

BWV 997 - ii. Fugue

(orig. c minor)

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

Arranged for Guitar by

ALAN MELVIN

COMMENTS:

In the two-staff sources of this suite, the upper staff was meant to be read 8va (as in guitar music), throughout movements 1-4. The only exceptions to this rule (other than movt. 5) are when the bottom voice makes brief visits (less than a measure) to this staff, as happens late in the fugue.

Agricola's copy (D-B Mus.ms. Bach P 650) is one of the best, and is believed to be a direct copy of Bach's lost original. However, being the oldest, it lacks some minor, late revisions.

Kirnberger's copy (D-B Mus.ms. Bach P 218, Faszikel 3) includes some apparently authentic revisions, but also, some spurious edits in the fugue. The latter were made by someone who misunderstood the 8va feature, thinking the notation was meant literally. This misinterpretation made the fugue unplayable, a problem they tried to solve with many arbitrary octave displacements and other changes. In the fugue, the few variants that are not obviously this type have been included (with the label "Kirnberger's version"). Studying the maximum-resolution scans available at digital.staatsbibliothek-berlin.de, your writer observes most of these six variants were not present in what Kirnberger initially copied, which can still be faintly seen through his later edits.

Weyrauch's manuscript (D-LEm Becker III.11.5), in lute tablature, does not include the Fugue or Double movements. Although Weyrauch's variants include some minor technical changes presumably by him, there are other variants- generally easy to distinguish- which seem like authentic Bach revisions, particularly a brilliant chromatic ending to the Sarabande (interestingly, in exactly the same style Bach used to end a slow movement when transcribing BWV 1003 to BWV 964).

Other sources compared include US-NHub Music Deposit 88, D-B Am.B 549-550 (Faszikel 2), and D-B Mus.ms. Bach P 286 (Faszikel 8).

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8va

4

5

8va

10

8va

*Agricola:
(earliest copy)*

*Kirnberger's
version:*

14

8va

*Kirnberger's
version:*

18

8va

22

8va

III ⑤

①

VII

VII ③

①

II

52

8va

IV⁵ II⁴

Alternative:

56

8va

VIII II⁵ II

60

8va

ossia: 2

ossia: 3

III⁴ II²

Kirnberger's version:

63

8va

hinge I II

III⁴

Kirnberger's version:

66

8va

II⁴ II

69 

Alternative:

72 

75 

78 

81 

84 

87 

90 *Pivot with 1st finger*

93

97

100

103 *hinge --- I* *hinge --- I --- hinge* *I --- hinge*

Agricola:

Agricola: (& most early copies)

106

108

D.S. [al Fine]