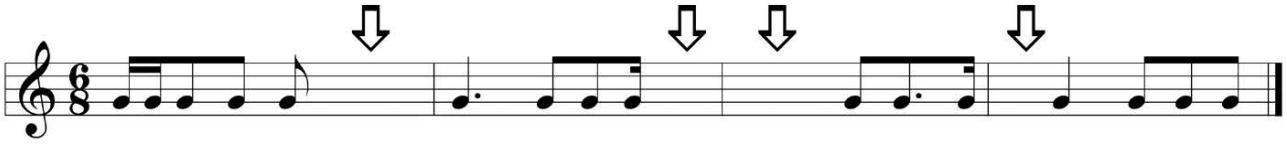


1. Place **two** enharmonic equivalents to each note on the staff below. Enharmonic means “sounds the same”. This exercise is fun to do! And real thinking is involved! So put on your creative thinking cap and begin! Helpful tip: You might need to use double sharps or double flats to arrive at the correct answer!

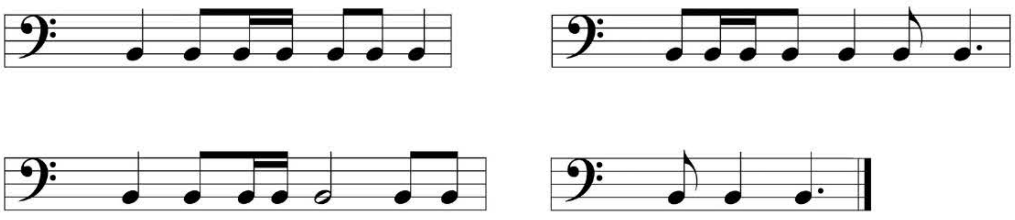


2. You have become quite proficient at counting compound rhythms: $\frac{3}{8}, \frac{6}{8}, \frac{9}{8}, \frac{12}{8}$

Draw **one** note that has been left out of each measure:



3. Each measure below is characteristic of a particular meter. Place the correct time signature at the beginning of each measure. Here are some time signatures from which to choose: $\frac{9}{8}, \frac{5}{4}, \frac{3}{4}, \frac{4}{4}, \frac{6}{8}$



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Test Your Knowledge



1. The seven sharps in correct order are:

___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___

2. A diatonic half step above G is _____.
3. A chromatic half step above G is _____.
4. The C♯ major scale is enharmonic to the _____major scale.
5. When an irregular number of beats are in a measure, the measure is using _____(an asymetrical or a compound) meter.
6. The “singers’ scale” is the _____ minor scale (harmonic or melodic).
7. The “musicians’ scale”is the _____ minor scale (harmonic or melodic).
8. All major scales are transposed _____ scales (Aeolian or Ionian).
9. A triad can be played three ways. _____(yes or no)
10. A triad is in 1st inversion if the root note is the _____ (highest or lowest) note of the inversion.
11. In _____ (simple or compound) meter, the beat is broken in two or four equal parts.
12. In _____ (simple or compound) meter, the beat is broken in three or six equal parts.
13. The perfect intervals are : _____ _____ _____ _____
14. The major intervals are: _____ _____ _____ _____
15. A major triad is comprised of a _____ third + _____ third.
16. An augmented triad is comprised of a _____ third + _____ third.
17. A diminished triad is comprised of a _____ third + _____ third.

Answers (1) F C G D A E B; (2) A♭; (3) G♯; (4) D♭; (5) asymmetrical meter; (6) melodic; (7) harmonic; (8) Ionian; (9) yes; (10) highest; (11) isimple; (12) compound; (13) Prime, 4th, 5th, 8th ; (14) 2nd, 3rd, 6th, 7th ; (15) major, minor; (16) major, major; (17) minor, minor.

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