

Materials

1. Student pages 82–86
2. Guides 28 and 29
3. Chalkboard or overhead projector

Recordings

- Bist du bei mir**
by Johann Sebastian Bach
LC 18
- Invention no. 13 in A Minor**
by Johann Sebastian Bach
LC 17

PHASE 1

Objective The student will identify historical aspects of the life of Johann Sebastian Bach.

Activity Have the students read pages 82–86 in their texts or present the information in a lecture. On the board or overhead projector, outline the main periods in Bach’s life: childhood, Weimar, Cothen, and Leipzig. Ask the students to fill in details about each of these periods. End with a discussion of Bach’s testimony as a Christian musician. Ask your students to think of ways people in other professions could give glory to God as Bach did in his composing.

Evaluation Quality of class discussion

PHASE 2

Objective The student will identify characteristics of the melody and the bass line in a composition by Bach.

Activity Play the melody and bass line of “Bist du bei mir,” found on Guide 28. Then follow the instructions on the guide as your students listen to the recording. They should probably listen several times, each time focusing on a different element: melody, bass line, and chords. Ask the students to compare the melody with the bass line. They might mention these ideas: (1) the melody has more rhythmic interest than the rather steady bass line; (2) the melody is more song-like; the

bass line has large leaps that would make it hard to sing; (3) the melody is ornamented and the bass line is not; (4) the melody expresses the message of the text while the bass line seems strictly accompanimental.

Evaluation Quality of class discussion

PHASE 3

Objective The student will aurally identify separate lines in a contrapuntal composition.

Activity After reading the information about “Invention no. 13 in A Minor” (page 86), the students should complete Guide 29 while listening to the recording. Repeated listenings may be necessary.

Evaluation Accuracy and appropriateness of student responses on the listening guide

PHASE 4

Objective The student will display an appreciation for the music of Bach by selecting music to share in a classroom concert.

Activity Ask students who play an instrument or sing to select a composition by Bach to perform in a classroom concert. Those without instrumental performing skills could work as a group to sing a Bach chorale or other choral work, or they could select a favorite recording to share. In large classrooms not all students need to participate. Those not performing could type up a program, serve as ushers, or write critiques of the concert for later discussion.

Evaluation Quality of student performances and critiques