

God's Instrument...



Johann Sebastian Bach



Can you name some of the instruments in a musical orchestra?

Here are a few: Flute, Violin, Oboe, Bassoon, Bass, Trumpet.

And there are many more in most orchestras!

All great orchestras need fine music to play. That music is written by talented people called composers. One of the greatest composers of all time was a man named Johann Sebastian Bach. He composed music for orchestras, and for choirs too.



Both of Johann's parents died before he was 10 years old. His love for music was one of the special things that kept him going after that hard experience. He learned to play the organ and other instruments. He loved to sing - and he had a fine voice.

As Johann grew up, people came to realize what a talented young man he was. He eventually became the music director for the orchestras and choirs of the royal princes and dukes in his home country of Germany. But his favourite job was writing music for churches.



At the church where he worked for many years, he wrote a new cantata for the choir almost every week! And over his lifetime, Bach composed about 1,000 different works.

It was common in music then — as it is today — for there to be jealousies among musicians. Often, they would say bad things about one another. But not Johann. He was humble. He wanted to always please God, so he respected other musicians.



Bach once said,

"Music's only purpose should be the glory of God and the recreation of the human spirit."

He wasn't interested in competing with other musicians or putting them down - people were special to him.







Even today, hundreds of years after Bach wrote his music, we still enjoy his beautiful melodies and rhythms. They really do refresh our spirits !!

Johann Bach mastered many instruments. But above all, he allowed himself to become God's instrument. *How?*



 Bach allowed himself to be useful to God. He helped many young musicians to get jobs. And he wrote music that helped people to relax and enjoy themselves.

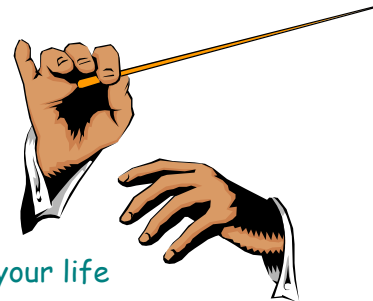
 His music told the stories from the Bible. For example, a slow, sad tune "spoke" of how tired Jesus was as he carried His cross to the hill where He would be crucified. Other lively music revealed how beautiful and exciting heaven will be.

 Johann gave God all the praise for his talent, and he remained humble before God. He believed his compositions came from God.

As God's instrument, Johann was a faithful and willing servant, **tuned** to God's directions.

You too can be God's instrument.

- ❖ You can give Him all your talents, and all your faithfulness.
- ❖ You can sing His praises.
- ❖ And you can receive His love and share it with others.



You can allow God to compose a beautiful song out of your life that will delight Him and bless others.

Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness. — Romans 6:13