

4. Allegro

from Sonata BWV 1003 / BWV 964

(Arranged in A minor, combining both versions)*

J.S. Bach
(1685-1750)

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*This is the fourth movement of a Sonata by Bach which exists in two versions:

- Sonata in A minor for Solo Violin (BWV 1003) and
- Sonata in D minor for Clavier (BWV 964).

In this Allegro, both Bach's versions contain the same notes, except for bass notes (all but one are absent in the violin version) and arpeggiated cadences at the end of each section (keyboard only).

Extending the values of notes (allowing voices to overlap one another) was essential for expressing the polyphony on guitar. In this movement Bach had done very little of this for the Clavier transcription. However he had greatly restemmed the piece in a way which suggested many such possibilities. In certain cases these implied things very appropriate to the guitar, but for guitar I have gone further in revoicing.

Other than restemming and voice-overlapping, note-changes from keyboard to guitar consist only of bass notes added [], deleted (), or lowered { }, and where the original is shown in endnotes. The arrangement of measures 53-58 deviates significantly from the keyboard version in favor of a solution, inspired by the violin version, which better fits the range of the guitar.

I am in the process of transcribing the entire Sonata for guitar. A description of the relationship between Bach's two versions, and a cool study of Bach's own transcription process, can be found online in an article by Phillip Hii, at <http://www.delmar.edu/music/bachtran.html>

The stemming of Bach's violin manuscript is faithfully reproduced in Werner Icking's Urtext: <http://icking-music-archiv.sunsite.dk/scores/Instr.html#bach>

Dave Grossman's MIDI of the violin version can be found at the Classical MIDI archives: <http://ftp.sunet.se/cma/bach.html>

The image displays a guitar arrangement of the fourth movement of J.S. Bach's Sonata BWV 1003 / BWV 964. It consists of two systems of music. The first system features a treble clef staff with a 4/4 time signature and a guitar staff. The treble staff includes dynamics such as *f* and *p*, and a circled 'X' above the first measure. The guitar staff shows fret numbers (e.g., 5, 7, 0, 13, 1, 0, 13, 1, 0, 2, 0, 13, 101, 356, 535, 5-1, 3, 3-1, 0) and fingering numbers (e.g., 4, 2, 2, 1-2, 2, 2, 1, 2, 1, 2, 0, 13, 101, 356, 535, 5-1, 3, 3-1, 0, 0, 2, 3, 2). The second system continues the piece with similar notation, including a 'V' section marker above the first measure and a 'IV' section marker above the fifth measure. The guitar staff continues with fret numbers and fingering.

7

8va [f]

I

② ③ ④ ③ ③ ② ① ②④②③① ③②①③①②

10

8va

II

② ② ① ①② ③②① ④ ②①③ ④

13

8va

IV IV

③①② ③①④③ ④ ③ ④ ③ ②③① ①③④①① ③④ ④

16

8va

Trill worked out:

II

19

8va

V VII IV

22

8va

25

Musical score for measures 25-27. The top staff is in treble clef with a *Stra* marking. It features a melodic line with dynamic markings *f* and *p* alternating. The bottom staff is in bass clef with guitar fret numbers (0-8) and fingering numbers (1-5). Measure numbers 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 are indicated below the bass staff.

28

Musical score for measures 28-30. The top staff is in treble clef with a *Stra* marking. It features a melodic line with dynamic markings *p* and *f* alternating. The bottom staff is in bass clef with guitar fret numbers (0-8) and fingering numbers (1-5). Measure numbers 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30 are indicated below the bass staff.

31

Musical score for measures 31-33. The top staff is in treble clef with a *Stra* marking. It features a melodic line with a dynamic marking *f*. The bottom staff is in bass clef with guitar fret numbers (0-5) and fingering numbers (1-5). Measure numbers 31, 32, 33 are indicated below the bass staff.

34

Musical score for measures 34-36. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a dynamic marking of *8va*. The bottom staff is a guitar fretboard diagram with fingerings indicated by circled numbers 1-4. Measure 34 includes a Roman numeral III above the staff. Measure 36 includes a Roman numeral III above the staff.

37

Musical score for measures 37-39. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a dynamic marking of *8va*. The bottom staff is a guitar fretboard diagram with fingerings indicated by circled numbers 1-4.

40

Musical score for measures 40-42. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a dynamic marking of *8va*. The bottom staff is a guitar fretboard diagram with fingerings indicated by circled numbers 1-4. Measure 40 includes Roman numerals III, V, VII, and II above the staff.

43

8va

III

2 1 2 3 3 4 3 3 2 0 2 0 3 2 2 3 1 0 0 2 0 0 0 0 3 2 2 3 5 5 3

② ① ② ③ ③ ④ ③ ② ④ ② ① ② ③ ①

46

8va

III

2 4 2 2 2 1 0 1 0 1 0 3 1 0 1 3 1 4 2 1 2 4 2 5 3 2 3 5 3 2 0 0 2 0 5 4 3 5 4 2 4 5 3 1 0 2

③ ④ ① ③ ② ④ ③ ① ④ ③

49

8va

IX

2 3 1 0 2 6 7 7 1 2 4 1 0 0 2 0 0 2 3 0 1 3 1 4 5 7 4 7 10 12 9 9 1 2

② ④ ① ③ ② ③ ④ ① ① ① ③ ④ ③ ④ ④ ④ ① ① ②

51

Musical score for measures 51-52. The top staff is in treble clef with a *Sra* marking and a brace indicating a specific fingering. The bottom staff shows guitar fretboard diagrams with fingerings: ① ③ ③ ③ ③ ③ ② ② ①.

53

Musical score for measures 53-54. The top staff is in treble clef with a *Sra* marking. The bottom staff shows guitar fretboard diagrams with fingerings: ② ① ③ ① ③ ② ④ ② ② ③ ① ③ ③ ① ③ ③ ① ③ ① ③ ④ ② ④.

56

Musical score for measures 55-56. The top staff is in treble clef with a *Sra* marking and a *p* dynamic marking. The bottom staff shows guitar fretboard diagrams with fingerings: ① ③ ② ④ ② ① ② ④ ③ ④ ① ① ④.

ENDNOTES

1. Alternative (keyboard version) :

Musical notation for measure 1, alternative keyboard version. It shows a treble clef staff with a melody starting on G4, and a bass clef staff with a bass line. The bass line includes fingerings: 5, 5, 5, 7-5, 0, 5, 5, 5, 7-5, 0. Dynamics include *f* and *p*. A *Sva* marking is present.

18. Keyboard version

Musical notation for measure 18, keyboard version. It shows a treble clef staff with a melody starting on G4, and a bass clef staff with a bass line. Dynamics include *tr*. Fingerings are indicated below the bass line.

18. Alternative approximation :

Fingerings for measure 18 alternative approximation: 0 2 4 5 0 0 0 2 0 2 6. Circled fingerings below: ① ② ④ ①.

45. Keyboard version

Musical notation for measure 45, keyboard version. It shows a treble clef staff with a melody starting on G4, and a bass clef staff with a bass line. Fingerings are indicated below the bass line.

45. Alternative approximation :

Fingerings for measure 45 alternative approximation: 2 0 0 3 2 2 3 2 5. Circled fingerings below: ① ② ① ① ④.

53. Keyboard ending (for comparison only) :

Musical notation for measure 53, keyboard ending. It shows two staves (treble and bass clefs) with a complex melodic and bass line. Several sections of the notation are highlighted with teal boxes.