

FULL SCORE

Young String Orchestra

Grade 2



CARL FISCHER

PERFORMANCE

SERIES

# Air on the G-String

Johann Sebastian Bach

*Arranged by*

**Doris Gazda**

YAS84

## INSTRUMENTATION

Full Score .....	1
Violin I .....	8
Violin II .....	8
Violin III (Viola T.C.) .....	2
Viola .....	5
Cello .....	5
Bass .....	5
Piano .....	1

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## Program Notes

The orchestra suites were originally known as “overtures.” *The Overture No. 3 in D major* had five parts or “movements” called Overture, Air, Gavottes I/II, Bourrée and Gigue. The instrumentation was for trumpets I/II/III, timpani, oboe I/II, violin I/II, viola, and basso continuo.

The second movement of the suite, Air, became one of the most famous pieces of Baroque music when the German violinist August Wilhelmj (1845–1908) wrote an arrangement of it that could be played completely on the G-string. The Air has a beautiful lyrical melody that is supported by a masterfully composed bass part.

Today, there are many arrangements of the Air that are written for orchestras, string quartets, solo instruments and even in jazz style. You can explore YouTube and iTunes and listen to the various arrangements.

The first violin part in this arrangement could be played by solo violin or solo viola rather than by the entire first violin section.

## About the Composer

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 –1750) stands unrivaled as the greatest composer of music during the Baroque period. He wrote sacred and secular music for choir, orchestra and solo instruments that was performed in churches and in the courts of royal patrons throughout the area of Europe known now as Germany.

When Bach was 32, he was hired as *Kapellmeister*, or Music Director, of the court of Prince Leopold of Anhalt-Köthen. Leopold became the Prince of Anhalt-Köthen at age 10. Prince Leopold studied music and when he was 23 years old, he hired Bach to be his court composer. Though the Prince lived only for another decade, his influence on Bach’s music enabled Bach to write the *Brandenburg Concertos*, the *Well-Tempered Clavier*, the four *Orchestral Suites*, and the suites for solo violin and solo cello. Bach was paid very well for his work during his years at Anhalt-Köthen.

## About the Arranger

Doris Gazda is a graduate of the Eastman School of Music and Penn State University. She enjoyed many years as a string specialist in the Montgomery County, Maryland public schools, where she founded and conducted the Frederick County Youth Orchestra, and conducted the Potomac Valley Youth and Frederick Community Orchestras. Most recently, Ms. Gazda was on the faculty at Arizona State University. She has served nationally as Secretary for the American String Teachers Association, President of the National School Orchestra Association and Member-at-Large for the ASTA with NSOA.

A proponent of new music for student musicians, Ms. Gazda composes for strings and string orchestra. She is the author of *High Tech for Strings* (Carl Fischer), a set of technical studies for middle and high school orchestras, and co-author of the beginning method *Spotlight on Strings* (Neil A. Kjos). Nationally known for her leadership and expertise in string instruction, Ms. Gazda presents workshops and conducts conference and regional student orchestras. She is a frequent presenter at state and national meetings for MENC (Music Educators National Conference), ASTA (American String Teachers Association) with NSOA (National School Orchestra Association), MTNA (Music Teachers National Association), regional school systems, and string workshops.

## Air on the G-String

JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH

Arranged by Doris Gazda

Adagio ♩ = 72

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Cello

Bass

Piano

*p* *mf*

*pizz.*

1 2 3 4

Detailed description: This block contains the first system of the musical score, measures 1 through 4. It features staves for Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Cello, Bass, and Piano. The tempo is marked 'Adagio' with a metronome marking of ♩ = 72. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The time signature is 4/4. Dynamics include piano (p) and mezzo-forte (mf). The Viola, Cello, and Bass parts include 'pizz.' (pizzicato) markings. The Piano part has a large '8' in the first measure, indicating an octave. Measure numbers 1, 2, 3, and 4 are printed below the respective staves.

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Cello

Bass

Pno.

*p*

5 6 7 8

Detailed description: This block contains the second system of the musical score, measures 5 through 8. It continues the instrumentation from the first system. Dynamics are marked as piano (p). Measure numbers 5, 6, 7, and 8 are printed below the respective staves.

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First system of musical notation, measures 9 through 12. The score includes parts for Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), Cello, Bass, and Piano (Pno.).

- Violin I (Vln. I):** Treble clef. Measure 9: quarter note G4, eighth note A4, quarter note B4. Measure 10: quarter note C5, eighth note B4, quarter note A4. Measure 11: quarter note G4, eighth note F4, quarter note E4. Measure 12: quarter rest, half note G4.
- Violin II (Vln. II):** Treble clef. Measure 9: whole note G3. Measure 10: quarter note A3, eighth note B3, quarter note C4. Measure 11: quarter note D4, eighth note E4, quarter note F4. Measure 12: quarter note G4, eighth note A4, quarter note B4.
- Viola (Vla.):** Alto clef. Measure 9: whole note G3. Measure 10: quarter note A3, eighth note B3, quarter note C4. Measure 11: quarter note D4, eighth note E4, quarter note F4. Measure 12: quarter note G4, eighth note A4, quarter note B4.
- Cello:** Bass clef. Measure 9: quarter note G2, eighth note A2, quarter note B2. Measure 10: quarter note C3, eighth note B2, quarter note A2. Measure 11: quarter note G2, eighth note F2, quarter note E2. Measure 12: quarter note D2, eighth note C2, quarter note B1. *arco* marking above measure 11.
- Bass:** Bass clef. Measure 9: quarter note G2, eighth note A2, quarter note B2. Measure 10: quarter note C3, eighth note B2, quarter note A2. Measure 11: quarter note G2, eighth note F2, quarter note E2. Measure 12: quarter note D2, eighth note C2, quarter note B1. *arco* marking above measure 11.
- Piano (Pno.):** Grand staff. Measure 9: right hand, whole note G3; left hand, quarter note G2, eighth note A2, quarter note B2. Measure 10: right hand, quarter note A3, eighth note B3, quarter note C4; left hand, quarter note C3, eighth note B2, quarter note A2. Measure 11: right hand, quarter note D4, eighth note E4, quarter note F4; left hand, quarter note D3, eighth note C3, quarter note B2. Measure 12: right hand, quarter note E4, eighth note F4, quarter note G4; left hand, quarter note E3, eighth note D3, quarter note C3.

Measures 9, 10, 11, and 12 are indicated below the staff.

Second system of musical notation, measures 13 through 16. The score includes parts for Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), Cello, Bass, and Piano (Pno.).

- Violin I (Vln. I):** Treble clef. Measure 13: whole note G3. Measure 14: quarter note A3, eighth note B3, quarter note C4. Measure 15: quarter note D4, eighth note E4, quarter note F4. Measure 16: quarter note G4, eighth note A4, quarter note B4. *mf* marking above measure 14.
- Violin II (Vln. II):** Treble clef. Measure 13: whole note G3. Measure 14: quarter note A3, eighth note B3, quarter note C4. Measure 15: quarter note D4, eighth note E4, quarter note F4. Measure 16: quarter note G4, eighth note A4, quarter note B4. *mf* marking above measure 14.
- Viola (Vla.):** Alto clef. Measure 13: whole note G3. Measure 14: quarter note A3, eighth note B3, quarter note C4. Measure 15: quarter note D4, eighth note E4, quarter note F4. Measure 16: quarter note G4, eighth note A4, quarter note B4. *mf* marking above measure 14.
- Cello:** Bass clef. Measure 13: quarter note G2, eighth note A2, quarter note B2. Measure 14: quarter note C3, eighth note B2, quarter note A2. Measure 15: quarter note G2, eighth note F2, quarter note E2. Measure 16: quarter note D2, eighth note C2, quarter note B1. *pizz.* marking above measure 13. *mf* marking above measure 14.
- Bass:** Bass clef. Measure 13: quarter note G2, eighth note A2, quarter note B2. Measure 14: quarter note C3, eighth note B2, quarter note A2. Measure 15: quarter note G2, eighth note F2, quarter note E2. Measure 16: quarter note D2, eighth note C2, quarter note B1. *pizz.* marking above measure 13. *mf* marking above measure 14.
- Piano (Pno.):** Grand staff. Measure 13: right hand, whole note G3; left hand, quarter note G2, eighth note A2, quarter note B2. Measure 14: right hand, whole note G3; left hand, quarter note C3, eighth note B2, quarter note A2. Measure 15: right hand, whole note G3; left hand, quarter note D3, eighth note C3, quarter note B2. Measure 16: right hand, whole note G3; left hand, quarter note E3, eighth note D3, quarter note C3. *mf* marking above measure 14.

Measures 13, 14, 15, and 16 are indicated below the staff.

I  
 Vln. *p*  
 II *p*  
 Vla. *p*  
 Cello *p*  
 Bass *p*  
 Pno. *p*

17 18 19 20

I  
 Vln. *p* *mf*  
 II *p* *mf*  
 Vla. *p* *mf*  
 Cello *p* *mf* arco  
 Bass *p* *mf* arco  
 Pno. *p* *mf*

21 22 23 24

25

I Vln. *p* *mf*

II Vln. *p* *mf*

Vla. *p* *mf*

Cello *pizz.* *p* *mf*

Bass *pizz.* *p* *mf*

Pno. *p* *mf*

25 26 27 28

29 30 31 32

I Vln. *mp* *f*

II Vln. *mp* *f*

Vla. *mp* *f*

Cello *mp* *f*

Bass *mp* *f*

Pno. *mp* *f*

33

I Vln. *pp*

II Vln. *pp*

Vla. *pp*

Cello *pp*

Bass *pp*

Pno. *pp*

33 34 35 36

I Vln. *p* *cresc. poco a poco* *f*

II Vln. *p* *cresc. poco a poco* *f*

Vla. *p* *cresc. poco a poco* *f*

Cello *p* *cresc. poco a poco* *f*

Bass *p* *cresc. poco a poco* *f*

Pno. *p* *cresc. poco a poco* *f*

37 38 39 40

Violin I  
Violin II  
Viola  
Cello  
Bass  
Piano

41 42 43 44 45

Violin I  
Violin II  
Viola  
Cello  
Bass  
Piano

46 47 48 49 50

*p* *ff* *molto ritard.*

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