# Ten Steps to Parnassus: Music of Johann Sebastian Bach 

Dr. Richard Van Dyke, Dr. Erin Bennett, Dr. Siok Lian Tan

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## I. What is Parnassus?



## II. Objectives

- Establish a technical baseline for each step
- Coordinate technique and etudes with the study of the music of J. S. Bach
- Create a progressive approach to assigning the classical repertoire
- Promote student success by setting concrete goals for student development


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III．Choosing Repertoire
－Difficulty of assigning Bach works straight out of the method books
－Need careful transitions or students are thrown into Inventions too early
－Issues include tempi，dynamics，articulations：
－Few indications marked in score

## IV．Variations in tempo choice！

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| INVENTION 1 | d | 96 | 120 | $\pm 80$ | 63 | 66 | 63 | 60 | 80 | $76+$ | 72 | 63 | 76 | 120 |
| INVENTION 2 | d | 69 | 108 | $\pm 80$ | 52 | 63 | 63 | 40 | 72 | 60＋ | 60 | $60+$ | 80 | 112 |
| INVENTION 3 | d． | 60 | 80 | $\pm 60$ | 46 | 48 | $48+$ | 66 | 58 | 52 | 46 | 42 | 52 | 52 |
| INVENTION 4 | d． | 76 | 72 | $\pm 60$ | 60 | 60 | 60 | 72 | 52 | 64 | 58 | 58 | 84 | 76 |
| INVENTION 5 | d | 72 | 108 | $\pm 80$ | 72 | 63 | 84 | 100＋ | 88 | 76 | 72 | 104 | 100 | 96 |
| INVENTION 6 | d | 138 | 144 | $\pm 120$ | 96 | 104 | 104 | 92 | 120 | 80 | 120 | $88+$ | 112 | 112 |
| INVENTION 7 | d | 69 | 112 | $\pm 60$ | 72 | 66 | $63+$ | 108＋ | 76 | 52 | 58 | 48 | 84 | 56 |
| INVENTION 8 | 。 | 126 | 144 | $\pm 100$ | $\begin{array}{\|c\|} \hline 116- \\ 126 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | 120 | 112 | 100 | 112 | 120 | 116 | 112 | 120 | 120 |
| INVENTION 9 | d | 60 | 116 | $\pm 60$ | 46 | 50 | 63 | 40 | 48 | 60 | 60 | 58 | 80 | 63 |
| INVENTION 10 | d． | 100 | 152 | $\pm 100$ | 108 | 104 | 96 | 160 | 120 | 96 | 108 | $96+$ | 120 | 96 |
| INVENTION 11 | d | 80 | 108 | $\pm 80$ | 58 | 60 | 84 | 112 | 44 | 100 | 72 | 88 | 72＋ | 96 |
| INVENTION 12 | d． | 76 | 84 | $\pm 60$ | 72 | 69 | 50 | 100 | 60 | 69＋ | 48 | $69+$ | 69＋ | 76 |
| INVENTION 13 | d | 116 | 104 | $\pm 80$ | 69 | 66 | 88 | 144＋ | 92 | 104 | 84 | 104 | 112 | 84 |
| INVENTION 14 | d | 69 | 88 | $\pm 60$ | 88 | 56 | 54 | 52 | 66 | 40 | 66 | 56 | 66 | 63 |
| INVENTION 15 | d | 96 | 104 | $\pm 80$ | 92 | 96 | 54 | 104 | 76 | 80 | 84 | 63 | 84 | 80 |

From Bach－Inventions and Sinfonias，ed．by Willard Palmer（Alfred）
V．From the Method Books
－Alfred Basic Piano Course
－4：Musette in D Major，Anh． 126
－5：Little Prelude in C Major，BWV 939
－6：Minuet from French Suite No．6，BWV 817
－Alfred Premiere Piano Course
－4：Musette in D Major，Anh． 126
－5：Minuet in G Minor（Petzold），Anh． 115
－Piano Adventures
－3B：Minuet in G Major（Petzold），Anh． 114
－4：Prelude in C Major，WTC I
－Celebration Series－Perspectives
－More levels provides an easier transition，but still only a few selections
－Level 4：Minuet in D Minor Anh． 132 （Early Intermediate）
－Level 6：Little Prelude in E Minor，BWV 941 （Intermediate）
－Level 8：Invention No．13，BWV 784 （Late Intermediate II）
－Level 9：Sinfonia in E Minor，BWV 793 （Early Advanced）
－Level 10：Prelude and Fugue in E－flat Major BWV 876 （Pre－college Advanced）

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## Representative Repertoire by Johann Sebastian Bach

I. The Early Intermediate Dance from Anna Magdalena Notebook

- Minuet in D Minor, Anh. 132; Minuet in G Major, Anh. 116
- Minuet in G Major, Anh. 114 and Minuet in G Minor, Anh. 115 (Petzold)
- Musette in D Major, Anh. 126; Polonaise in G Minor, Anh. 119
II. Intermediate Preludes
- C Major, BWV 933; C Minor, BWV 934; C Major, BWV 939
III. Late-Intermediate Preludes
- D Minor, BWV 935; D Major, BWV 936; E Major, BWV 937; E Minor, BWV 938
IV. Late Intermediate Two-Part Inventions
A. Easiest to introduce
- C Major, F Major, B-flat Major
- E Major, A Minor
B. Middle Group - includes some ornamentation or extended trills
- D Minor, G Major, F Minor, C Minor
- D Major, E-flat Major, E Minor
C. Most advanced of the Inventions
- G Minor, Invention B Minor, A Major
V. Early Advanced Three Part Sinfonias and the easiest Preludes and Fugues
A. Sinfonias, most accessible
- G Minor, D Major, E Major
- E-flat Major, B Minor, G Major
- C Major
B. Sinfonias, more difficult
- D Minor, F Major, B-flat Major
- A Minor, A Major, F Minor
- E Minor, C Minor
C. Easier Preludes and Fugues: E Minor, WTC I; C Minor, WTC I


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Dr. Richard Van Dyke, Dr. Erin Bennett, Dr. Siok Lian Tan
VI. Pre-College Advanced - Prelude and Fugues, suitable for pre-college students who may be considering music as a career. Solid audition repertoire for most music schools.
A. Well-Tempered Clavier, Book I

- C Major, D Major, D Minor, G Minor, A-flat Major, B-flat Major
B. Well-Tempered Clavier, Book II
- C Minor, D Minor, E-flat Major, E Major, F Minor, G Major
VII. Collegiate Level - Technically challenging Preludes and Fugues and the French Suites.
A. Well-Tempered Clavier, Book I
- C-sharp Major, E-flat Minor, F Minor, G Major, A Major, B Major
B. Well-Tempered Clavier, Book II
- C-sharp Minor, D Major, F-sharp Minor, G Minor, A Minor, B Minor
C. French Suites: D Minor, C Minor, B Minor, E-flat Major, G Major, E Major
D. Italian Concerto
VIII. Young Artist - Most advanced Preludes and Fugues and the easier Toccatas, English Suites, Partitas and Toccatas
A. Well-Tempered Clavier Book I
- C-sharp Minor, A Minor, B-flat Minor, B Minor
B. Well-Tempered Clavier, Book II:
- E Minor, A-flat Major, G-sharp Minor, B-flat Minor
C. English Suites: A Major, A Minor, G Minor
D. Partitas: B-flat Major, A Minor, G Major
E. Toccatas: E Minor, G Major
IX. Virtuoso - Most difficult English Suites, Partitas, Toccatas and other great works.
A. English Suites: F Major, E Minor, D Minor
B. Partitas: C Minor, D Major, E Minor
C. Toccatas: D Major, F-sharp Minor
D. Other works by Bach: Chromatic Fantasy and Fugue, French Overture in B Minor
X. Parnassus - Goldberg Variations

