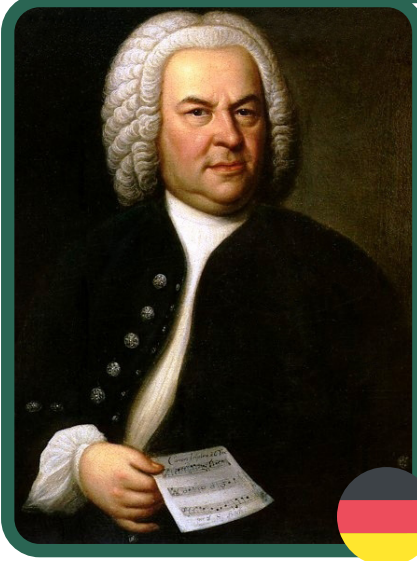




COMPOSER BIOGRAPHY

**JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH**

BORN: March 31, 1685

ERA/STYLE: Baroque

DIED: July 28, 1750

HOMETOWN: Eisenach, Germany

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 21 children, and several of them grew up to become great musicians also.

Throughout 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. He is considered the "father" of Western classical music to this day.