

PROFILE

GRADE	II
AUTHOR:	Johann Sebastian Bach
TITLE:	Prelude in C Minor BWV 934 (Or.: Præludium or Prelude)
HISTORICAL NOTES	
For this prelude, together with the others from the group, there are many sources attributable to two distinct sets with common characteristics. There is no manuscript but, despite this, even for this work, its composition can be dated somewhere between 1717 and 1720 in Cöthen.	
CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PIECE	
The prelude is in two parts, both repeated, in triple time. The writing is smooth and harmonically interesting with many modulating moments and a continuously changing expressiveness. The initial theme undergoes constant transformations and a very evocative music design is accomplished.	
PERFORMANCE NOTES	
There are several interpretative possibilities for this small and elegant piece, however, a tempo that is too frenetic drastically reduces its expressive potential. I tried to emphasize its dialogue-type aspects and its eloquence to highlight all of the implied harmonic tensions that are continuously created thanks to lengthy transformations throughout the melody. From an educational point of view, given the relative simplicity of the piece, it can be used with great benefit for a student who is learning to control the legato sound at a moderate speed.	

Tullio Forlenza