

Fragment of Goldberg Variation 23

A Stepping Stone to Bach

J.S.Bach

Bach's "Goldberg Variations" are a very difficult piece to learn in its entirety, a feat even for a professional pianist. Amateurs will sometimes learn the lovely theme but they often don't realize that some of the variations are actually as easy as the 2-part inventions. Here is a really fun beginning of Variation #23 which you can adopt as at finger warm-up. If you like playing it, why not brave the whole variation?

Slow and steady at first

The image displays the first seven measures of a musical fragment from Goldberg Variation 23. The score is written for piano in G major and 3/4 time. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The music is characterized by a steady, rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1 through 5 above or below the notes. Measure 1 begins with a quarter rest in the treble and a quarter note in the bass. Measures 2-3 show a continuous eighth-note pattern in both hands. Measures 4-5 continue this pattern with some melodic variation. Measures 6-7 conclude the fragment with a final cadence. The piece ends with a double bar line at the end of measure 7.