

## SESIÓN DE MÚSICA Semana 23 de Marzo

Seguimos conociendo un poco más a fondo a **Bach**. Vimos que no tuvo una infancia fácil, y que ya en esos tiempos para ser un buen músico se requería de mucho esfuerzo y talento. Sebastián iba bastante sobrado de lo segundo, especialmente en el ámbito de la composición, donde llegaría a ser un revolucionario como descubriremos en la siguiente **ficha** que nos habla de su etapa adulta y de más creación musical.

Para realizarla, sigo recomendando que os pongáis de fondo algo de su música. Esta vez os animo a que escuchéis la [Suite No.1 Preludio](#), os dejo allí el enlace. ¿Qué instrumento es el que se escucha? Una pista: yo también toco ese instrumento, y el intérprete, en esta ocasión es *Yo-Yo Ma*, el mejor del mundo con este instrumento.

Os voy a contar una pequeña historia mientras lo escucháis:

Hace más de cien años, un chico de trece años llamado Pablo iba paseando por Barcelona con su instrumento casi tan alto como él. Hacía tanto calor que le costaba avanzar con eso cargado a la espalda. Al girar una esquina en el antiguo barrio marinero de la ciudad, vio la tienda de música de segunda mano que estaba buscando. Sonó la campanilla de la puerta al entrar, colocó su instrumento en el suelo y suspiró con alivio mientras miraba maravillado a su alrededor. Hasta donde alcanzaba la vista, cada rincón, cada hueco en la tienda, estaba lleno de partituras y libros de música. El lugar olía a antiguo, a historia. No tenía mucho dinero, lo poco que había ahorrado procedía de trabajillos aquí y allá y de lo que le daba su padre. Pero estaba decidido a gastarse cada céntimo en su gran amor: la música.

Al fondo de la tienda había un armario con un montón de partituras muy antiguas. Estaban polvorientas y parecían intactas, como si llevara allí décadas esperando. Nuestro chico, cuyo nombre completo era **Pablo Casals**, se acercó hasta el armario y cogió una silla para subirse, ya que la pila era tan alta que no llegaba a la parte de arriba. Enterrado en medio de la pila encontró un libro con las palabras *Bach y violonchelo* en la tapa. A Pablo le encantaba ese instrumento, era como si hubiera nacido con un violonchelo entre las manos, y el suyo había sido su mejor amigo desde que podía recordar. Pero no tenía ni idea de que el gran Bach hubiese escrito música exclusiva para violonchelo. De hecho, casi nadie lo sabía. Algunos vieron las piezas, pero las descartaron al considerarlas estudios para practicar en lugar de grandes obras musicales. Pablo cogió el libro, contó el dinero exacto y lo compró.

Aquel muchacho de trece años no era consciente en aquel momento, pero estaba destinado a convertirse en uno de los mejores violonchelistas del mundo y acababa de hacer uno de los descubrimientos musicales más importantes de la historia. Pablo pasó **doce años** estudiando las piezas antes de sentirse con la seguridad suficiente como para tocarlas en público. Cuando al fin lo hizo, compartió con el mundo uno de los mayores talentos de la música. Hoy en día, estas **seis suites** para violonchelo se consideran de las mejores obras jamás compuestas.



# Composers

## Bach - Handel - Purcell

### Sheet 2

Name .....

# Johann Sebastian Bach - 1685 - 1750

## his later years

When Sebastian was twenty he spent three months studying with a famous German composer and organist, Dietrich Buxtehude. He was only supposed to be there for one month but he was learning so much that he stayed on for another two months just because he wanted to. He used a lot of what he learned in his own compositions and his own playing. Some of his new ideas sounded strange to his listeners but most people liked what they heard.

Two years later he married Maria Barbara Bach, a cousin of his, and they went to live in Mülhausen, where Sebastian played the organ in the Church of Saint Blasius. They didn't stay there long. In the following year, 1708, they decided to go back to Weimar where Sebastian was to work for Duke Wilhelm Ernst again as organist and violinist. He stayed there for nine years. During this time Sebastian wrote about thirty cantatas as well as music for organ and harpsichord. He was made leader of the court orchestra in Weimar in 1714 when he was twenty nine years old.

During this time Sebastian traveled around Germany quite a lot giving concerts. He was getting to be famous. At the same time his own family was growing. Sebastian and Maria had seven children altogether, but in those days many children died, especially when they were still babies. Only four of their children survived.

In 1717 Sebastian took his family and moved to Köthen to become the conductor of the orchestra for Prince Leopold of Anhalt-Köthen. In between writing musically professionally, which he did a great deal of, he also managed to write music books for his wife and children, to help them advance musically as well. He wrote the 'Well Tempered Clavier,' the "Inventions," and the "Little Organ Book" for them.

Suddenly, in 1720, his wife Maria died. This left him very sad and with four young children to care for. It must have been a very difficult time for him.

About a year later he married Anna Magdalena Wilcken, who was a singer and the daughter of a musician. She took over the care of his children and helped him to get on with his work. They had thirteen more children but only six of them survived.

The Bach family stayed in Köthen until 1723 when when they moved to Leipzig. Sebastian was appointed musical director and choirmaster of Saint Thomas' church. He stayed in Leipzig for the rest of his life and wrote the greatest of all his music there.

### Can you answer these questions?

Which great organist and composer did he study with? .....

Who was Johann Sebastian Bach's first wife?.....

What work did he do soon after his first marriage? .....

How many of his children survived altogether? .....

Who did he go to work for in 1708?.....

What music books did he write for his family .....

Where did he move to from Köthen .....

#### True or False

He taught Dietrich Buxtehude .....

He wrote 13 cantatas in Weimar .....

Sebastian wrote 'Inventions' for his family .....

His second wife, Anna, was a pianist . .....

He moved to Weimar in 1708 .....

He became a conductor for Prince Leopold .....

He stayed in Leipzig for nine years .....