Through Bach's Ears

A Lecture-Recital of Bach's Musical Soundscape

Washington State Music Teachers Association State Conference
Kilworth Chapel, University of Puget Sound, Tacoma, WA
June 19, 2019; 10:30-11:45 a.m.

Dr. Wyatt Smith
Affiliate Artist, Organ and Harpsichord
University of Puget Sound

Joann S. Richardson, NCTM
State Chair for Organ
Washington State Music Teachers Association

Prelude in G, BWV 541/1

Johann Sebastian Bach
1685-1750

Influences from the North

Johann Joachim Quantz
1697-1773

The Great Art of Organ Playing... Learned from the Netherlanders

Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck
1562-1621

Dutch

Sweelinck (1562-1621)

Father of the North German Organ School

- Heinrich Scheidemann ca. 1595-1663
- Jakob Praetorius 1586-1651
- Matthias Weckmann ca.1616/19–1674)
- Johann Adam Reincken 1643-1722
- Dieterich Buxtehude ca. 1637/39-1707
- Johann Sebastian Bach 1685-1750

Oude Kerk (Old Church), Amsterdam

Onder een linde groen
(Dutch)
Unter der Linden grüne
(German)
Under the Linden Green

SWEELINCK
(1562-1621)

Dieterich
(Diderich)
Buxtehude
ca.1637/39 –1707

Danish/German

Marienkirche (St. Mary's Church), Lübeck

Destroyed by air raid in 1942

Orgel oder Instrument Tabulatur.

Ein nützlichs Büchlein / in welchem notwendige erklerung der Orgel oder Instrument Tabulatur / sampt der Application / Auch fröliche deutsche Stücklein vnnd Muteten / etliche mit Coloraturn abgesatzt / Desgleichen schöne deutsche Tentze / Galliarden vnnd Welsche Passometzen zubefinden / etc. Desgleichen zuuor in offenem Druck nicht ausgangen.

Jetzundt aber der Jugend vnd anfahenden dieser Kunst zum besten in Druck vorfertiget / Durch Eliam Nicolaum / sonst Ammerbach genandt / Organisten zu Leipzig in S. Thomas Kirchen.

Mit fleis vom Autore selbs vbersehen vnd Corrigirt.

Anno / 1571.

Bach

Organ Tablature

Elias Nikolaus Ammerbach (ca. 1530 – 1597)

- Tablature
- Ornamentation
- Fingering
- Organ music

Bach owned book

1.

Allmechtiger gütiger Gott.

2.

Dancket dem Herren denn er ist/ etc.

A TRANSCRIPTION

of

ELIAS NIKOLAUS AMMERBACH'S

Orgel oder Instrument Tabulaturbuch

(Second edition, 1583)

Volume II

Presented by

Cecil Warren Becker

To fulfill the thesis requirement for the degree of

Doctor of Musical Arts

Department of Performance and Pedagogy

Thesis Director: Dr. Eugene J. Selhorst

Eastman School of Music

of the

University of Rochester

May, 1963

Available on imslp.org

1. Allmechtiger gütiger Gott[1]

Mattheus le Maistre

J.S. Bach

Orgelbüchlein (Little Organ Book)

Tablature

Detail: *Orgelbüchlein* Tablature

Stylus Fantasticus

Improvisatory~Sectional~Imitative/Fugal

J.S. Bach: *Toccata, Adagio, and Fugue, BWV 654*

Praeludium in D, BuxWV 139

BUXTEHUDE
ca.1637/39 –1707

Bach's Long Walk

Arnstadt to Lübeck
250 miles

1705- Age 20

Nun Danket Alle Gott,
BWV 657

Sung today as
"Now Thank We All Our God"

J.S. BACH
1685-1750

Influences from the South

Girolamo Alessandro Frescobaldi 1583-1643

Italian

Frescobaldi (1583-1643)

Lineage to J.S. Bach

- Johann Jakob Froberger (1616-1667)
- Georg Muffat (1653-1704)
- Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)

Johann Sebastian Bach 1685-1750

Z-118-

FIORI MVSICALI
DI
DIVERSE COMPOSITIONI
TOCCATE KIRIE CANZONI
CAPRICCI, E RECERCARI
IN PARTITVRA A QVATTRO
VTILI PER SONATORI
AVTORE
GIROLAMO FRESCOBALDI
ORGANISTA DI SAN PIETRO
DI ROMA.
OPERA DVODECIMA.
CON PRIVILEGIO.

IN VENETIA,
Appresso Alessandro Vincenti. M D C XXXV.

Frescobaldi: *Fiori Musicali*

Bach had a copy in his library

Tuning Systems (Early to Modern)

Key signatures closest to C Major in circle of fifths most in tune

- Pythagorean--5ths pure
- Mean-Tone--modified 5ths to improve 3rds
- Well-Tempered--altered 5ths more
    - Playing in all keys tolerable but keys still maintained their “unique” tuning

All key signatures equally in tune (or out of tune!)

- Equal Temperament--½ steps are equidistant
    - Not standard until well after Bach’s death

Decorative Scroll from the
Title Page of the
Well Tempered Clavier

Bergamasca

FRESCOBALDI
1583-1643

Toccata in F, BWV 540

J.S. BACH 1685-1750

Please join us here tomorrow
from 2:15-3:30 for

Dancing Fingers:
An Introduction to Historical
Keyboard Fingering Practices

Dr. Wyatt Smith
wdsmith@pugetsound.edu

Joann Richardson, NCTM
organistjoann@gmail.com

Slides: www.jrichardsonmusic.com

Resources

Wolff, Christoph. *Johann Sebastian Bach: The Learned Musician*, New York: W.W. Norton Company, Inc., 2000.

Stauffer, George and May, Ernest, editors. *J.S. Bach As Organist*, Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 1986.

Wolff, Christoph. *Bach: Essays on His Life and Music*, Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1991.

David, Hans T. and Mendel, Arthur, editors, revised and expanded by Wolff, Christoph. *The New Bach Reader: A Life of Johann Sebastian Bach in Letters and Documents*, New York: W.W. Norton Company, Inc., 1998.

Soderlund, Sandra. *How Did They Play? How Did They Teach? A History of Keyboard Technique*, Chapel Hill, NC: Hinshaw Music, Inc.,2006.

Orgel oder In-
strument Tabulaturbuch/in sich
begreiffende eine notwendige vnnd kurtze anlai-
tung / die Tabulatur vnnd application zuverstehen/
auch dieselbige auf gutem grunde recht zu lernen.

Darnach folgen auffs allerleichtest gute Deutsche/La-
teinische/Welsche vnd Frantzösische stücklein/ neben etlichen Pas-
somezen/ Galliarden/Repressen/vnnd deutschen Dentzen/deßgleichen zuvor in offnem druck nie auß gangen.

Jetzund aber/der Jugend vnd anfahenden diser kunst zu gutem/
mit fleiß zusammen gebracht/vnd in druck verfertigt/
Durch
Eliam Nicolaum Ammerbach/ Burgern vnd Orga-
nisten inn Leipzig/zu S. Thomas.

Mit Röm: Kei: Mestat Freiheit/ nicht nachzudruck
Nürmberg.

Ammerbach, Nikolaus. Orgel oder Instrument Tabulaturbuch, Nürnberg: Gerlach, 1583.

Available at: https://imslp.org/wiki/Orgel_oder_Instrument_Tabulaturbuch_(Ammerbach%2C_Elias_Nikolaus)

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Becker, Cecil Warren. *A Transcription of Elias Nikolaus Ammerbach's Orgel oder Instrument Tabulaturbuch*, Rochester, NY: Eastman School of Music, 1963.

Available at: https://imslp.org/wiki/Orgel_oder_Instrument_Tabulaturbuch_(Ammerbach%2C_Elias_Nikolaus)

Title Page (Manuscript) of J.S. Bach's *Well Tempered Clavier*

Available at:

http://conquest.imslp.info/files/imglnks/usimg/d/dd/IMSLP457551-PMLP05948-Partitur_D-B_Mus._ms._Bach_P_415.pdf