



## Johann Sebastian Bach Timeline

1685 - Born – in Eisenach, Germany

1695 – Orphan – both parents had died by the time he was 10; lived with older brothers and learned to play the organ, violin, harpsichord as well as to sing

1700 - Student– studied music at St. Michael’s School in Germany

1703 – Organist, took a job as organist and choirmaster at Arnstadt

1705 – Nannygoat – called some of his students that because they weren’t very good; he walked 260 miles just to hear a concert

1707 – Married Maria– had 7 children before she died 13 years later

1708 – Duke -- worked for the Duke of Weimar as a court musician – he had to compose music for all the parties and grand occasions; wrote Toccata in D (play excerpt from Phantom of the Opera ); started to become famous

1714 – Director – became the director of the Duke’s orchestra –had to compose one cantata per month (explain what a cantata is – listen to excerpt of your choice)

1717 – Wins hands down – wins a big harpsichord contest – other guy “chickens out” when he hears JSB practicing; Prince - JSB gets thrown in jail by the Duke because he wants to go to work for the Prince; composed all of the Brandenburg Concertos for the Prince (play excerpt)

1720 – Widower - Maria dies – 7 children – ages 1 to 12; he was away, came back for funeral, but she was already buried (no phones!)

1721 – Marries Anna– they had 13 children!  $7 + 13 = 20$  children – Bach had 20 children, 11 died as babies, no hospitals or medicine, no shots or vaccines

1723 – Cantor – moves to Leipzig to take a job at a big church; stayed there until he died. Bach composed one cantata per week; had to take care of the boys at school, began to lose his sight towards the end of his life (play excerpt Gloria from the Mass)

1750 – Died – operation on eyes failed – died from infection; three of his sons became composers and musicians; his wife was left poor and died in poverty

1830 1830– 80 years later – Mendelssohn rediscovered Bach’s music and Bach became very famous