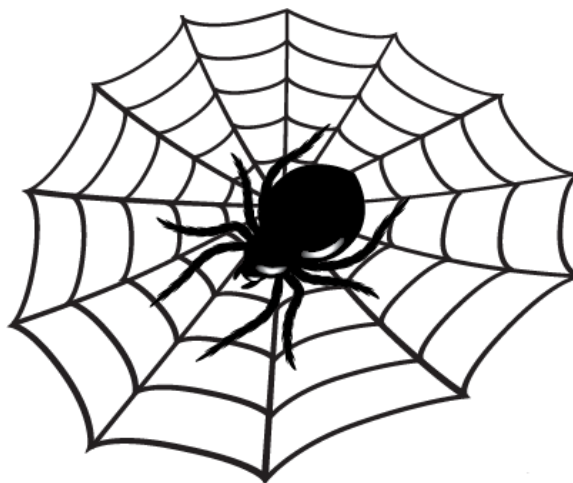


Toccata and Fugue in d minor:

Toccata

BY JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH



Toccata and Fugue in d minor: Toccata by Bach (1685-1750)



BACKGROUND

Toccata and Fugue in d minor: Toccata

by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 - 1750)

About the Composer

- Johann Sebastian Bach was born in Germany on March 21, 1685 into a famous musical family. He was a composer of the Baroque Period.
- He lost both parents at an early age and was raised by an older brother who saw to his musical education.
- As an adult, Bach became a church organist and choirmaster. He composed music for each Sunday service for many years. He was also paid by various noblemen to create music for special occasions.
- Bach wrote organ and other keyboard works, vocal works and many pieces for orchestra and small ensembles. He is considered to be one of the greatest composers of all time.



Vocabulary

chord two or more notes sounding together

question and answer phrases a pair of musical phrases where the first idea does not feel complete without the second

About the Music

- This selection is one of the most famous organ pieces of all time.
- It is composed for solo pipe organ.
- The first public performance of **Toccata and Fugue in d minor** was by fellow composer Felix Mendelssohn in 1840.
- It was highly regarded by another composer, Robert Schumann, who thought *Toccata* was an example of Bach's sense of humor.
- *Toccata* has been featured in the 1931 film **Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde**, the 1962 movie **Phantom of the Opera**, and in Walt Disney's 1940 film **Fantasia**.

More

The performer featured in this selection is Robert Noehren (1910 - 2002). He had a long and distinguished career as a performer, recording artist, scholar, author, and teacher. In addition to heading the Organ Department at the University of Michigan, he started his own organ building company, designing and building over 20 large pipe organs. Even at the age of 92, he was planning a live recording, writing a cook book, and preparing a lecture for an Organ Builders convention.



BACKGROUND

Toccata and Fugue in d minor: Toccata

de Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 - 1750)

Acerca del Compositor

- Johann Sebastián Bach, nació el 21 de marzo de 1685 en Alemania, en una familia de músicos famosos. Él fue un compositor del Período Barroco.
- El perdió a sus padres a una temprana edad y fue educado por su hermano mayor, quien se encargó de su educación musical.
- De adulto, Bach se convirtió en organista de iglesia y director de coro. Por muchos años él compuso música para cada servicio del día Domingo. La gente de la nobleza le pagaba para que escribiera música para ocasiones especiales.
- Bach escribió piezas para órgano y teclado, piezas para voz, orquesta y conjuntos pequeños. Él es considerado como uno de los más grandes compositores de todos los tiempos.



Vocabulario

acorde es un conjunto de dos o mas notas musicales tocadas al mismo tiempo

frase de pregunta y respuesta es un par de frases musicales en donde la primera idea no se siente completa sin la segunda

Más

El artista que interpreta esta selección es Robert Noehren (1910-2020). Él tuvo una larga y distinguida carrera como interprete, artista discográfico, estudiante, autor y profesor. Además de dirigir el departamento de órgano de la universidad de Michigan, él empezó su propia empresa de construcción de órganos, diseño y construyó más de 20 órganos de tubos grandes. A la edad de 92 años, planeaba una grabación en vivo, escribir un libro de cocina y preparaba una cátedra para una convención de constructores de órganos.

La Pieza Musical

- Esta selección es una de las piezas más famosas para órgano de todos los tiempos.
- Esta pieza esta escrita para órgano solista.
- La primera presentación pública de la **Toccata and Fugue in d minor** fue realizada por un compañero compositor Félix Mendelssohn en 1840.
- Fue muy bien considerada por otro compositor, Robert Schumann, quien pensó que la *Toccata* era un ejemplo del sentido del humor de Bach.
- *Toccata* fue presentada en 1931 en la película **Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde**, en 1962 en la película **Phantom of the Opera**, y en 1940 en la película de Walt Disney, **Fantasia**.



LESSON

Toccata and Fugue in d minor: Toccata by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)



LESSON BY MATT BOWERS

TIME: 2:50

CONCEPTS/VOCABULARY

chord, pipe organ, question and answer phrases, sequence, *toccata*

OBJECTIVES

1. Explain the purpose of a *toccata*.
2. Identify the sound of a chord.



NOTE

1. **New!** *Curriculum Connections to Art* included with link to artwork.
2. *Kinesthetic Title Video*, *Words to Theme Video* and *Movement Activity Video* are available on the Digital Teacher's Guide.
3. *Early Childhood Student Booklet* is available on the Digital Teacher's Guide.

MATERIALS



Digital Teacher's Guide/Resources/Audio Bank for Full Selection and Themes



MightyLessonKit© or Listening Map PDF



Student Reproducible Pages:
Background Page in English/Spanish
"Checking for Understanding"
"Build a Wind Instrument"
Activity Page



Piano or other chordal instrument



Movement Activity Directions



Reader's Theater Script



Early Childhood Pages

SUPPLEMENTAL



Links to Live Performances



Composer Portraits



Wall Sign



SETTING THE STAGE

Introduce the concept of a *toccata*.

- ♦ Ask students to suggest items they might want to bring to school for show and tell. After accepting many answers, ask students what they notice in common between all the suggestions (often these things would be special to the person).
- ♦ Ask students if rather than bringing something tangible, they brought something intangible like a talent. How would that be shared (in a talent show or other performance)?
- ♦ If a musician wanted to show off how fast they could play, or all the super fancy things they could do with their instrument, they might choose to show it by playing a *toccata*.

Define *toccata* as a musical composition that is primarily written to showcase a performer's excellent technique and ability. The term *toccata* originally comes from the Italian word "toccare," which means "to touch." Tell students that today they will be listening to a *toccata* written by one of the greatest composers of all time.

LESSON

Toccata and Fugue in d minor: *Toccata* by Johann Sebastian Bach



TEACHING SUGGESTIONS

1) Have students:

- ♦ Read or listen to background information on Bach (1685-1750) and this selection.
- ♦ Perform the Kinesthetic Title moves with the video.
- ♦ Define Concepts/Vocabulary for this lesson.
- ♦ Visit <https://www.pipedreams.org/page/how-a-pipe-organ-works> to see how a pipe organ works.
- ♦ Discuss the tubing on a pipe organ. A player presses different keys to route the air through various lengths of tubing. Longer tubes will play lower pitches and shorter tubes will play higher pitches. The lowest tubes are played using pedals at the players feet.

2) Review the listening map.

- ♦ Look at all the images on the map. Notice which images return later on the map, although perhaps changed slightly (skull, owls, cats), and which images are seen only once (spiders, bats, rat, & tree). Each of these images will have a different melody.
- ♦ Identify the pipe organ as the featured instrument pictured in the center of the map.
- ♦ Discover the places where a sequence will be heard (cats), and where question and answer phrases will be heard (spiders).
- ♦ Find the places on the map where a chord will be heard (skulls & bones).

3) Sing the Theme with words. This can be found in the Notated Themes section of the lesson. *Words to Themes Video* is available on the Digital Teacher's Guide.

4) Listen to the selection and follow the map.

5) Visit <http://safesha.re/achoccataive> to see a live performance of this selection by organist Sean Jackson from Barbados.



ASSESSMENT

Play several individual notes on the piano, mixing in a chord every now and then. Have students signal when they hear a chord. Have students separate into small groups to discuss the purpose of a *toccata* and brainstorm a list of other things that have the same purpose as a *toccata*.

LESSON

Toccata and Fugue in d minor: *Toccata* by Johann Sebastian Bach



OPTIONAL EXTENSIONS

Have students:



Complete the “Checking for Understanding” worksheet.
ANSWERS: 1. a 2. c 3. b 4. c 5. c



Complete the “Build a Wind Instrument” Activity Page.



Visit <https://safesha.re/2mk> to see this piece featured on Walt Disney’s *Fantasia*.

Visit <https://safesha.re/arraphach> to see this piece in a bar graph score.

Visit the Mighty Music YouTube Channel for more video resources at
<https://www.youtube.com/c/MightyMusicPublishing>.

Be sure to have students listen to other recordings of this selection from YouTube or other music streaming services that vary in tempo and style.



Use the Reader’s Theater Script.



VOCABULARY/DEFINITIONS

chord two or more notes sounding together

pipe organ a keyboard instrument with air pumps that that blow air through metal tubing, creating sounds like many different instruments

question and answer phrases a pair of musical phrases where the first idea does not feel complete without the second

sequence a musical pattern that is repeated starting on a different pitch level each time

toccata a musical composition that is primarily written to showcase a performer’s excellent technique and ability

LESSON

Toccata and Fugue in d minor: Toccata by Johann Sebastian Bach



CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

Music/Art/Architecture



St. Stephen's Cathedral, Passau, Germany

<https://www.atlasobscura.com/places/europes-largest-pipe-organ>

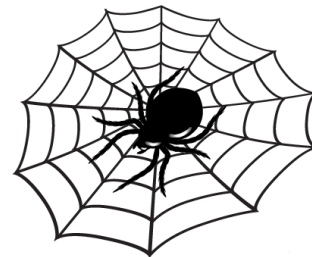
The Baroque style is from the 17th century and is known for highly ornate and very elaborate design. The Baroque style is reflected in Bach's music, in the architecture of this church that was built in 1663, and in the highly decorated design of the huge pipe organ.

Baroque architecture is characterized by domelike ceilings, or vaults, held up by walls and rows of pillars.

The organ at St. Stephen's Cathedral is the largest pipe organ in Europe. The organ has been added to over the years. It currently has 17,774 pipes and 233 registers. Each portion of the organ was built separately, and can be played as a standalone instrument by way of its own console. There is one general console that can control all 17,774 pipes!

LESSON

Toccata and Fugue in d minor: *Toccata* by Johann Sebastian Bach



NOTATED THEME

Theme A

Two staves of musical notation for Theme A. The first staff is in 4/4 time, D minor, and features a treble clef. The second staff is in the same key and time, but features a bass clef. The lyrics "Toccata it is in d mi - nor Toccata writ-ten by Bach" are written below the first staff. The second staff begins with a "2" below the first measure, indicating a second ending or a specific fingering.

CHECKING FOR UNDERSTANDING

Name: _____

Class: _____



Toccata and Fugue in d minor: Toccata

by _____

As you look at the map, answer the following questions.

_____ 1) Which instrument performs this selection?

- a. pipe organ
- b. cello
- c. guitar

_____ 2) Look at the following images from the map.



Which image represents a question and answer phrase?

- a. A
- b. B
- c. C

_____ 3) Read the musical terms below:

A. trill B. chord C. fermata

Which term means two or more notes played at the same time?

- a. A
- b. B
- c. C

_____ 4) Which image represents a chord?

- a. Owl
- b. Spider
- c. Skull

_____ 5) Which image(s) represents a sequence?

- a. Mouse
- b. Spider
- c. Cats

Write complete sentences to answer the following questions:

How does the music make you feel?

What about the music made you feel that way?



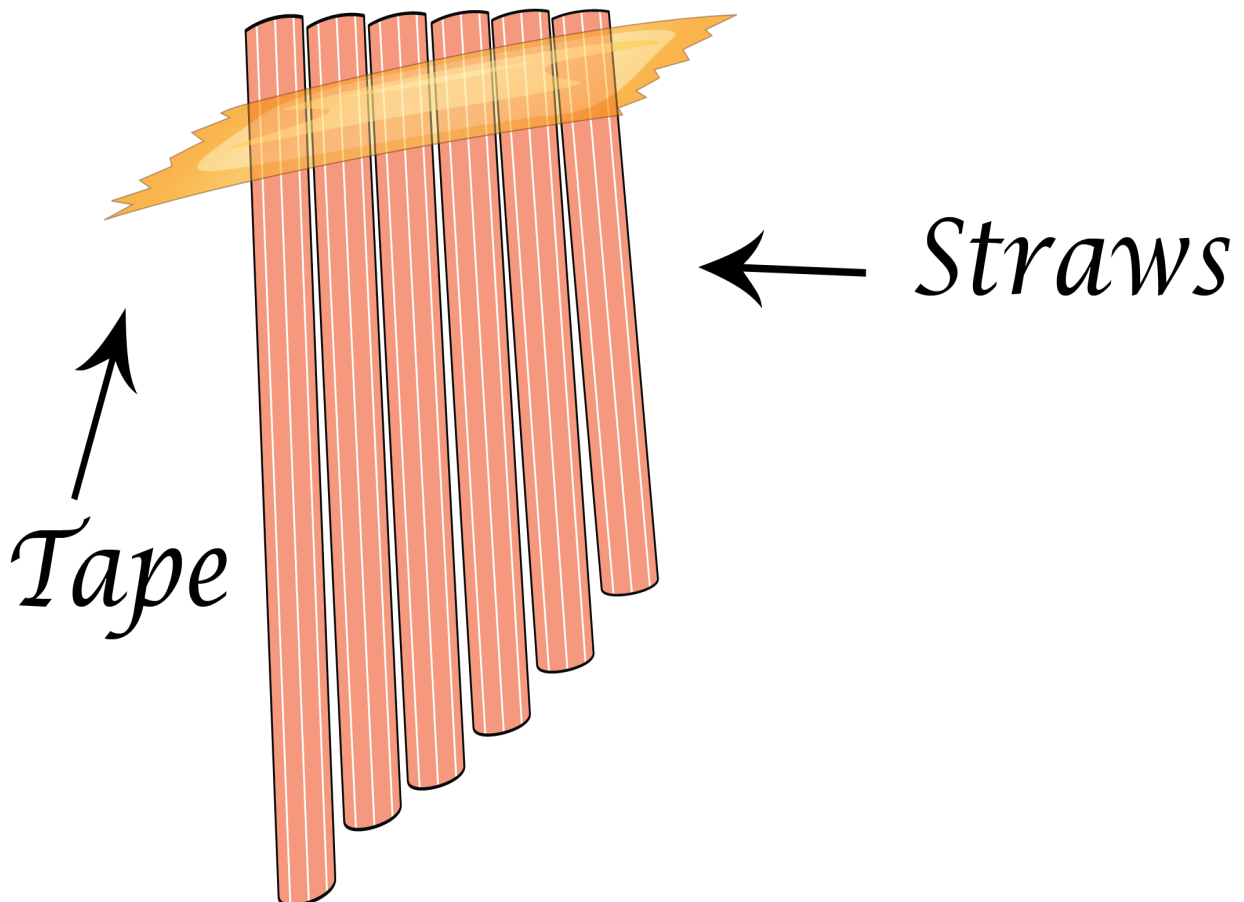
Name _____ Class _____

Build a Wind Instrument

Toccata and Fugue in d minor: Toccata by _____ (1685-1750)

Pipe organs work by blowing air through tubes of various lengths. Build a wind instrument by following the steps below:

1. Cut plastic drinking straws to different lengths.
2. Line up the straws in order of length and tape them all together.
3. Play the instrument by blowing across the top of the straws or into the straws but don't put your mouth on the straws.
4. Play from low to high, then high to low.



MOVEMENT DIRECTIONS



Toccata and Fugue in d minor: *Toccata* by Johann Sebastian Bach



Concepts: mood of the music

Opening Formation: students in small groups

Ask students to brainstorm characters from spooky stories that they know and write the list on the board. (bats, black cats, owls, spiders, rats, jack-o-lantern, Frankenstein, werewolf)

Students should work in a group to outline a story using some of the characters. The story should follow the plot structure (opening, conflict, resolution or beginning, middle, end). Ask students which words they use to outline narrative stories in Language Arts class.

Tell students that they are now going to make a silent film of their story. When silent films were popular, there would be an organist at the movie theater playing a sound track at each showing of the movie, so for our sound track we are going to use this selection. Students should try to time their stories to match the 2:50 length of the selection.

Give students an opportunity to practice acting out their stories, and then present each story to the class with this selection as the soundtrack.

READER'S THEATER SCRIPT

Toccata and Fugue in d minor: *Toccata* by Johann Sebastian Bach



Characters: Isla, Miles, Haylee

Setting: An organ Recital around Halloween



- Isla: An Italian term for touch,
the word is Toccata.
It's not a kind of cheese,
that would be ricotta.
- Miles: A piece for the keyboard
with fingers flying high.
Only the best performer,
whose talent you can't deny.
- Haylee: Not only using hands
But also using feet.
Coordination helps
Both must keep the beat
- Isla: The writer of this piece
Was the famous Bach
You might have heard of him
On video or TikTok
- Miles: The mood is dark and spooky,
like bats that fly at night,
and other sounds that are around
that might give you a fright.
- Haylee: So listen closely children,
It's an organ that you will hear,
A wonderful Toccata,
for this spooky time of year.

EARLY CHILDHOOD PAGES

Name _____

Toccata and Fugue in d minor: *Toccata* by Johann Sebastian Bach

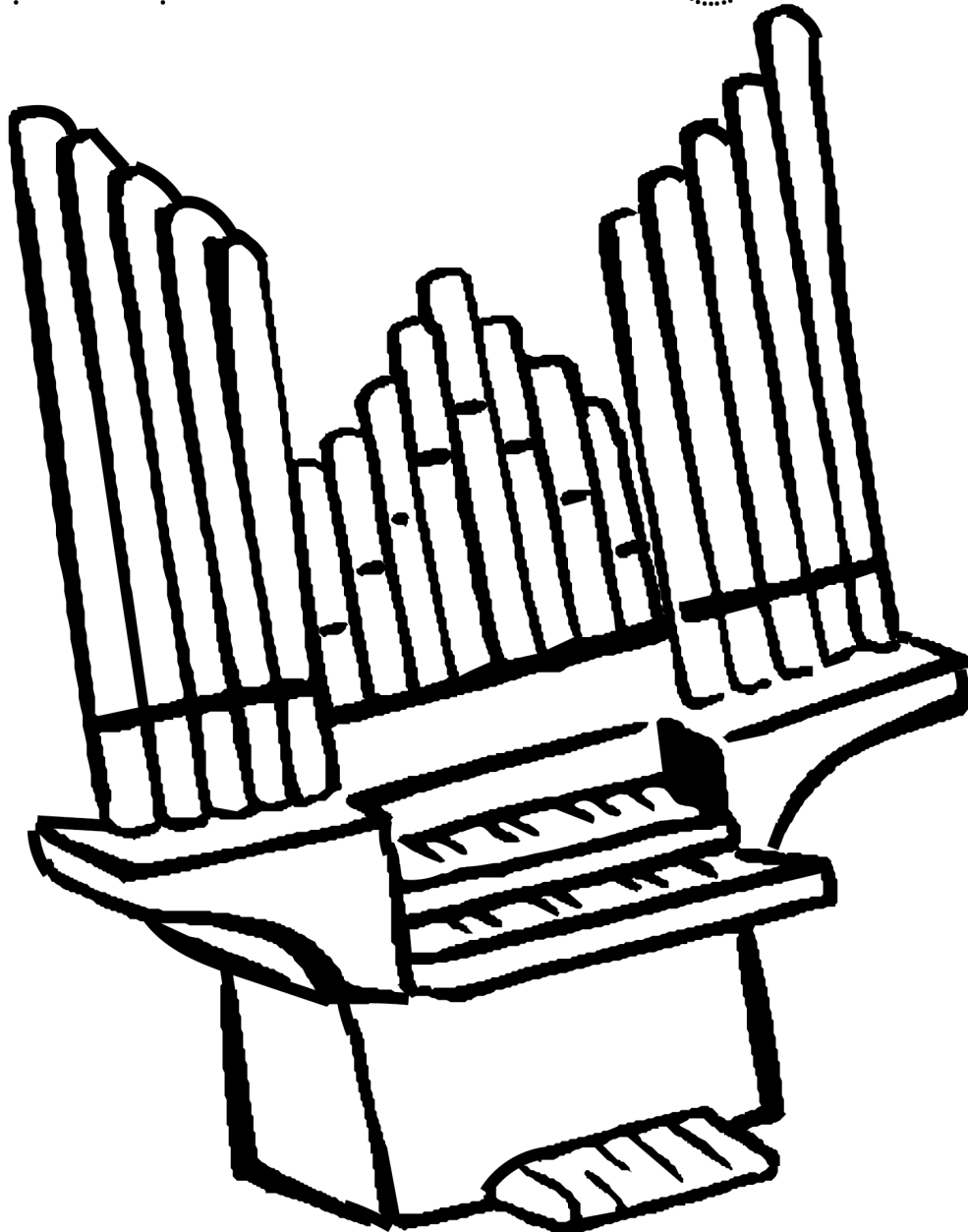


You will hear the pipe organ in this music.
Color the pipe organ as you listen.
Write the word pipe organ.



pipe

organ



EARLY CHILDHOOD PAGES

Name _____

Toccata and Fugue in d minor: *Toccata* by Johann Sebastian Bach



Finish the sentences using the pictures as a clue.
Listen to the music as you color the pictures.



1. I see the _____



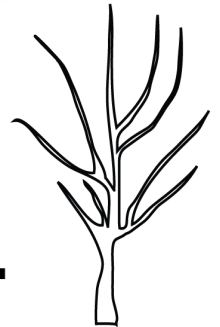
2. I see the _____.



3. I see the _____.



4. I see the _____.



5. I see the _____.

