EPISODE 3: LISTENING GAMES, PART 1
BACH Fugue in B-flat Major, BWV 866

TODAY’S WORKSHEET

BONUS QUESTION!
At the end of our last episode, “Pictures You Can Hear, Part 2,” Buddy asks you to figure out how old our composer, Johann Sebastian Bach, would be if he were still alive today. If he was born in 1685, and it is now 2020, how old would Bach be? ________________

LEARN ABOUT MUSICAL PATTERNS!
In the musical world, we have different names for different kinds of songs, based on patterns in the music. Most songs are made up of patterns you can hear easily—just think of your favorite song on the radio. Can you hear how one section, usually called the chorus or refrain, repeats over and over, always sounding the same each time? That’s a kind of pattern!

Classical composers also use patterns in their music. Just like with your favorite song, the way they put their patterns together creates a musical structure, or form, and these forms have different names. The form (or name of the form) tells us how the song is put together, and what kind of song it is.
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MUSICAL MATCHING

Let’s play a quick matching game to learn some new musical terms! Using the musical dictionary of terms found at classicsforkids.com/music/musical_dictionary.php as a reference, look up the words below and match them to their correct definition by writing the word in the blank next to it.

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___________ The music that each person plays as a member of an ensemble. Sometimes this is also called a “voice.”

___________ A complete musical thought.

___________ A composition with two or more voices or parts, in which the melody is played by one part and then replayed and changed by the other parts. There are usually from two to five voices or parts.

___________ Notes played one after the other to make a tune.

___________ The pattern, or structure, of a piece of music.
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LISTENING GAME
What kind of song are we talking about today? ______________

Now that we know something about how this kind of song is put together, let’s listen carefully while Buddy shows you the important part to listen for in this fugue. He will play it all over the piano keyboard, so it might sound a little different each time! Listen and watch closely, and count how many times you hear the melody repeat while he plays the music!

How many times did you hear it? ______________
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LEARN ABOUT THE COMPOSER!

JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH 1685–1750

Johann Sebastian Bach lived in Germany his whole life. His father played the violin, and many of his relatives were also musicians. Bach’s parents died when he was 10 years old. He went to live with his oldest brother, Christoph, who taught him to play the harpsichord and organ.

During his early years, Bach made his living by playing the organ for dukes and princes. As he got older, he became well known as an outstanding church musician and excellent organist. He was the music director for all five of his city’s biggest churches. Bach had many children, and several of them grew up to become great musicians also.

During his lifetime Bach was known more for his excellent organ playing than for his composing. However, although Bach was a very busy man, he always made time to write music. After his death in 1750, his compositions (which numbered over 1,000!) were organized into 60 volumes of music.