

Graham School of General Studies

Bach and Handel

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Description: Exact contemporaries, Johan Sebastian Bach and George Frederick Handel (both born in 1685) represent the pinnacle of Baroque art. The intensity, poetry, and intellectual rigor of Bach's art is represented by such secular masterpieces as the "Brandenburg" concertos, and Bach's towering spiritual attainments are represented by the *St. Matthew Passion*, selections from cantatas, and the Mass in B Minor. Handel's art, much more ostentatiously grandiose and yet remarkably direct and communicative, is represented by orchestral concertos and his inimitable oratorios, such as *Messiah* and *Israel in Egypt*. Taken together, Bach and Handel offer a fascinating, comprehensive panorama of an era.

Week	Topics	Featured Works
1	Baroque Keyboard Works	Handel Keyboard Works Scarlatti Sonatas (Part 1) Bach Goldberg Variations (1741)
2	Bach: From Eisenach to Cöthen	Tocatta and Fugue in D Minor (1708) Cantata No. 4 (Christ lag im Todesbanden 1709-08) Brandenburg Concertos (1721)
3	Overview of Handel's life and career	Handel: Concerti grossi op. 6 (1739) Water Music (1717) Royal Fireworks Music (1749)
4	Sacred music and grandiose public spectacle	Bach Cantatas Handel Operas: <i>Rinaldo</i> (1711) and <i>Giulio Cesare</i> (1724)
5	Dance and meter	Bach and Handel Suites Scarlatti Sonatas (Part 2)
6	Handel's Oratorios	<i>Messiah</i> (1742) <i>Israel in Egypt</i> (1739) <i>Saul</i> (1739)
7	Bach's Sacred Works	Mass in B Minor (1724-1749) Christmas Oratorio (1734) St. John Passion (1724), St. Matthew Passion (1729)
8	Bach's Late Keyboard Works	Bach Well-Tempered Clavier Art of the Fugue (1742-49) A Musical Offering (1747)

Recommended Materials - Bach

Bach Dictionary (Oxford Composer Companion Series)

Malcolm Boyd, Bach (Master Musicians Series)

Klaus Eidam, The True Life of J. S. Bach

Glenn Gould, The Glenn Gould Reader

Nikolaus Harnoncourt, The Musical Dialogue

Ralph Kirkpatrick, Interpreting the WTC

The New Bach Reader, Norton

The New Grove Bach Family

Albert Schweitzer, The Life of J. S. Bach (2 Vol.)

Christoph Wolff, Bach: The Learned Musician

Paul Henry Lang: George Frideric Handel

Winton Dean and Anthony Hicks: The New Grove Handel

Richard Taruskin, Music in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries