

Fragment of Goldberg Variation #22

J.S.Bach

A Stepping Stone to 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 tackle the Theme but they often don't realize that some of the variations are actually as easy or even easier than the 2-part inventions.

Here is a very manageable beginning of Variation #22, a great exercise for keeping track of 4 voices. These 8 measures look almost ridiculously easy on their own. The whole variation has three more sets of 8 measures like this one, just a little bit harder. By looking at each set of 8 measures separately, the piece will seem completely manageable. This is key to learning any piece by Bach or any other composer: one section at a time.

Slow and steady

The musical score is written for piano in G major and 3/4 time. It consists of two systems of two staves each. The first system shows measures 1-5, and the second system shows measures 6-8. The right hand (R.H.) plays a melody with various ornaments and fingerings, while the left hand (L.H.) provides a bass line with chords and single notes. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5. The tempo/style marking "Slow and steady" is at the top left.