

# J. S. Bach

## Unaccompanied Suites

BWV 1007 - 1012

*Transcribed by*

Ralph Sauer

*for*

## Bass Trombone

A transcription of the *Unaccompanied Cello Suites* for bass trombone (or any wind instrument for that matter) presents three interesting questions - where to breathe, how to handle multiple stops, and the problem of *tessitura*. In trying to find places to breathe (especially in the preludes), I looked for the major phrases and if they were impossible in one breath, tried to decide what Bach would have done if he were transcribing for a wind instrument. In some cases, eliminating one note in a pattern (such as a passing tone) was all that was needed. In other situations, a broadening of the tempo both before and after a breath was a reasonable solution. (When executed correctly, this type of breath will seem to be part of the music.)

Multiple stops, especially at cadences, were simulated with grace notes, which should be played broadly and melodically. However, the polyphony in some of the movements presented problems. In these instances (mainly in the slow movements), I opted for notating only the principal melodic line and then added grace notes and such only to enhance the simple purity of that line. The *tessitura* problem was solved by careful choice of key.

In the matter of notation, a slur is a general articulation marking and can also indicate a large or small phrase. Notes without slurs are detached and could be possibly any length (from short to long) depending upon interpretation. A *tenuto* mark indicates a broadening of tempo (usually at cadential points to facilitate breathing) and could be interpreted as a slight *ritardando*.

Dynamics are not notated except for the four instances in the original manuscript of *Suite No. 6*. Because dynamics are relative and not absolute, I would suggest always playing with a full sound (whatever dynamic level that implies), making use of echo effects in the many places that the music provides, and allowing the music to rise and fall naturally.

Tempo indications are general suggestions only. I refrained from using fanciful descriptive terms such as *con brio*, or *quasi una fantasia* because they may suggest a particular style. To quote Pablo Casals, "Where interpreting Bach's music is concerned, there are no hard and fast rules...The best thing to do is to discard all preconceived ideas and try to approach in our performances whatever the music conveys to us..."

This transcription is not intended to be a blueprint to be followed exactly - but rather, it is the raw material from which a personal interpretation can be built.

*Ralph Sauer*

# Suite I

Bass Trombone

*Prelude*

J. S. Bach

Moderato

The image displays a musical score for Bass Trombone, titled "Suite I, Prelude" by J.S. Bach. The tempo is marked "Moderato". The score is written in bass clef, with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 4/4. The music consists of three staves of notation. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature, followed by a bass clef. The melody is primarily eighth-note based, with some sixteenth-note passages. The piece concludes with a final cadence on the third staff, marked with a double bar line and a fermata.

*Allemande***Moderato**

The image displays the first three staves of the Allemande from the Six Suites for Cello by J.S. Bach. The music is written in the bass clef with a common time signature (C). The tempo is marked as Moderato. The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor). The notation includes various rhythmic values such as eighth and sixteenth notes, often beamed together, and rests. Phrasing is indicated by slurs and breath marks. The first staff begins with a half rest followed by a quarter rest, then a series of eighth notes. The second staff continues with eighth notes and a quarter note. The third staff features a key signature change to two sharps (F# major or C# minor) and continues with eighth and sixteenth notes.

*Courante*

**Allegro**

The image displays the musical score for the Courante in G major, BWV 817, from the Notebook for Anna Bach. The score is written in bass clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. The tempo is marked 'Allegro'. The piece consists of three staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp, indicating the treble clef part. The second and third staves are in bass clef. The music features a rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes, often beamed together, with various articulations such as slurs and accents. The piece concludes with a final cadence in the third staff.

*Sarabande***Lento**

The image displays a musical score for the Sarabande from J.S. Bach's Six Suites for Cello. The score is written on two staves in bass clef, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a 3/4 time signature. The tempo marking is **Lento**. The music features a series of slurs and accents, indicating a slow, expressive performance. The first staff contains the first 12 measures, and the second staff contains the final 6 measures, ending with a double bar line and repeat dots.



*Gigue***Moderato**

The image displays the musical score for the Gigue in G major, BWV 1009, from the Notebook for Anna Bach. The piece is in 6/8 time and is marked Moderato. The score is written in bass clef with a key signature of one flat (F major). It consists of three staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature change to one flat, followed by a 6/8 time signature. The melody starts with a quarter note G, followed by a dotted quarter note A, and then a series of eighth notes. The second staff continues the melody with similar rhythmic patterns. The third staff features more complex rhythmic figures, including sixteenth notes and a final cadence.

# Trombone Solos with Piano

## Arranged by Ralph Sauer

- |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Albéniz, I.</b> Three Pieces from Suite Española<br/> <b>Bach, J. S.</b> Three Gamba Sonatas *(B)<br/> <b>Bach/Marcello</b> Concerto in D minor<br/> <b>Bartók, B.</b> Allegro Barbaro<br/> <b>Bax, A.</b> Two Pieces (B)<br/> <b>Beech, A.</b> Eskimos, Op. 64 (B)<br/> <b>Beethoven, L. V.</b> Music for a Mechanical Clock (B)<br/> <b>Borodin, A.</b> Chorus &amp; Dance of the Polovetsian Maidens<br/> <b>Borodin, A.</b> Petite Suite (B)<br/> <b>Brahms, J.</b> Sonata No. 1, Op. 38<br/> <b>Brahms, J.</b> Sonata No. 2, Op. 99<br/> <b>Brahms, J.</b> Three Pieces (B)<br/> <b>Bridge, F.</b> Four Pieces<br/> <b>Bruch, M.</b> Four Pieces, Op. 70<br/> <b>Canteloube, J.</b> Danses Roumaines (B)<br/> <b>Chaminade, C.</b> Six Romances Without Words, Op. 76 (B)<br/> <b>Chausson, E.</b> Quelques Danses, Op. 26<br/> <b>Coleridge-Taylor, S.</b> Gypsy Song &amp; Dance<br/> <b>D'Indy, V.</b> Three Pieces (B)<br/> <b>Debussy, C.</b> Clair de Lune<br/> <b>Debussy, C.</b> Girl with the Flaxen Hair<br/> <b>Debussy, C.</b> Reverie<br/> <b>Debussy, C.</b> Afternoon of a Faun<br/> <b>Delius, F.</b> Three Preludes (B)<br/> <b>Elgar, E.</b> Three Pieces (B)<br/> <b>Ewald, V.</b> Romance, Op. 2 (B)<br/> <b>Fauré, G.</b> Berceuse &amp; Sicilienne<br/> <b>Fauré, G.</b> Pavane, Op. 50 (B)<br/> <b>Fauré, G.</b> Sérénade, Op. 98 (B)<br/> <b>Fauré, G.</b> Three Melodies, Op. 7 (B)<br/> <b>Fauré, G.</b> Three Romances, Op. 17 (B)<br/> <b>Gershwin, G.</b> Three Preludes (B)<br/> <b>Glière, R.</b> Intermezzo &amp; Tarantella<br/> <b>Gounod, C.</b> Three Romances Without Words (B)<br/> <b>Granados, E.</b> Two Spanish Dances (B)</p> | <p><b>Ives, C.</b> Four Songs (B)<br/> <b>Janáček, L.</b> Fifteen Moravian Folksongs<br/> <b>Kodály, Z.</b> Four Pieces from Op. 11 (B)<br/> <b>Lalo, E.</b> Two Pieces, Op. 14 (B)<br/> <b>Mendelssohn, F.</b> Six Songs Without Words<br/> <b>Mendelssohn, F.</b> Sonata in B-flat<br/> <b>Mendelssohn, F.</b> Song Without Words, Op. 109<br/> <b>Moussorgsky, M.</b> Pictures at an Exhibition (B)<br/> <b>Nielsen, C.</b> Two Fantasy Pieces, Op. 2<br/> <b>Pierné, G.</b> Three Pieces<br/> <b>Poulenc, F.</b> The Bestiary (B)<br/> <b>Prokofiev, S.</b> Five Songs Without Words, Op. 35<br/> <b>Prokofiev, S.</b> Tales of an Old Grandmother, Op. 31 (B)<br/> <b>Rachmaninoff, S.</b> Fantasy Piece, Op. 3, No. 3<br/> <b>Rimsky-Korsakov, N.</b> Serenade, Op. 37 (B)<br/> <b>Saint-Saëns, C.</b> The Nightingale (B)<br/> <b>Saint-Saëns, C.</b> Romance, Op. 36 (B)<br/> <b>Satie, E.</b> Six Gnossiennes (B)<br/> <b>Satie, E.</b> Trois Gymnopédies (B)<br/> <b>Schoenberg, A.</b> Six Little Pieces, Op. 19 (B)<br/> <b>Schubert, F.</b> Impromptu, Op. 90, No. 3 (B)<br/> <b>Schumann, R.</b> Fantasy Pieces, Op. 73<br/> <b>Schumann, R.</b> Five Pieces in Folk Style, Op. 102<br/> <b>Schumann, R.</b> Three Romances, Op. 94<br/> <b>Schumann, R.</b> Scenes from Childhood, Op. 15 (B)<br/> <b>Scriabin, A.</b> Three Etudes<br/> <b>Sibelius, J.</b> Romance in C, Op. 42<br/> <b>Sibelius, J.</b> Valse Triste<br/> <b>Strauss, R.</b> Waltzes from Der Rosenkavalier (B)<br/> <b>Tchaikovsky, P.</b> Four Pieces, Op. 40<br/> <b>Various</b> Bel Canto Studies<br/> <b>Vaughn-Williams, R.</b> 6 Studies in English Folksong<br/> <b>Wagner, R.</b> Arrival of the Black Swans<br/> <b>Wagner, R.</b> Romance<br/> <b>Wagner, R.</b> Two Album Leaves</p> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

\*(B) — Bass trombone version also available.

For current prices and to view, print, and listen to free samples, please visit [www.CherryClassics.com](http://www.CherryClassics.com)