Marc Sabat

Sei Bach-Intonazioni per Violino Solo Ia IIa IIIa

version in just intonation
for violin solo with violin bordun counterpoint

PLAINSOUND MUSIC EDITION

Sei Bach-Intonazioni per Violino Solo Ia IIa IIIa (2010/19)

version in just intonation for violin solo with violin bordun counterpoint
for Sara Cubarsi-Fernandez

Contemplation of composing just intonation interpretations from Johann Sebastian Bach's *Sei Solo a Violino senza Basso accompagnato* has fascinated me ever since the inception of the Extended Helmholtz-Ellis JI Pitch Notation, devised in collaboration with Wolfgang von Schweinitz in the years 2000-2004.

In 2001, I prepared a demonstration of the *Adagio* from BWV 1001 in three different versions: Pythagorean, Ptolemaic, and 19-limit extended JI; in the same year Wolfgang and I co-composed an intonation of the 3-part *Ricercar* from *Musikalisches Opfer*. Over the following years, from time to time I returned to the *Sei Solo*, pencilling in possible tunings of a movement here and there, without pursuing the project to completion. By 2010, I was sketching a sustaining second violin part for some of the movements, primarily made from open strings and harmonics, providing a subtle framework to more accurately tune the just intonation harmonies by ear.

It was finally an encounter with violinist Sara Cubarsi-Fernandez at Catherine Lamb's flat in Berlin, during which we sight-read my two-part sketches, that inspired this version of the three Sonatas, completed in 2019. Sara's keen interest in researching precise intonations and her ability to fully realise the detailed colours of different harmonic intervals motivated me to compose an intonation of Bach's music which establishes some of the implied Pythagorean, Ptolemaic and Septimal harmonies suggested to me by his tonal contexts, and which may be accurately, exactly tuned by ear.

The necessary second violin bordun part has been elaborated, evolving from its original role as a minimal drone-accompaniment into an experimental, slow-motion counterpoint in its own right, sometimes suggesting a bass line, at other times a discant or inner voice. I hope that its gentle tracery might be appreciated in the context of enabling a very special realisation of some of Bach's harmonic explorations, which to my ears are suggestive of a future music only now coming into being, created with conscious awareness and explicit notation of microtonal just intonation.

For her invaluable advice, musical experience and patient, relentless criticisms guiding my often unorthodox exploration of voice-leading in a Baroque context I am indebted with warmest thanks to Natalie Pfeiffer.

Berlin, 26 December 2017 / 17 March 2019

Sonata Prima a Violino Solo senza Basso

Sei Bach-Intonazioni per Violino Solo, Ia

Johann Sebastian Bach

intonation and 2nd voice composed by Marc Sabat

Violin (solo)

Adagio

Violin 2 (bordun)

4°/III 2°/IV

sempre sotto voce

I

2b

4°/IV

3

E-natural (not Eb) in MS

2°/IV 2°/III

4

2°/II

I

2°/IV

6

8

9b

10

2°/IV

11

13

14b

15

16

18

20

2°/IV

2°/III

3°/IV

4°/IV

Fuga

Allegro

E-natural
(not Eb) in MS

4°/III
4°/IV
2°/III
5
2°/IV
2°/III
8
2°/IV
11
3°/IV
4°/IV
2°/III
14
2°/IV
3°/III
4°/IV
4°/III
4°/II
4°/IV
18
2°/III
2°/II
22
3°/II
26
3°/III
3°/IV
2°/II
4°/IV
2°/II
30
4°/II

34

5°/II 8°/III 4°/I

39

2°/III 2°/II II

43

2°/IV 2°/III III

46

2°/IV 2°/IV

49

2°/IV 2°/III

52

V

56

3

60

V

63

3°/III

66

4°/IV

69

2°/III 2°/III 2°/III

72

2°/III 2°/III 4°/III 2°/III 2°/IV

76

3°/II 4°/III 4°/II 4°/IV

79

3°/IV 3°/III 2°/IV

83

2°/IV

87

90

93

Siciliana

3

5

2°/III

7

9

3°/IV

4°/IV

11

13

15

17

19

Presto

8

15

22

29

36

44

2°/II

52

59

66

73

80

87

94

101

108

3°/IV

4°/IV

3°/III

115

122

129

2°/III

2. Sept 2010 / 26. March 2017 - Seidmar / Berlin

Sonata Seconda a Violino Solo senza Basso

Sei Bach-Intonazioni per Violino Solo, IIa

Johann Sebastian Bach

intonation and 2nd voice composed by Marc Sabat

Violin (solo)

Violin 2 (bordun)

Grave

The rhythm follows the beaming in Bach's MS:
the last 2 beats are divided respectively
in 9 and 7 32nd notes

3°/II

3°/I

13

3°/I

2°/III

14b

15

tr

2°/IV 2°/III

V

16

tr

17b

18

tr

V

19

3°/I

4°/II 3°/II

2°/II

21

tr

V

Fuga

8

15

22

29

2°/III

36

2°/II

42

2°/I

2°/II

p ia.

p

49

f

p

f

p

f

f

55

*p*ia.

f

3°/II

*p*ia.

3°/II

f

3°/II

2°/I

p

61

f

68

3°/III

tr

4°/IV

75

2°/IV

2°/III

2°/II

2°/I

82

4°/III

5°/IV

4°/IV

89

3°/IV

2°/IV

3°/III

4°/IV

96

2°/III

3°/IV

103

109

116

123

2°/II

131

2°/I

139

146

2°/III

153

2°/II

2°/III

160

tr

2°/IV

167

2°/III

2°/II

173

180

G (not A)
in MS !

186

192

198

204

210

216

2°/II

221

3°/III

4°/II

227

234

241

248

255

tr

262

270

2°/I

277

285

Andante

4°/IV

2°/IV

4

2°/III

7

2°/I

2°/II

2°/III

2°/IV

10

1.

2.

11b

2°/IV

12

15

18

2°/I

21

3°/II

4°/III

2°/III

24

2°/IV

1.

12b

2.

26

Allegro

p f p

2°/II

p f p

3

f p

2°/II

f p

5

f p f

f p f

8

11

14

16

18

20

22

3°/I

25

f *p* *f* *p* *f* *p*

27

f *p* *f* *p*

29

f *p* *f* *f* *p* *f*

32

34

36

38

41

43

45

47

49

51

2°/II

2°/III

53

55

pia.

p

57

2°/II

2. Sept 2010 / 3. April 2017 - Seidmar / Berlin

Sonata Terza a Violino Solo senza Basso

Sei Bach-Intonazioni per Violino Solo, IIIa

Johann Sebastian Bach

intonation and 2nd voice composed by Marc Sabat

Adagio

6

5°/IV

D-natural
in MS

11

2°/III

4°/III

4°/III

4°/IV

2°/IV

15

20

IV

25

2°/III

2°/IV

30

2°/III

35

2°/IV

39

43

tr

2°/IV

Fuga

2°/IV

3°/IV

7

4°/III

3°/II

14

2°/I

21

2°/II

2°/III

2°/IV

27

34

2°/II

2°/III

2°/IV

40

45

3°/III

51

57

2°/III

2°/IV

63

68

2°/IV

3°/IV

4°/IV

73

78

2°/I

2°/II

2°/III

2°/IV

82

87

91

2°/I

97

103

2°/I

2°/II

109

116

122

2°/III

128

135

142

149

155

161

167

172

177

182

187

192

197

al riverso

203

210

217

223

229

235

241

tr

247

252

257

262

267

272

277

282

287

2°/IV

3°/IV

294

4°/III

301

3°/II

308

2°/I

2°/II

2°/III

2°/IV

314

321

2°/II

2°/III

2°/IV

327

332

3°/III

338

343

2°/III

349

2°/IV

Largo

4

7

10

13

16

18

20

Allegro assai

5

9

13

17

4°/IV

3°/III

4°/III

21

25

28

31

3°/IV

35

4°/III

39

2°/III

4°/IV

2°/IV

43

5°/IV

7°/III

2°/III

47

2°/IV

3°/IV

51

4°/IV

55

2°/II

2°/III

59

63

67

71

2°/II

75

3°/I

3°/II

79

4°/III

83

5°/IV

87

3°/IV

2°/III

2°/III

91

95

4°/IV

99

2°/IV

23. February 2002 / 17. March 2019 - Berlin