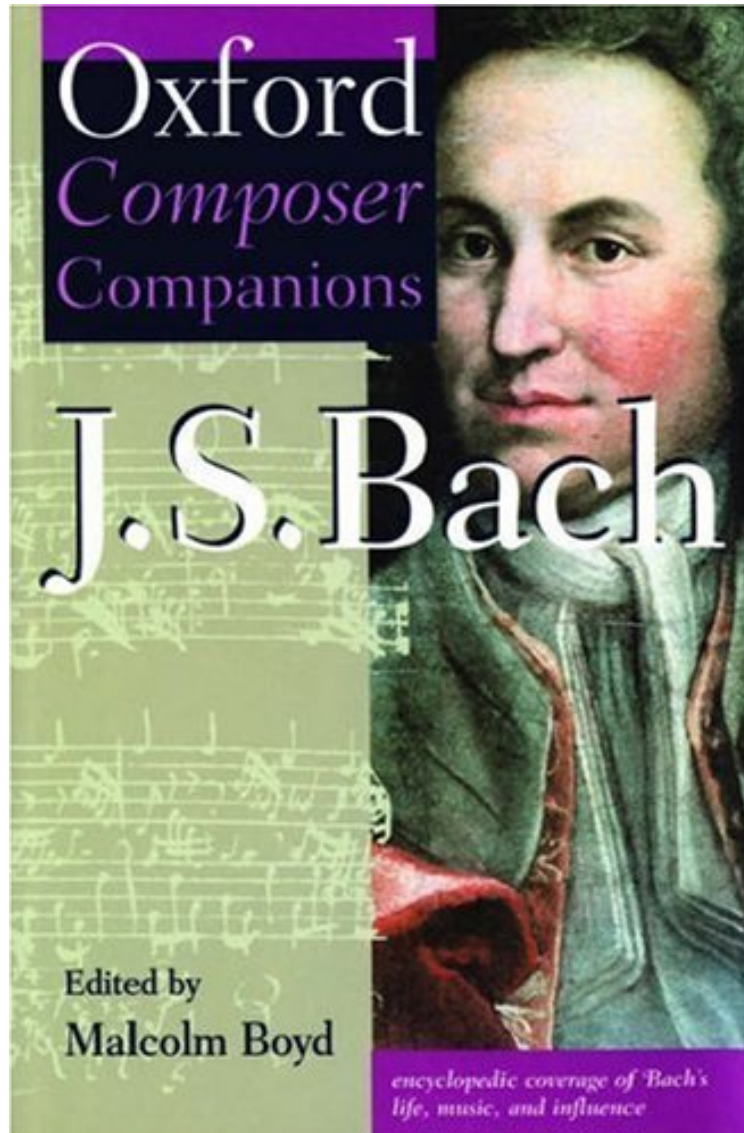


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Oxford Composer Companion: J.S. Bach

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From Oxford University Press : Oxford Composer Companion: J.S. Bach before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Oxford Composer Companion: J.S. Bach:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Must have book on BachBy CustomerThis book is a really a dictionary style reference book on all topics Bach. It contains a massive number of short articles on all topics relating to Bach. It is quite complete and it opens the door for further research into the topic by providing references to other sources that address the same topic in greater detail.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Breadth of

subjects covered By Mrs. Shirley Pitcher It provides a quickly consulted reference, giving great comfort to a musical and historical ignoramus by covering a wide range of material.

This superb reference work on Johann Sebastian Bach is the first volume in a new species of Oxford Companion that will focus on major composers. Illustrated with twenty-four black-and-white plates, this volume boasts over a thousand alphabetically arranged entries that cover Bach's music, his life and times, scholarship on Bach, and the performance of his music. Readers will find entries on the various genres that Bach worked in (including chorales, fantasia, sonata, concerto, missa), his many individual works (such as St. John's Passion, The Goldberg Variations, Brandenburg Concertos, Passacaglia, Well-Tempered Clavier, The Christmas Oratorio, and The Art of Fugue), places important to his career (such as Muhlhausen, Weimar, and Leipzig), and important contemporaries (Handel, Rameau, Vivaldi, Telemann, among others). There are also entries on instruments (harpsichord, organ, clavier, and so on), Bach performance practice, stylistic influences on his work, and other biographical details. The book concludes with a family tree, a chronology of Bach's life, a list of his works, and a glossary of terms. Bach was one of the giants of classical music, a composer of astonishing powers of invention. In *The Oxford Composer Companion: J.S. Bach*, music aficionados will have at their fingertips a treasure chest of information on this major figure.

From *Library Journal* Organized alphabetically, this reference includes over 1000 entries by 28 scholars and performers on every conceivable subject even remotely relating to J.S. Bach: his compositions, family, era, musical instruments of the period, and past and present interpreters. Appendixes include a list of Bach's compositions (including BWV numbering, date of composition, scoring, first publication date, location of the autograph score, and page in the complete works publications), text incipits, chronologies of lives and compositions, a glossary of terms, a map of Bach's Germany, and a family tree. The entries vary in length from a hundred words to several pages, and some subjects are singled out for more extended essays, for example, fugue, number symbolism, reception, and revival. Most entries are clearly written, although the analytical material can be quite technical. Editor Boyd was on the editorial team of the *New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians* (1995). This is an excellent first volume of a new series of extensive composer-based reference books from Oxford. A Timothy J. McGee, Univ. of Toronto Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. From *Booklist* Oxford University Press is inaugurating a new series of composer companions with an impressive work on J. S. Bach. Edited by the noted Bach scholar Boyd, this first English-language A-Z encyclopedia on Bach has more than 900 entries written by 44 contributors. The contributors are well chosen, writing on their interests--Russell Stinson wrote the entry on the Orgel-Buchlein ("Little Organ Book") and has also completed a book on the same collection of organ chorales. The consultant editor is John Butt, who edited *The Cambridge Companion to Bach* (1997), which includes essays on Bach's life and works as well as on his influence on modern music. The Oxford volume provides short and long entries, many with bibliographies, on aspects of Bach's life, family, pupils, and employers; musical and technical terms; and individual works. Short articles include descriptions of cadenza fantasia, timpani, and watermarks. There are also a number of entries for current Bach festivals and twentieth-century musicians noted for Bach interpretations, such as Glenn Gould and Nikolaus Harnoncourt. Extensive essays cover Bach's major works (Brandenburg Concerto, Mass in B Minor) and types of compositions (chorale, fugue). One of the longest entries, reception and revival, surveys Bach's impact on various national musical traditions. Another discusses recordings. Black-and-white illustrations of Bach, his sons, places important in his life, a family tree, manuscripts of his works, and a map of his Germany enhance the text. Appendixes list Bach's works by category and title both with BC (Bach Compendium) and BWV (Bach-Werke-Verzeichnis) catalogue numbers. A "Thematic Overview" at the beginning of the volume lists entries by topic. There is also a brief glossary of musical terms. This volume should be considered a significant resource in the study of one of the most amazing composers who ever lived. Recommended for academic, public, and, of course, music libraries. "[O]rients readers well to current issues in Bach scholarship...[O]ffers many fascinating insights."--*Books Culture* "This is an excellent first volume of a new series of extensive composer-based reference books from Oxford."--*Library Journal* "Black-and-white illustrations of Bach, his sons, places important in his life, a family tree, manuscripts of his works, and a map of his Germany enhance the text.... A significant resource on one of the most amazing performers who ever lived."--*Booklist* "A vast storehouse of information on almost everything you could want to know about this most universally revered of composers. Up to date with recent scholarship and research, it deals very readably with an immense field of subjects--Bach's life, family, friends, pupils and contemporaries, places connected with him, sources of his works, instruments (with specifications of organs he played), musical forms, publishers, scholars, and much more. Every single one of the cantatas is examined in considerable detail, as well as the Passions and many other works, such as the Brandenburg Concertos, the Art of the Fugue or the Clavier-Ubung."--*Gramophone*