

Classics for Kids



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"Brandenburg Concerto No. 2"

J.S. Bach
Born: March 21, 1685
Died: July 28, 1750

Johann Sebastian Bach was a German composer. He came from a long line of composers - over 400 years' worth of Bachs all worked as musicians. By the time Johann was 10 both his parents had died, so he was brought up by his older brother, who was a church organist. Johann became a very good organist, too.

When he was older, Johann worked first for a duke, then for a prince, and finally became choirmaster of the St. Thomas Church and School in Leipzig, Germany, a position he held for 30 years. Bach wrote much of his famous music there. In his

spare time, he enjoyed playing music with other younger people at Zimmerman's Coffeehouse.

During his lifetime, people thought of Bach as an ordinary working musician. No one really knew much about his music until another composer, Felix Mendelssohn, started performing Bach's music 100 years after he died.

Bach wrote all kinds of music - for organ, orchestras, choirs and many different instrument combinations. Some of his best known works are the *Tocatta and Fugue in D Minor* and the *Brandenburg Concertos*. He is now seen as one of the greatest geniuses in music history.



Johann Sebastian Bach

Concerto Grosso

No, not a gross concerto. Literally, this term means great, or large, concerto. Bach and many other composers in the Baroque period wrote pieces in this style. In a *concerto grosso* two groups alternate. They are called the *concertino* (small ensemble) and the *ripieno* (a larger group). When everyone plays together, it is called *tutti*. Do you ever see the word *tutti* in your band music? Point to the *concertino* and the *ripieno* as you listen to the *Brandenburg Concerto No. 2*.

Ripieno



Concertino



Name that Soloist

The small ensemble in the *concerto grosso* is called the *concertino*. In the *Brandenburg Concerto No. 2*, Bach's *concertino* includes four instruments. Can you unscramble the letters to find out their names?



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OOEB

Here's your chance to create your own piece of art after listening to Bach's "*Brandenburg Concertos*."

Draw your picture, or write a story. We will chose one picture/story to feature in this space.
Send your entry to: Classics for Kids,
c/o WGUC,
1223 Central Parkway,
Cincinnati OH 45214, or
e-mail us at mail@classicsforkids.com.



Spring by Erica, Cincinnati OH

Fun with Music

Can you hear the flute when you listen to the music? Color the picture below. Maybe you can make up your own dance, just like these kids. The trumpet is also fun to pretend to play. Try it!

