

Toccatà and Blues in D Minor

A Reconstruction of "Toccatà and Fugue in D Minor," by J. S. Bach

By Christopher J. Madsen, March 2015

Prefatory Note

This piece was inspired by the great organ work "Toccatà and Fugue in D Minor" written by the hallowed composer Johann Sebastian Bach. My goal for this project was to find a Classical piece that was familiar to the general public and to have as much fun with it as I could. Consequently, the primary ingredient for a successful performance of this piece is just that—have fun! This piece is meant to be enjoyed and "jazzified" to the extreme.

Snatches and fragments of the original "Toccatà" can be heard throughout the piece (such as, for example, the opening eight measures, the fugue theme beginning in measure 25, the overlapping themes in measure 40, and the diminished seventh passage beginning in measure 102, to name a few). In the process of composing this piece, I came across a list of Bach's top ten pieces, and the thought struck me to try to shake things up even more by tossing in motifs from each of the top ten pieces into this recomposition. The following is a list of the pieces quoted in some form or another and their locations in the piece. Make these motifs more prominent in the performance of the piece in order to achieve the funniest effect!

"Prelude in C Major" from <i>Well-Tempered Clavier</i>	ms. 9-12, All
"Musette in G"	ms. 13-16, Soprano and Alto
"Sheep May Safely Graze in Pasture"	ms. 29-30, Alto
"Badinerie"	ms. 33-36, Tenor
"Bouree in E Minor"	ms. 37-38, Soprano
"Brandenburg Concerto No. 3, 1 st Movement"	ms. 75, All
"Cello Suite No. 1"	ms. 86, Baritone
"Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring"	ms. 93-98, Soprano, Tenor, and Baritone
"Air on the G String"	ms. 115, Tenor
"O Sacred Head, Now Wounded" (AKA "O Savior Thou Who Wearest")	ms. 115-119, All

Have fun!

-Christopher J. (CJ) Madsen