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# I INTRODUCING MUSIC TO STUDENTS



By inclination students turn toward models, not for definition but for direction; if no models are made available, students often choose the first image encountered. Young people are preparing for a world full of difficult and sometimes threatening choices. For these reasons we might ask ourselves, how does a teacher present great minds and souls to a student and at the same time elicit the student's commitment to discover his or her own unique voice? How does a teacher offer an example of human potential that encourages more than mere mimicry? Where does the courage to discover and realise our own destiny come from?

These were some of the concerns that influenced our compilation of this guide. We have selected several well-known musicians to study based on their rich creative lives, the availability of materials and their ability to speak to us across cultures, space and time. These individuals gave us their messages and their energy. We hope that some of their spirit comes through these pages.

## Glossary of Musical Terms

Accent .....	an emphasis or stress placed on a note
Beat .....	a regular pulsation that measures time in music
Context .....	the conditions that surround the writing of a composition and are important to the general feeling about it
Duration .....	long or short; the length of time of a sound
Dynamics .....	how the loudness of sounds in a piece changes
Form .....	the musical structure; the way the elements of a musical composition are put together
Harmony .....	the sound of notes played together as in chords or the intervals between two notes
Loudness .....	loud or soft; the volume of a sound
Melody .....	a recognisable series of notes
Meter .....	a fixed pattern of sound with specific beats and accents
Pitch .....	highness or lowness of an individual note
Rhythm .....	the flow or controlled movement of music in time
Style.....	a unique and special way of presenting the music that can be recognised; this can be personal, cultural or historical
Tempo .....	fast or slow; the speed of the music
Texture .....	the way melodies and harmony weave together to create an overall sound
Tonality .....	a focus on a certain series of notes; a scale, usually centred on a specific note, often the lowest pitch of the scale
Tone colour (timbre).....	the quality of a sound that distinguishes a note played on one instrument from another instrument; the characteristic sound of different combinations of instruments played together

# Johann Sebastian Bach

1685–1750



**Vocabulary:** prolific, baroque era, devout, scores, clavichord, theology, choir, reputation orchestra, rehearsal, improvisations, accompaniments, innovative, compositions, controversy, nobility, Weimar, conductor, Leipzig, dedicated

Johann Sebastian Bach is today known as one of the most **prolific** and important composers in the history of music. He developed some of the finest music of the **baroque era**. A **devout** Lutheran, he wrote "To the glory of God!" at the top of each of his musical scores.

Music had filled the homes of Bach families for 200 years when Johann was born in the town of Eisenach in Germany in 1685. The name Bach had almost come to mean the same as musician throughout the province of Thuringia.

The Bach family members taught music to one another and at an early age Johann learned to sing and play the violin, the organ and the **clavichord**. When Johann's mother and father died, the ten-year-old orphan and his older brother were taken in by one of their uncles.

## The Musical Eras

### Renaissance Era (1425–1600)

During the Renaissance, classical music was a function of the church, the city and state and the aristocracy. Vocal music evolved from unaccompanied single-line chant to polyphonic music with two or more melodic lines and accompaniment. Instrumental dance music was also popular. Some important Renaissance composers:

Antonio de Cabezón .....	Spain
John Dowland .....	England
Thomas Tallis .....	England
Giovanni Gabrieli .....	Italy
Giovanni Palestrina .....	Italy

### Baroque Era (1600–1750)

The music of this period is structured, with almost a mathematical precision that lets you feel a sense of dependability. The use of an accompaniment with a steady, continuous pulsation provides the feeling of movement and energy. Baroque composers explored contrasts in dynamics, tempo and form. Musicians were expected to improvise and ornament the music. Baroque composers besides Bach include the following:

Henry Purcell .....	England
Johann Pachelbel .....	Germany
George Frideric Handel .....	Germany
Georg Philipp Telemann .....	Germany
Antonio Vivaldi .....	Italy
Jean-Baptiste Lully .....	Italy
Arcangelo Corelli .....	Italy
Domenico Scarlatti .....	Italy
Tomaso Albinoni .....	Italy