

PROFILE

GRADE	II
AUTHOR:	Johann Sebastian Bach
TITLE:	Prelude in C Major BWV 933 (Or.: Præludium or Prelude)
HISTORICAL NOTES	
There are many sources of this prelude which can be gathered into two distinct groups with common features, however there isn't a manuscript though, with not too much approximation, one can date its composition between 1717 and 1720 in Cöthen.	
CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PIECE	
The Prelude is in two parts, both ritornellate, and each part contains two contrasting blocks. The first of the two blocks, of a more pompous character, is made with a more full and vertical chordal writing while the second is skillfully opposed thanks to a much more horizontal development, giving so a great distinction between the role of the two parts. In fact, in the second block a low harmonic and rhythmic support figuration is assigned to the bass line where the top voice is performing an elegant semiquavers design.	
PERFORMANCE NOTES	
The execution of this prelude is very intuitive thanks to the extreme clarity of writing, however it is very important not to go to tempo settings that make the sliding part most mechanical. In the prelude in question I tried to realize carefully expressive contrast between the two elements inspired by the alternation of "all" and "concertino" typical of the "Concerto grosso".	
CURIOSITY	
This prelude is one of the few in which, in some sources, appear dynamic and expressive indications.	

Tullio Forlenza