

Prelude and Fugue in F minor, book 2 BWV 881 - Bach

What does the title mean?

Prelude - a short piece that precedes a longer, complex work. Often the first movement in a suite.

Fugue - 'flight' - complex formal composition style where subjects and countersubjects are presented in different keys.

Well-tempered clavier - works for keyboard where tuning allows playing across different keys.

24 pieces in each book - major/minor, beginning at C major, chromatically ordered.

Prelude form:

In 3 periods

Period 1 -

Bar 1 F minor

Bars 4 to 8 - dominant pedal

Bar 11 Ab major (relative major)

Bar 16 to 20 - dominant pedal in Ab major

Bar 28 - perfect cadence in Ab major

Period II -

Bar 28 - Ab major

Bar 33 - Eb minor

Bar 41 - new figure

Bar 43 - Db major

Bars 41 to 49 - sequences heard

Bar 49 onwards - pointing to F minor

Bar 66 - perfect cadence bar 66

Coda - bars 67 to 70

Fugue form:

Exposition - bars 1 to 15 in Fm

Subject treble bars 1 to 4

Tonal answer alto bars 4 to 8 in Cm

No counter-subject

Codetta - bars 8 to 11 - modulates from C to Fm

Subject bass bars 11 to 15 in Fm

Modulatory section - bars 15 to 75

Episode 1 bars 15 to 24 - modulating from Fm to Ab major

Subject in treble bars 28 to 28 Ab major

Answer in alto bars 28 to 32 Eb major

Episode II in bars 32 to 40 modulating from Eb major, through C to Fm

Subject in bass bars 40 to 44 F minor

Episode III bars 44 to 50 modulating from Fm through Bbm to Fm

Subject in alto - bars 50 to 54 in F minor

Episode IV bars 54 to 71 modulating from Fm to Bbm

Subject in treble bars 71 to 75 in Bb minor

Recapitulation section - bars 75 to 85

Subject in alto bars 74 to 78 in F minor

Coda bars 78 to 85 in F minor

Period:

Baroque

Period style:

Compositional style, title, rhythmic momentum, polyphonic texture, reliance on harmonic progression for emotion, dissonance/consonance/suspensions, cadence points, Baroque figuration, ornamentation, diatonic keys, one idea for entire movement, use of dances, doctrine of the affections, continuous/continuo.

Composer:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Johann_Sebastian_Bach

Genres:

Mass, sinfonias, keyboard music (toccatas, fugues, preludes, inventions, sinfonias, suites), concertos, oratorias, cantatas, variations, passions.