

Johann Sebastian Bach

German Baroque Era Composer (1685-1750)



Johann Sebastian Bach was born in Eisenach, Germany in 1685. As a child Bach's father taught him to play violin and harpsichord. His uncles were all musicians, serving as church organists and court chamber musicians. One of his uncles, Johann Christoph Bach, introduced him to the art of organ playing.

In 1707 Bach married his second cousin Maria Barbara Bach. They had seven children. In 1720 Maria died, and Bach married Anna Magdalena Wilcke in 1721. Bach had 13 more children with Anna Magdalena. He was a father to 20

children in all.

In 1723 Bach became the cantor, organist, and music composer for St. Thomas Lutheran Church in Leipzig, Germany. Bach remained there for the rest of his life.

Some of Bach's most famous works include the Brandenburg Concertos, the Well-Tempered Clavier, and the celebrated organ work Toccata and Fugue in D Minor.

Johann Sebastian Bach died in 1750. Bach was not appreciated during his own lifetime and was considered an "old-fashioned" composer. Today, Bach is considered to be one of the most influential composers of all time. In fact, he is now such an important composer that the year of his death is a defining point in music history. It marks the end of the Baroque Era.

Bach Biography Worksheet

Directions: Answer the following questions in **complete sentences**.

1. In which city and country was Bach born?
2. Who was Bach's first music teacher?
3. What are two instruments Bach learned to play?
4. Why did Bach remarry?
5. How many children did Bach have?
6. What was Bach's job at the St. Thomas Lutheran Church?
7. Name three of Bach's famous pieces of music?
8. Why was Bach not appreciated during his lifetime?
9. What event in history marked the end of the Baroque Era?