

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 -1750)

J. S. Bach is the most famous of a German family of musicians. He was esteemed as an organist in his time, and received major standing as a composer after a 19th-century revival of interest. He was provincial, devoutly religious and produced a huge volume of both secular and ecclesiastical music noted for its prodigious counterpoint and harmonic expressiveness.

The following opinions give you some idea of his unique place in music: Mozart; 'Now there is music from which a man can learn something.' Brahms; 'Study Bach; there you will find everything.' Beethoven (who looked after Bach's impoverished daughter) '...an immortal god of harmony.' Wagner; '...the most stupendous miracle in all of music.' Debussy; '...a benevolent god to which all musicians should offer a prayer to defend themselves against mediocrity.'

The chorales are harmonic gems.