

## ***Prelude in F major by Bach BWV 928***

### **What does the title mean?**

A prelude is a short piece of music that usually proceeds a more complex piece.

**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

### **Form/Keys:**

This is like a two part invention - subjects with episodes inbetween. The episode's role is to modulate.

Bar 1 - first subject treble then bass - F major

Bar 5 - subject in bass - C major

Bar 8 - subject in bass - D minor

Bar 18 - subject in bass - G minor

Bar 20 - subject in bass then treble - F major

### **Notation:**

mordent - short trill between two notes

fermata - pause - hold longer than written. Also means end of a phrase or a section.