



Contrapunctus 14

Die Kunst Der Fuge

by J. S. Bach

completed by Donald Francis Tovey

Typeset by Peter Billam

For Violin, Viola, and two Cellos

© Peter J Billam, 1998

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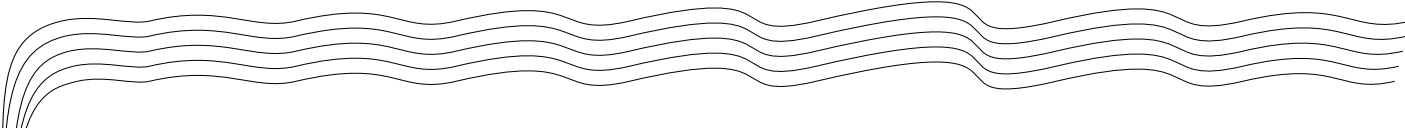
Contrapunctus 14

This great final fugue of *Die Kunst Der Fuge* was the piece that Bach left unfinished when he died. Some editions number it as *Contrapunctus 19* or as *Contrapunctus 18*. It is not actually his last composition; that honour belongs to the chorale prelude on *Vor Deinen Thron Trete' Ich Hiermit* which he dictated to his pupil Altnikol before taking leave of his family.

As Bach left *Contrapunctus 14*, it is a triple fugue: the first exposition starts at bar 1, the second at bar 114, and the third, on the notes B-A-C-H, at bar 193. Bach had previously been very sparing in the use of the notes of his own name, probably not thinking it appropriate to sign his life's work before it was complete. The three subjects are combined at bar 234, just before Bach's manuscript breaks off in bar 239. Bach left bar 239 with all eight quavers of the tenor, the alto and bass with just their first note, and with the soprano blank.

None of the fugue's three subjects is the theme of *Die Kunst Der Fuge*, and the *Gesamtaufgabe* even suggested that this fugue should not be considered to be part of that work. In 1880, Gustav Nottebohm pointed out the solution: the theme of *Die Kunst Der Fuge*, with one small rhythmic adjustment, fits in counterpoint with the other three subjects. This combination can be seen at bar 306 in the current edition. Nottebohm's discovery made it clear that the fugue was intended by Bach as a quadruple fugue with the theme of *Die Kunst Der Fuge* as the fourth subject, and there have since been several attempts to complete the fugue on this basis.

The most spectacular completion is that of Ferruccio Busoni in his *Fantasia Contrappuntistica* of 1912, which is published by *Dover* together with the *Elegies and Sonatinas*. Stylistically it is sometimes pure Bach, sometimes pure Busoni, and Busoni moves freely and smoothly between these poles, demonstrating the unity of the tradition, and blurring the boundaries between composition, editing, and performance. After an introduction of 201 bars, followed by Bach's fugue, Busoni adds 473 bars of his own, particularly favouring the eloquent second subject.



The most plausible completion is that of the English composer and pianist Donald Francis Tovey, 1875 - 1940, which was published in 1931 on C-clefs in open score by Oxford University Press and is now out of print.

We should treat as inspiring Tovey's courage in measuring up to Bach himself on his home territory and at the height of his powers. Tovey's erudition and hard work almost achieve the stylistic authenticity that he was seeking. The set pieces, such as Nottebohm's passage at bar 306 and its inversions at bars 280 and 263, are very fine; but, especially in the free voices, one can still notice the join. In the Tovey there are longer runs of parallel thirds or sixths, more scalic passages, more voice-crossings, more extremes of register and of texture. And in the Bach there is a luminous, fluent, quaver-by-quaver, never-failing beauty that is not easily matched.

While Tovey was at work, the *Fantasia Contrappuntistica* was published, but he refrained from consulting it until his own work was finished in 1928. His completion measures 78 bars, and remains the most plausibly Bachian. For organ, Michael Ferguson's completion (1990) should be considered; it is available from Holbrook, 2402 University Ave, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55114, USA.

The current edition is the first to make Tovey's work available in practical formats. It is available for keyboard, and there are parts for SATB recorders, for violin, viola and two 'cellos, for saxophone quartet, and for oboe, cor anglais and two bassoons. In the recorder version, the Bass should preferably be doubled by a Great Bass. The Alto and Tenor lines divide in the penultimate bar. There is no separate score; the keyboard edition is recommended instead. All these are available from <http://www.pjb.com.au/mus>

Peter J Billam

Contrapunctus 14 – Violin

5 10 15

Bass ... Tenor ... Alto ...

20

25 30

35

40 45

50 55

60

65 70

75

80 85

90

95

Detailed description: This image shows the first page of a musical score for Contrapunctus 14 in G major, BWV 1004, by Johann Sebastian Bach, as completed by D. F. Tovey. The score is written for a single violin and consists of ten staves of music. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is common time (C). The score begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The first staff contains measures 1 through 15, with measure numbers 5, 10, and 15 indicated above the staff. The second staff contains measures 16 through 20, with measure number 20 indicated above. The third staff contains measures 21 through 30, with measure numbers 25 and 30 indicated above. The fourth staff contains measures 31 through 35, with measure number 35 indicated above. The fifth staff contains measures 36 through 45, with measure numbers 40 and 45 indicated above. The sixth staff contains measures 46 through 55, with measure numbers 50 and 55 indicated above. The seventh staff contains measures 56 through 60, with measure number 60 indicated above. The eighth staff contains measures 61 through 70, with measure numbers 65 and 70 indicated above. The ninth staff contains measures 71 through 85, with measure numbers 75, 80, and 85 indicated above. The tenth staff contains measures 86 through 100, with measure numbers 90 and 95 indicated above. The score concludes with a final cadence in measure 100.

100

105

110

115

120

125

130

135

140

145

150

155

160

165

170 175

180

185

190 195

200 205

210

215

220

225

230

235

239 The remainder is by D. F. Tovey 245

250

255

260

265

270

275

280

285

290

295

300

305

310

315

Contrapunctus 14 – Viola

5 10 15

Bass ... Tenor ...

20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 95 100

105

110

115

120

125

130

135

140

145

150

155

160

165

170

175

180

185

190

195

200

205

210

215

220

225

230

235

239 *The remainder is by D. F. Tovey*

245

250

255

260

265

270

275

280

285

290

295

300

305

310

315

Contrapunctus 14 – 1st Cello

Bass

5 10

15 20

25 30

35

40

45 50

55 60

65

70 75

80

85

90 95

100

105 110

115
Alto ...

120 125 130
Soprano ... Bass ...

135

140

145

150

155 160

165

170

175

250

255

260

265

270

275

280

285

290

295

300

305

310

315

Contrapunctus 14 – 2nd Cello

J. S. Bach, completed by D. F. Tovey

The image displays a musical score for the 2nd Cello part of Contrapunctus 14. The score is written in bass clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The music is organized into ten systems, each containing a single staff. Measure numbers are indicated above the staves at intervals of 5 measures, starting from 5 and ending at 80. The notation includes various rhythmic values such as quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, as well as rests, slurs, and accidentals. The piece concludes with a sharp sign on the final note of the 84th measure.

85

90

95

100 105

110

115 120 *Soprano...* 125
Alto...

130

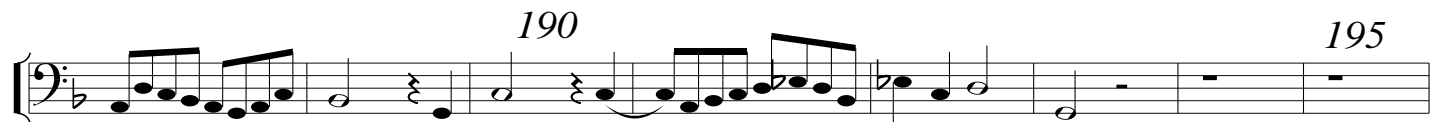
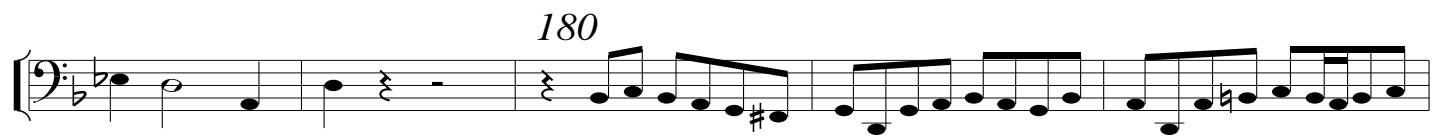
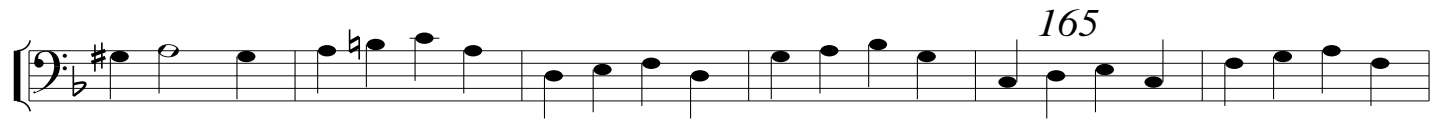
135

140

145

150 155

160



240 The remainder is by D. F. Tovey

Musical score for 2nd Cello, J.S. Bach's Contrapunctus 14, measures 240-315. The score is written in bass clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The music features a variety of rhythmic patterns, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests. Measure numbers are indicated above the staff: 240, 245, 250, 255, 260, 265, 270, 275, 280, 285, 290, 295, 300, 305, 310, and 315. A trill (tr) is marked above measure 250. The piece concludes with a double bar line at measure 315.

Peter Billam was born in London in 1948, studied piano, and lived in Switzerland from 1973 to 1983, where he studied composition, classical guitar, flute and voice, worked as Musical Director of the *Théâtre Populaire Romand*, and as recording engineer, record producer and computer programmer. He moved to Tasmania in 1983, lectured in composition at the Conservatorium, conducted recorder ensembles and choirs, studied recorder, voice and harpsichord. He founded www.pjb.com.au, becoming the first composer to sell scores on-line, with on-line delivery, taking scores from Composer to Performer in one immediate step. *Wwww.pjb.com.au* offers a new approach to music publishing. These pieces are **written to be read, made to be played !**

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Arrangements include: By J. S. Bach: *Trio BWV 655*, piano and flute; *Vor deinen Thron BWV 668*, piano; *Fugue in F minor BWV 689*, SATB recorders; *Flute Sonata BWV 1031* transposed into G major for alto recorder and keyboard; *Flute Sonata BWV 1032* completed by Peter Billam for flute and keyboard, also in C major for alto recorder, and in G major for descant; *Ricercare a 3*, from the *Musikalisches Opfer* for keyboard; *Ricercare a 6*, for sSATBG recorders, or strings, or two keyboards; *Fuga Canonica in Epidiapente* for keyboard and melody instrument; from the *Art of Fugue: Contrapuncti 1, 4 and 9* for keyboard, and *Contrapunctus 14* as completed by D. F. Tovey, for keyboard, or for SATB recorders, or for strings; *Passacaglia and Fugue in c* for piano four hands; *Chorales with Descant* for melody instrument and piano; *Cello Suites I, II and III* for flute or alto recorder, *Forty Chorales* for piano, *Der Geist hilft* for SATB-SATB recorders. By Johannes Brahms: *Fugue in Ab minor for organ*, for SATB recorders and gamba, in A minor; *Choralvorspiele for organ* with previous settings by Isaac, Bach, Praetorius, recorders. By Franz Schubert: *Four Songs*, voice and guitar; *Schubert Dances*, recorders and guitar, *Schubert Dances*, piano 4 hands. By G. F. Händel: *Concerto Grosso in A minor* op 6 no 4, harpsichord and recorders; *Recorder Sonata in Bb* no 5, in G for tenor recorder and keyboard. By other composers: *Claudio Monteverdi, Ecco Mormorar l'Onde*, SSATB recorders; *Twelve Italian Songs*, voice and guitar; *John Wilbye, Draw on sweet Night*, SSATTB recorders, and for flute choir; *Telemann, Twelve Flute Fantasias*, recorder; *John Carr, Divisions on an Italian Ground*, flute or recorder and guitar; *Fourteen Folk Dance Tunes*, recorder and guitar; *Easy Classical Pieces*, Bb trumpet and piano.

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