



Contrapunctus 14

Die Kunst Der Fuge

by J. S. Bach

BWV 1008,19

completed by Donald Francis Tovey

Typeset by Peter Billam

For Violin, Viola, and two Cellos

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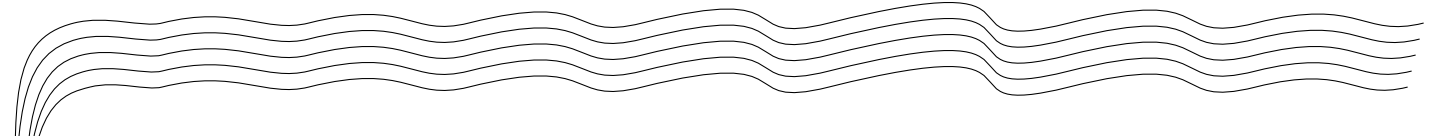
Contrapunctus 14

This great final fugue of *Die Kunst Der Fuge* was the piece that Bach left unfinished when he died. Some editions number it as *Contrapunctus 19* or as *Contrapunctus 18*. It is not actually his last composition; that honour belongs to the chorale prelude on *Vor Deinen Thron Tret' Ich Hiermit* which he dictated to his pupil Altnikol before taking leave of his family.

As Bach left *Contrapunctus 14*, it is a triple fugue: the first exposition starts at bar 1, the second at bar 114, and the third, on the notes B-A-C-H, at bar 193. Bach had previously been very sparing in the use of the notes of his own name, probably not thinking it appropriate to sign his life's work before it was complete. The three subjects are combined at bar 234, just before Bach's manuscript breaks off in bar 239. Bach left bar 239 with all eight quavers of the tenor, the alto and bass with just their first note, and with the soprano blank.

None of the fugue's three subjects is the theme of *Die Kunst Der Fuge*, and the *Gesamtaufgabe* even suggested that this fugue should not be considered to be part of that work. In 1880, Gustav Nottebohm pointed out the solution: the theme of *Die Kunst Der Fuge*, with one small rhythmic adjustment, fits in counterpoint with the other three subjects. This combination can be seen at bar 306 in the current edition. Nottebohm's discovery made it clear that the fugue was intended by Bach as a quadruple fugue with the theme of *Die Kunst Der Fuge* as the fourth subject, and there have since been several attempts to complete the fugue on this basis.

The most spectacular completion is that of Ferruccio Busoni in his *Fantasia Contrappuntistica* of 1912, which is published by *Dover* together with the *Elegies and Sonatinas*. Stylistically it is sometimes pure Bach, sometimes pure Busoni, and Busoni moves freely and smoothly between these poles, demonstrating the unity of the tradition, and blurring the boundaries between composition, editing, and performance. After an introduction of 201 bars, followed by Bach's fugue, Busoni adds 473 bars of his own, particularly favouring the eloquent second subject.



An important completion is that of the English composer and pianist Donald Francis Tovey, 1875-1940, which was published in 1931 on C-clefs in open score by Oxford University Press and is now out of print.

We should treat as inspiring Tovey's courage in measuring up to Bach himself on his home territory and at the height of his powers. Tovey's erudition and hard work almost achieve the stylistic authenticity that he was seeking. The set pieces, such as Nottebohm's passage at bar 306 and its inversions at bars 280 and 263, are very fine; but, especially in the free voices, one can still notice the join. In the Tovey there are longer runs of parallel thirds or sixths, more scalic passages, more voice-crossings, more extremes of register and of texture. And in the Bach there is a luminous, fluent, quaver-by-quaver, never-failing beauty that is not easily matched.

While Tovey was at work, Busoni's *Fantasia Contrappuntistica* was published, but Tovey refrained from consulting it until his own work was finished in 1928. For organ, Michael Ferguson's 1990 completion could be considered; it is available from Holbrook, 2402 University Ave, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55114, USA. Extremely impressive, and by far the most plausibly Bachian, is the 1998 completion by Zoltán Göncz, available from Carus Verlag, number 18.018, ISMN: M-007-09051-7, see www.carus-verlag.com

The current edition is the first to make Tovey's work available in practical formats. It is available for keyboard, and there are parts for SATB recorders, and for violin, viola and two 'cellos. In the recorder version, the Bass should preferably be doubled by a Great Bass. The Alto and Tenor lines divide in the penultimate bar. There is no separate score; the keyboard edition is recommended instead. All these are available from www.pjb.com.au

Peter J Billam

Contrapunctus 14 – Violin

J. S. Bach, completed by D. F. Tovey

5 10 15

Bass ... Tenor ... Alto ...

20

25 30

35

40 45

50 55

60

65 70

75

80 85

90

95

100 105

110

115 120

125

130

135 140

145

150

155

160 165

170 175

180

185

190 195

200 205

210

215

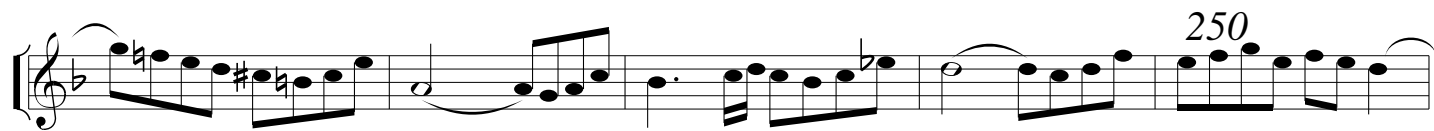
220

225

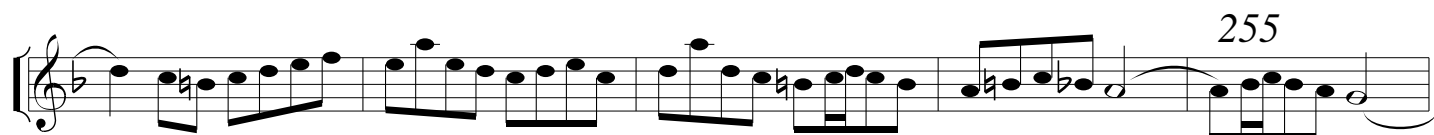
230

235

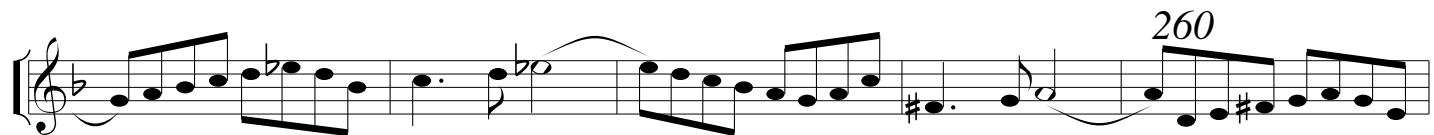
239 The remainder is by D. F. Tovey 245



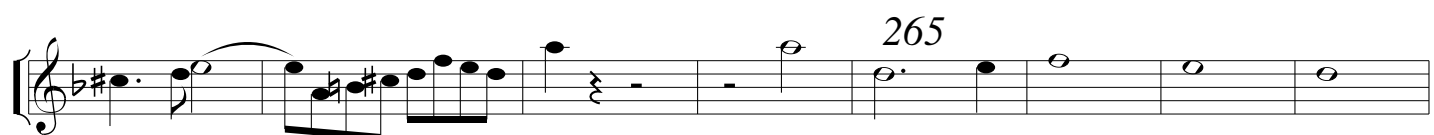
Musical staff 1, measures 250-254. The staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a common time signature. The music features a complex rhythmic pattern with sixteenth and thirty-second notes, including slurs and ties.



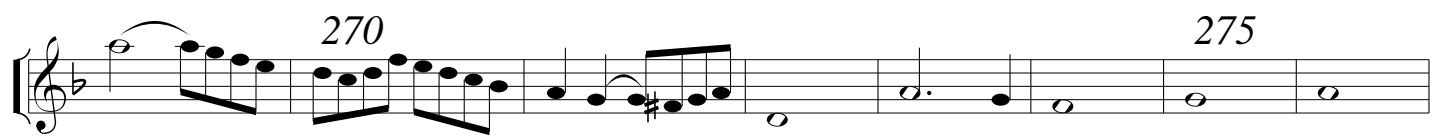
Musical staff 2, measures 255-259. Continuation of the musical piece with similar rhythmic complexity and melodic lines.



Musical staff 3, measures 260-264. The music continues with intricate rhythmic patterns and melodic development.



Musical staff 4, measures 265-269. This staff includes a measure with a fermata (z) and rests, followed by sustained notes.



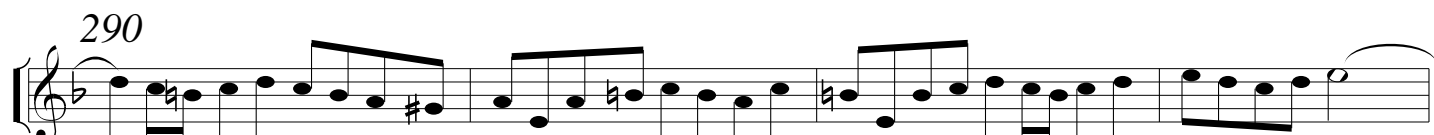
Musical staff 5, measures 270-274. Continuation of the piece with complex rhythmic figures.



Musical staff 6, measures 280-284. The music features a measure with a fermata (z) and rests, followed by sustained notes.



Musical staff 7, measures 285-289. Continuation of the piece with complex rhythmic figures.



Musical staff 8, measures 290-294. The music continues with intricate rhythmic patterns and melodic development.



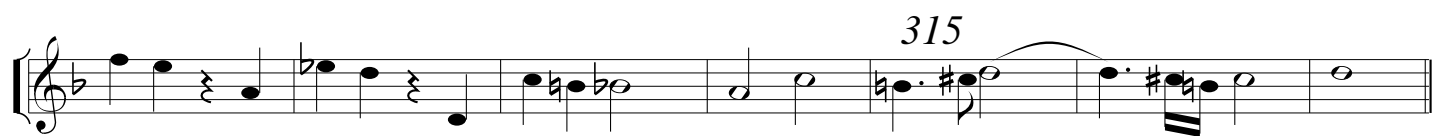
Musical staff 9, measures 295-299. Continuation of the piece with complex rhythmic figures.



Musical staff 10, measures 300-304. The music continues with intricate rhythmic patterns and melodic development.



Musical staff 11, measures 305-310. Continuation of the piece with complex rhythmic figures.



Musical staff 12, measures 315-319. The music continues with intricate rhythmic patterns and melodic development.

Contrapunctus 14 – Viola

J. S. Bach, completed by D. F. Tovey

Bass ... Tenor ...

5 10 15

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25 30

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40 45

50 55

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70 75

80 85

90

95 100

Musical staff 1, measures 105-110. The staff is in bass clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It begins with a whole rest, followed by a series of eighth and sixteenth notes, including a triplet of eighth notes. Measure 105 is marked above the staff.

Musical staff 2, measures 110-115. Continuation of the previous staff. Measure 110 is marked above the staff.

Musical staff 3, measures 115-120. Continuation of the previous staff. Measure 115 is marked above the staff.

Musical staff 4, measures 120-125. Continuation of the previous staff. Measure 120 is marked above the staff.

Musical staff 5, measures 125-130. Continuation of the previous staff. Measure 125 is marked above the staff.

Musical staff 6, measures 130-135. Continuation of the previous staff. Measure 130 is marked above the staff.

Musical staff 7, measures 135-140. Continuation of the previous staff. Measure 135 is marked above the staff.

Musical staff 8, measures 140-145. Continuation of the previous staff. Measure 140 is marked above the staff.

Musical staff 9, measures 145-150. Continuation of the previous staff. Measure 145 is marked above the staff.

Musical staff 10, measures 150-155. Continuation of the previous staff. Measure 150 is marked above the staff.

Musical staff 11, measures 155-160. Continuation of the previous staff. Measure 155 is marked above the staff.

Musical staff 12, measures 160-170. Continuation of the previous staff. Measure 160 is marked above the staff.

175

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185

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195

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205

210

215

220

225

230

235

239 *The remainder is by D. F. Tovey*

245

250 255

260 265

270

275

280

285

290

295

300

305

310

315

Contrapunctus 14 – 1st Cello

J. S. Bach, completed by D. F. Tovey

Bass

5 10 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 95

180

185

190

195

tr

200

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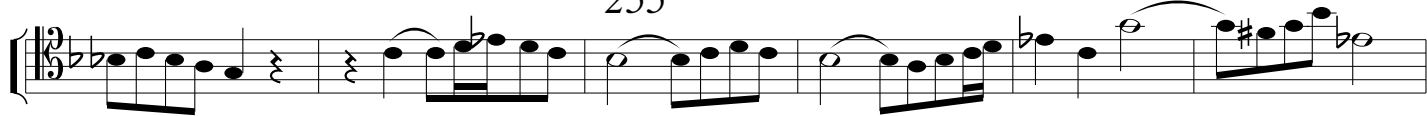
239 The remainder is by D. F. Tovey

245

250



255



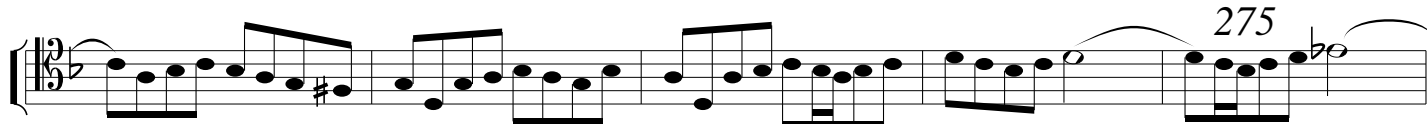
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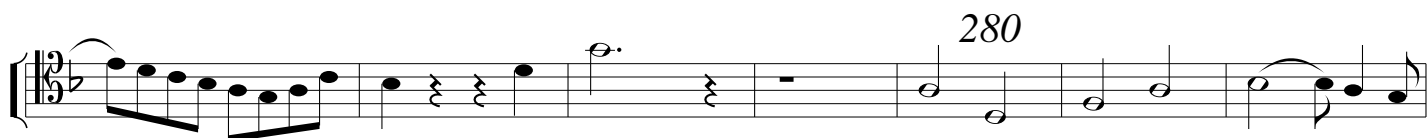
265



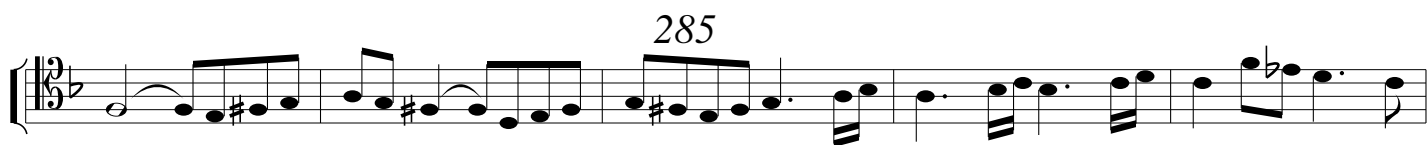
270



275



280



285



290

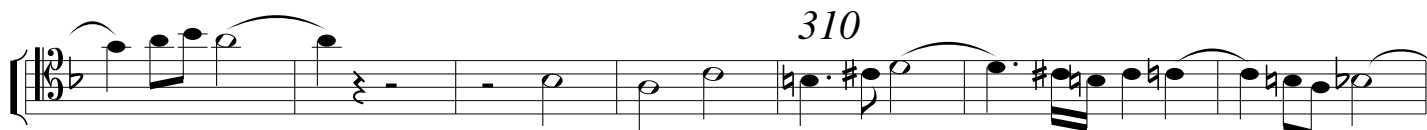


295

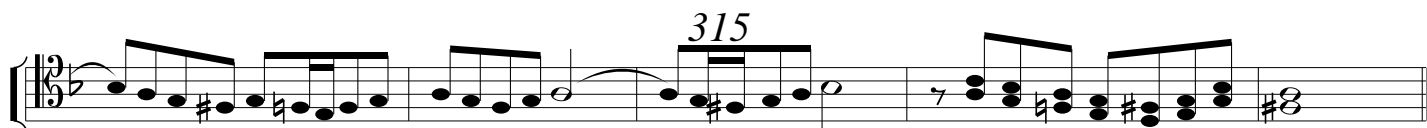


300

305



310



315

Contrapunctus 14 – 2nd Cello

J. S. Bach, completed by D. F. Tovey

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170

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180

185

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215

220

225

230

235

Bach's manuscript ends here ...

240 The remainder is by D. F. Tovey

Musical staff 1: Measures 240-244. The staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a common time signature. The music consists of a series of eighth and sixteenth notes, some beamed together, with occasional rests.

Musical staff 2: Measures 245-249. The staff continues the melodic line with various rhythmic values and articulation marks.

Musical staff 3: Measures 250-254. Measure 250 features a trill (tr) over a note. The staff continues with eighth and sixteenth notes.

Musical staff 4: Measures 255-260. The staff shows a continuation of the melodic pattern with some longer note values.

Musical staff 5: Measures 265-269. The staff contains a series of sixteenth notes, some beamed together.

Musical staff 6: Measures 270-274. The staff continues with eighth and sixteenth notes, ending with a whole rest in measure 270.

Musical staff 7: Measures 275-279. The staff features a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes.

Musical staff 8: Measures 280-284. Measure 280 includes a trill (tr) over a note. The staff ends with a fermata over a note.

Musical staff 9: Measures 285-289. The staff begins with a whole rest in measure 285, followed by eighth and sixteenth notes.

Musical staff 10: Measures 290-294. The staff contains eighth and sixteenth notes, with some beaming.

Musical staff 11: Measures 295-305. The staff consists of a series of quarter notes, some with longer stems.

Musical staff 12: Measures 310-315. The staff features a series of quarter notes, some with longer stems.

Peter Billam was born in London in 1948, studied piano, and lived in Switzerland from 1973 to 1983, where he studied composition, classical guitar, flute and voice, worked as Musical Director of the *Théâtre Populaire Romand*, and as recording engineer, record producer and computer programmer. He moved to Tasmania in 1983, and lectured in composition at the Conservatorium. He founded **www.pjb.com.au**, becoming the first composer to sell scores on-line, taking scores from Composer to Performer in one immediate step. *Www.pjb.com.au* offers a new approach to music publishing. These pieces are **written to be read, made to be played !**

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Arrangements include: By J. S. Bach: *Trio BWV 655*, piano and flute; *Vor deinen Thron BWV 668*, piano; *Fugue in F minor BWV 689*, SATB recorders; *Four Duets BWV 802-5*, keyboard; *Six Preludes and Fugues* from Book I, keyboard; *Flute Sonata BWV 1031* in G major for alto recorder and keyboard; *Flute Sonata BWV 1032* completed by Peter Billam for flute and keyboard, also in C major for alto recorder, and in G major for descant; *Ricercare a 3 of the Musikalisches Opfer* for keyboard; *Ricercare a 6*, for sSATBG recorders, or strings, or two keyboards; and *Fuga Canonica*; from the *Art of Fugue: Contrapuncti 1, 4 and 9* for keyboard, and *Contrapunctus 14* as completed by D. F. Tovey, for keyboard, or for SATB recorders, or for strings; *Passacaglia and Fugue in c* for piano four hands; *Chorales with Descant* for melody instrument and piano; *Cello Suites I, II and III* for flute or alto recorder, *Forty Chorales* for piano, *Der Geist hilft* for SATB-SATB recorders. By Brahms: *Fugue in Ab minor for organ*, for SATB recorders and gamba, in A minor; *Choralsvorspiele for organ* plus settings by Isaac, Bach, Praetorius, recorders. *John Carr, Divisions on an Italian Ground*, flute or recorder and guitar. Franz Liszt, *Late piano pieces*, G.F. Händel: *Concerto Grosso in A minor* op 6 no 4, harpsichord and recorders; *Recorder Sonata in Bb* no 5, in G for tenor recorder and keyboard. Claudio Monteverdi, *Ecco Mormorar l'Onde*, SSATB recorders. Arnold Schoenberg: *Verklärte Nacht* for piano. Franz Schubert: *Four Songs*, voice and guitar; *Dances*, recorders and guitar, *Dances*, piano 4 hands. Scriabin, *Two Preludes op.67*; *Five Preludes op.74*, piano. Telemann, *Twelve Flute Fantasias*, recorder. Wilbye, *Draw on sweet Night*, SSATTB recorders, and for flute choir. *Twelve Italian Songs* and *Seven English Songs*, voice and guitar; *Folk Guitar Solos*; *Fourteen Folk Dance Tunes*, recorder and guitar; *Bushband Dances*, violin, accordeon and banjo; *Easy Classical Pieces*, Bb trumpet and piano; *Famous Beginnings*, for piano.

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