



The World of the Bach Cantatas: Johann Sebastian Bach's Early Sacred Cantatas (v. 1)

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The cantatas of J.S. Bach are among the best known and most frequently performed musical works of the baroque period. However, when they are played and heard today, questions arise that are difficult to answer because the works are being experienced outside their historical context. Such questions concern the role of the cantatas in Bach's compositional development, musical models for the works, and performance practice during the composer's lifetime. In this book, Bach scholars place the works in their historical and biographical context, guiding the reader through their literary, musical, aesthetic and theological features. This volume - the first of three which complement a recording project by the Amsterdam Baroque Orchestra and incorporating the complete Bach cantatas - covers the sacred cantatas he wrote during the first 28 years of his life, before his move to Leipzig in 1723.

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About the Author

Christoph Wolff, professor of music and dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences at Harvard University, ranks as one of the world's most respected and productive Bach scholars, having published more than fifty articles and several books on the composer. Ton Koopman, internationally acclaimed as a harpsichordist, organist, and conductor, has published books on the theory and practice of Baroque music and on the harpsichord in Dutch art. Contributing authors include Andreas Glekner, Ulrich Leisinger, Daniel R. Melamed, Claus Oefner, Martin Petzoldt, Hans-Joachim Schulze, George B. Stauffer, and Peter Wollny.

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