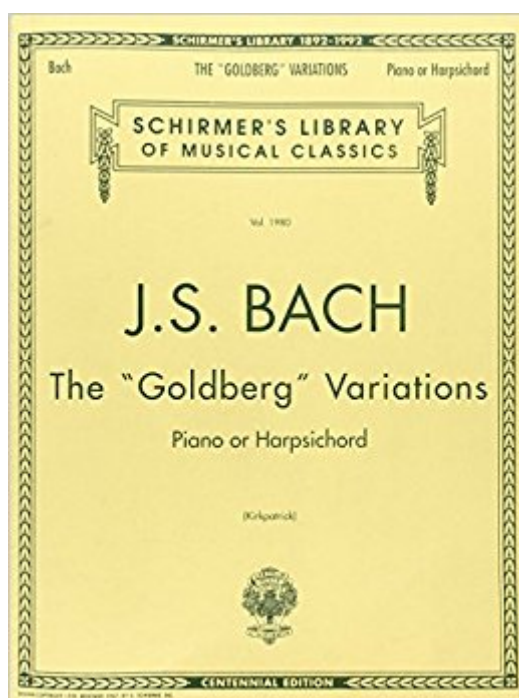


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Bach: Goldberg Variations: Schirmer's Library Of Musical Classics



Synopsis

Piano Large Works

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is the Schirmer edition of the Goldberg Variations (BWV 988) by renown harpsichordist and music scholar Ralph Kirkpatrick. His preface is divided into nine parts: I - Origin II - Form III - The Instrument IV - Ornamentation V - Fingering VI - Phrasing VII - Tempo VIII - Dynamics IX - General Interpretation Of these the most pages are given to the ornamentation, providing individual treatment of the various types (Appoggiatura, Mordent, Turn, Slide, Trill) and their execution in each of the Variations. The score/text presented in this edition is "that of the original engraved edition published in N^o 1716 by Balthasar Schmid." Furthermore the "slightly inconsistent orthography of trills and mordents has been reduced ... to the system of Couperin." Finally, the "text has been transcribed into modern notation from the frequently changing clefs of the original" and "rests have been added to clarify the voice structure where temporary silences of individual voices are not scrupulously indicated in full by the original." The Schirmer edition writes out the execution of the ornaments in separate staves above the original score. Similarly, it provides separate staves in certain cases to present "a clearer view of the voice leading." No fingerings are provided in the score and the measure numbers are given below every fourth measure. At the very least, this is an excellent edition to follow along while listening and get a sense of some of the musical concerns that go into

playing this astounding "piece".

I'm just getting back to the piano after many years away, and I wanted to challenge myself to the Goldberg Variations. Having grown up with Schirmer editions, I bought this one without thinking. Alas, I find that the editorial apparatus makes it very difficult for me to play from -- the editor has written out how to execute all the ornaments, and this extra set of staves is printed *above* the Bach text. More experienced players won't have difficulty with this, but for me it's very difficult to read (and I am very sad to have to turn the page twice as often as I ought to). It's a wonderful edition, of course, but it's just hard for me to play from.

Superb edition. Kirkpatrick provides a very informative commentary and, importantly for pianists, rearranges the notes when two manuals are called for so that one can play on a piano (without omitting a single note) without visual contortions. This negates the ridiculous argument that the Goldbergs are only a transcription when played on the piano. Ok, I am biased, because I am a pianist. I have played the Goldbergs and the complete WTC. To me, the piano is a far more satisfying instrument to listen to and play than a harpsichord, and I firmly believe that Bach would have written for the piano had he had the choice (he pre-dated it). With this edition pianists can play the variations written for two manuals without fear and headaches. I learned the Goldbergs from the Henle edition, which is also fine, but was given this edition by my teacher specifically for its pianist friendly layout. The Henle edition lacks this edition's editorial notes, exposition of ornaments, and clear layout of pieces written for two manuals.

This is as expected it would be, an excellent product. Good notes, documented information, and explanations. Detailed ornamentation above each line, easy to view ornamentation against that which needs practiced. Exactly as promised in the description of the item.

This edition presents both the standard score/sheet music, plus written-out ornamentations from Ralph Kirkpatrick. Hidden in the forepages are MM settings for each variation - which is good, because sequences written as 32nds and 64ths scare me at first glance. If not for learning how to play these fascinating variations, then simply use them to follow along whilst listening to Jeremy Denk or Glenn Gould play can be a revelation.

Would prefer spiral bound, however, I knew what it was when I placed the order. That being said,

there will be no doubt in your mind as to who Goldberg was and why these variations were composed. In addition, the how and why of each ornamentation is thoroughly explained. A worthwhile investment.

Here is a collection of Goldberg Variations with excellent print AND the details of the execution of the ornaments in EVERY case, plus the original text. Thus, there is a separate score for the ornamentation details plus the score for the original text whenever there are ornaments in the score. There is also a huge preface outlining history and methodology, fingering, phrasing, tempo and dynamics. Much to learn from this book of comprehensive score and fine print - oversized pages as well. Obviously I recommend this book to any Bach keyboard practitioner.

EXCELLENT! The score is easy to read and the preface is most valuable. I would recommend this score to others!

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