

J. S. BACH

GOLDBERG VARIATIONS BWV 988
FOR THE KEYBOARD

EDITED BY HANS BISCHOFF



AN ALFRED MASTERWORK EDITION



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Oil on canvas

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GOLDBERG VARIATIONS

(Aria with 30 Variations)

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)
BWV 988

ARIA
Andante (♩ = 76)

5

9

13

p dolce

più f

1)

2)

NB. 1

NB. 2

1) D instead of B, according to *B* and *E*.

2) In *B* there is an appoggiatura on D without any trill—instead of the trill as it appears here.

NB. 1 In *A* the mordents are almost always extended. In view of the presentation of the ornaments in autograph *B*, I consider this to be due to carelessness in engraving.

NB. 2 The ties in the Aria are taken from the original. In the opinion of the editor, even the untied notes should be executed legato.

VARIATION 1 (a 1 clavier)
Allegro moderato (♩ = 100)

Musical notation for measures 1-3. The piece is in 3/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The tempo is Allegro moderato (♩ = 100). The first measure starts with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The right hand features a melodic line with eighth-note patterns and slurs, while the left hand provides a steady accompaniment of eighth notes. Fingerings are indicated with numbers 1, 2, and 3.

Musical notation for measures 4-6. Measure 4 begins with a boxed measure number '4'. The right hand continues with eighth-note patterns, including a triplet in measure 5. The left hand has a more active role with eighth-note runs. Fingerings are clearly marked throughout.

Musical notation for measures 7-10. Measure 7 is marked with a boxed '7'. The right hand features a triplet in measure 8. A crescendo hairpin leads to a forte (*f*) dynamic in measure 9. A first ending bracket labeled '1)' spans measures 9 and 10. Fingerings are indicated for both hands.

Musical notation for measures 11-13. Measure 11 is marked with a boxed '11'. The right hand has a triplet in measure 12. The left hand has a triplet in measure 13. A piano (*p*) dynamic is indicated in measure 13. A first ending bracket labeled '1)' spans measures 12 and 13. Fingerings are indicated.

Musical notation for measures 14-16. Measure 14 is marked with a boxed '14'. The right hand has a triplet in measure 15. The left hand has a triplet in measure 16. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots. Fingerings are indicated.

1) Variant in E: A short musical phrase in E major, consisting of a sequence of eighth notes: E4, F#4, G4, A4, B4, C#5, D5, E5.

VARIATION 2 (a 1 clavier)

Andante (♩ = 84)

NB.

p

mf

dim.

p

f

dim.

p

NB. *A* contains extended mordents. In consideration of the annotation NB. 1 to the theme proper I believe that short mordents are intended. The latter are indicated in *C*.