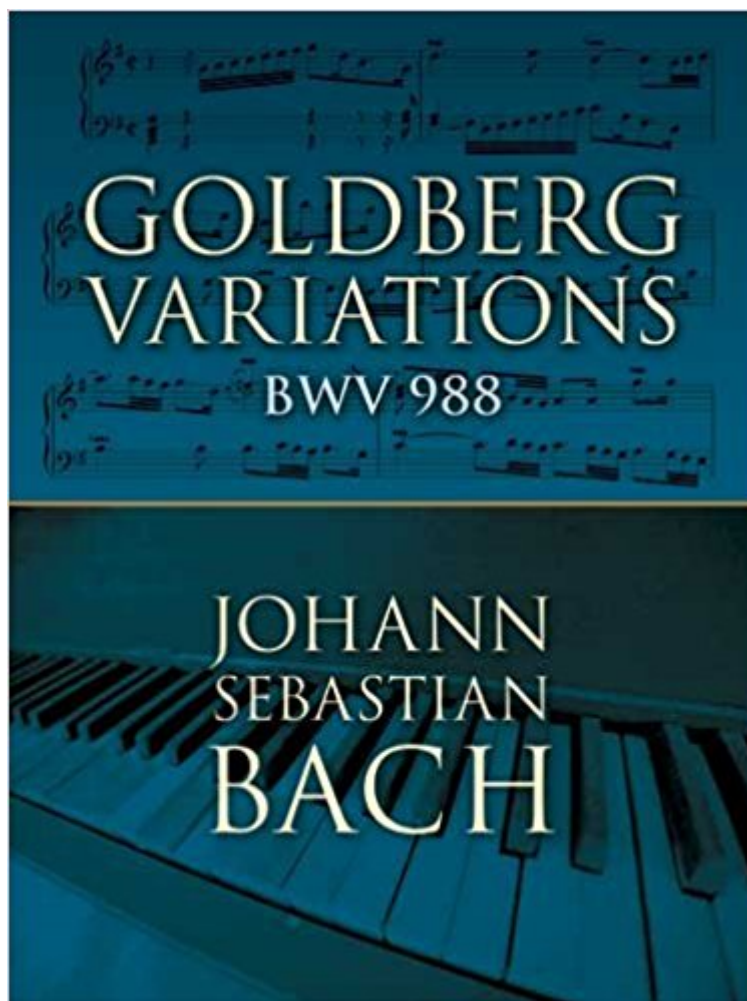


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# Goldberg Variations: BWV 988 (Dover Music For Piano)



## Synopsis

According to Bach's first biography, the "Goldbergs" were written for one of the composer's most talented pupils, who used them to entertain and soothe his insomniac master during bouts of sleeplessness. Subsequent historians have had their doubts about the story's authenticity, but the composer certainly intended his work as a diversion for listeners. Upon its 1742 publication, Bach entitled it "Keyboard Practice, consisting of an Aria with Diverse Variations, for the Harpsichord with 2 Manuals. Composed for Music Lovers, to Refresh their Spirits." As Glenn Gould remarked, the title offers a very down-to-earth description of a monumental work. Long regarded as the Baroque era's most important set of variations, the Goldbergs were relatively unknown when he chose them for his recording debut in the 1950s. The sensation created by his still-popular recordings revived the piece in concert performances, in which spectators delight in its virtuosic hand-crossings. This affordable edition of the widely performed and appreciated work is essential for all serious pianists and music lovers.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750) was a prolific German composer and organist whose sacred and secular works for choir, orchestra, and solo instruments exemplify the heart and soul of the Baroque period. A revival of interest and performances of his music began early in the 19th century and continue to this day. He is now widely considered to be one of the greatest composers in the

Western tradition.

This edition of the Goldberg Variations is fine and I've been happy with it for years, but it does not provide the detailed guidance on ornament execution and clarification of the voice leading that I have now found in the Schirmer edition by Ralph Kirkpatrick. If you are anything like me (an amateur, no doubt!) you will save yourself countless hours by spending a couple dollars more for the Schirmer edition.

Perhaps it was the word 'Paperback' or the association of .com as a bookshop that lured me into buying this book because it is no study about the inside of BWV 988 as I expected, but the sheet music only with a short introduction.

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