

## Preface

In 2013, the entry point of ensemble paladino's extensive (re)invention project were Bach's fifteen Two Part Inventions, BWV 772 to 786.

The inventions themselves were considered by Bach to be musical exercises "... to achieve a cantabile style in playing and at the same time acquire a strong foretaste of composition." They were written and completed during Bach's time as music director in Köthen (1717 to 1723), one of his most prolific times in terms of musical output. During this period, Bach completed his famous unaccompanied Cello Suites, Violin Partitas and Sonatas and the Brandenburg Concertos, not to mention countless cantatas and choral works. In the midst of this highly productive time, Bach wrote fifteen inventions that prove to be much more than mere finger studies. They are also impressive exercises on counterpoint and structure. Bach took great care in the musical education of his children, and like any great pedagogue writing a book of exercises, he arranged the inventions in an order that introduced pupils to keys. The Inventions, and also the three part Sinfonias (which were completed later while Bach was in Leipzig), start with C major and are arranged on an ascending scale until they reach b minor. This method of organization was obviously not employed with the idea of the pieces becoming progressively difficult but rather to make them easier to locate within the collection.

While for the recording, we decided to change the order of the pieces and mix them with other (re)inventions, which are published as PM0037, for this collection, we have kept the original order. The three-part sinfonias are available in our arrangement for flute (or violin), viola and violoncello.

## Note on the edition

The aim of **paladino editions** is to produce practical modern editions. Our arrangements of these fifteen Bach pieces are presented in their original order.

While we have not added any dynamic markings, we have included our articulations in the score.

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