

JS Bach - Invention in F major No 8 BWV 779

Title: Invention - a 2-part polyphonic piece - strict imitation between hands (canon-like form). Short instrumental piece.

Key and modulations: F major

Bar 8 C major (dominant)

Bar 16 G minor (dominant minor)

Bar 21 D minor (dominant minor)

Bar 24 G minor (subdominant minor)

Bar 26 Bb major (relative major)

Bar 29 F major (dominant major)

Notation:

NB BACH DID NOT PUT THESE SIGNS/TERMS IN THE MUSIC - THE EDITOR DID

Con spirito - with spirit

Metronome marking - 104 crotchets per minute

mf - mezzo forte - moderately loud

time signature - 3 crotchet beats per bar - simple triple

slur - play legato

staccato - short and detached

staccato with slur - mezzo staccato - moderately detached

mp - mezzo piano - moderately soft

f - forte - loud

Structure:

Invention form - 2 part, strict imitation started by RH

Binary form

Period: Baroque

Style: Continuous melody with wide leaps, chromatic tones for emotional effect. Single rhythm predominant; steady energetic pulse, freer in vocal music. Chromatic harmony for expressive effect; major-minor system established (functional harmony) with brief excursions to other keys; monodic texture (early Baroque); polyphonic texture (late Baroque); linear-horizontal dimension; trio sonatas, concerto grosso, suites, prelude, fugues, chaconnes etc very formal forms; operas, mass, oratorio, cantata; binary and ternary forms predominant; subtle dynamic nuances; forte/piano contrasts; echo effects, humps, terraced dynamics; continuous tone color throughout one movement; string orchestra, with added woodwinds; organ and harpsichord in use; improvisation from continuo (figured bass); single affection; emotional exuberance and theatricality