

J.S. Bach

Brandenburg No. 2: Allegro Moderato

Mvt. 1 from Brandenburg Concerto No. 2 (BWV 1047)

arranged for mallet ensemble by Brian Slawson



Brandenburg No. 2: Allegro Moderato by J.S. Bach, arranged by Brian Slawson

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Program Notes

Widely regarded as some of the finest musical works of the Baroque era, the Brandenburg Concertos were composed around the time of Bach's tenure as Kapellmeister at Köthen (1708–1717). Although the instrument combinations vary from work to work, each three-movement concerto features a small ensemble of solo players accompanied by a larger section of players who assume no solo functions. In the case of *Brandenburg No. 2*, solos are played by a trumpet, violin, flute and oboe while backed by strings and continuo.

Although Bach simplistically described the Brandenburgs as “concertos with several instruments,” their degree of difficulty and his use of instruments in daring combinations made for music's most innovative scores to date.

Adapting tunes for performance in a variety of instrumental settings was a common practice in the Baroque period, and today Bach's music continues to thrive in nearly every setting the modern era can muster. There could hardly be a better vehicle than a percussion ensemble to showcase some of the most rhythmic music ever written.

Performance Notes

If desired, Marimba 1 and Marimba 4 may share a 4.3-octave marimba, while Marimba 2 and Marimba 5 may share a 5-octave instrument (*see Suggested Setup on opposite page*). Marimba 3 requires a 4-octave keyboard.

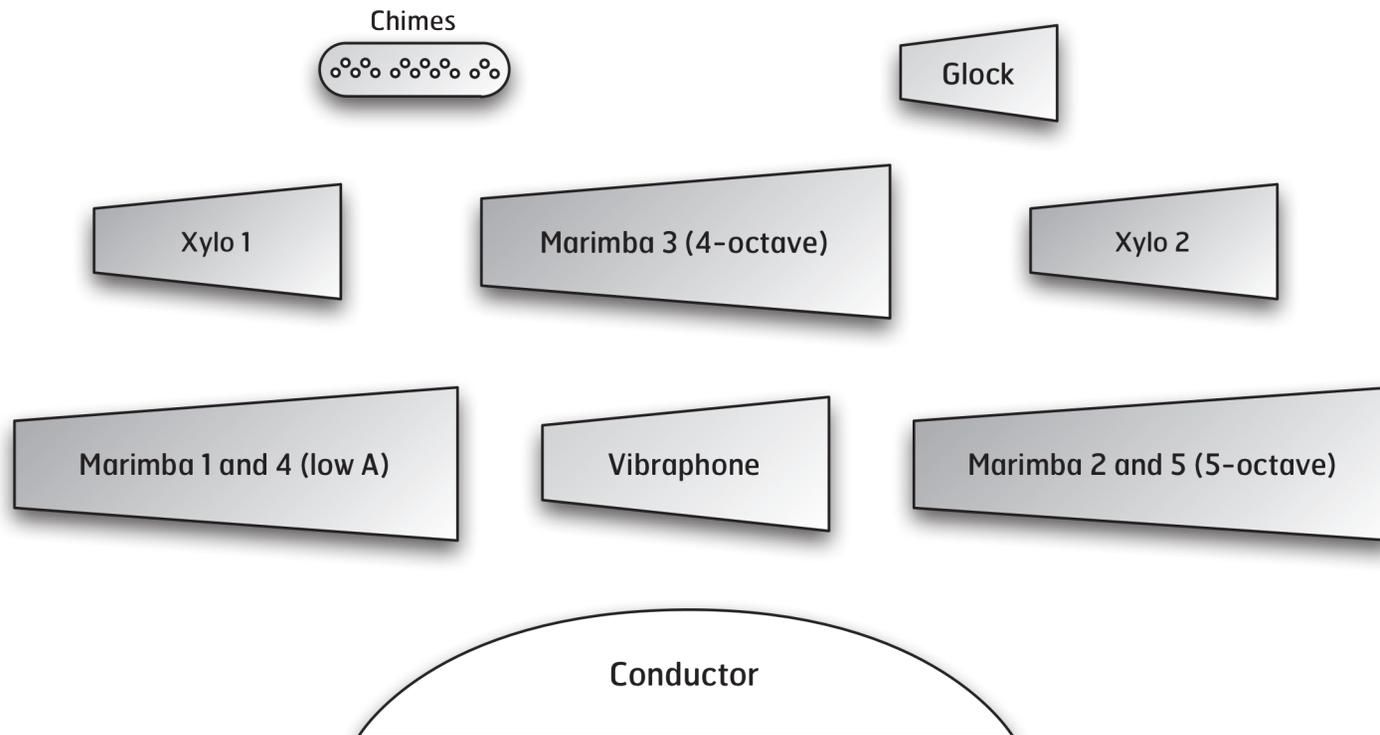
The rhythmic appeal of Bach's music is undeniable, especially when performers are mindful of some basic rules. Establish a nice “bouncy” tempo right from the downbeat and apply slight stresses on strong beats to give the rhythmic character an engaging “side to side” feel. Exaggerate dynamics and maintain your intensity, particularly during the long crescendos that start softly. Also, keep in mind that this is a multiple concerto. Identify who is soloing and balance accordingly. Create textured blends and keep the rhythm lively. Bach will take care of the rest!

Players and Instrumentation

Brandenburg No. 2: Allegro Moderato requires **10 players** with the following instrumentation:

- 1 glockenspiel
- 1 chimes
- 2 xylophones
- 1 vibraphone
- 1 small marimba (4-octave)
- 1 medium marimba (shared 4.3-octave)
- 1 large marimba (shared 5-octave)

Suggested Setup (*minimized*)



Level: Med-Advanced
Approx. playing time: 3'45"

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J.S. Bach
arr. Brian Slawson

$\text{♩} = 48$

Xylophone 1
f

Xylophone 2
f

Vibraphone
f

Glockenspiel
f

Chimes

Marimba 1 (share w/M4)
f

Marimba 2 (share w/M5)
f

Marimba 3
f

Marimba 4 (share w/M1)
f

Marimba 5 (share w/M2)
f

Sample
Image

A

Musical score for Brandenburg No. 2, measures 6-10. The score is written for five staves: XI (Violin I), X2 (Violin II), V (Viola), G (Violoncello), and C (Contrabasso). The key signature has one flat (B-flat). Measure 6 is marked with a '6' above the staff. Measure 7 contains a sixteenth-note triplet in the X2 part, also marked with a '6' above it. Measure 8 features a sixteenth-note triplet in the V part, marked with a '6' above it. Measure 9 has a sixteenth-note triplet in the G part, marked with a '6' above it. Measure 10 has a sixteenth-note triplet in the G part, marked with a '6' above it. The C part is silent throughout these measures.

Continuation of the musical score for Brandenburg No. 2, measures 11-15. The score is written for five staves: XI, X2, V, G, and C. Measure 11 has a sixteenth-note triplet in the V part, marked with a '6' above it. Measure 12 has a sixteenth-note triplet in the V part, marked with a '6' above it. Measure 13 has a sixteenth-note triplet in the V part, marked with a '6' above it. Measure 14 has a sixteenth-note triplet in the V part, marked with a '6' above it. Measure 15 has a sixteenth-note triplet in the V part, marked with a '6' above it. The C part is silent throughout these measures.

Sample
Image

Musical score for Brandenburg No. 2: Allegro Moderato – Slawson. The score includes staves for X1, X2, V, G, C, M1, M2, M3, M4, and M5. The V staff features dynamic markings *ff* and *f*. A large grey watermark is present on the right side of the page.

Sample Image

18

X1

X2

V

G

C

f

ff

f

ff

f

Sample
Image

24

X1

X2 *mp*

V *ff* *mf*

G

C

M1 *ff*

M2

M3 *8vb*

M4

M5

Sample
Image

B

29

X1 *mf*

X2 *mf*

V *mp* *ff*

G *mp* *mf*

C *mp* *f*

mp

mp

mp

mp *mf*

mf *f*

mf *f*

8^{va} *mf*

Sample
Image

Musical score for Brandenburg No. 2: Allegro Moderato – Slawson. The score is for a 10-piece ensemble and includes staves for X1, X2, V, G, C, M1, M2, M3, M4, and M5. It features various musical notations such as dynamics (*f*, *mp*), articulation (>), and performance instructions like '6' for sixteenth notes and a circled '8' for eighth notes.

Sample Image

C

40

X1 *mf* *mf*

X2 *mf*

V *mp*

G

C *mp*

f

Sample
Image

D

Musical score for Brandenburg No. 2: Allegro Moderato – Slawson, measures 46-50. The score includes staves for XI, X2, V, G, C, M1, M2, M3, M4, and M5. Dynamics include *ff*, *mf*, and *f*. A '6' indicates a sixteenth-note figure in measures 49 and 50.

Sample
Image

52

XI *mf*

X2 *p*

V *mp*

G *p* *mp*

C *mp*

mp

f

mp

f

mp

f

Sample
Image

Musical score for Brandenburg No. 2, measures 57-61. The score includes staves for XI, X2, V, G, C, M1, M2, M3, M4, and M5. Dynamics include *f*, *p*, and *mp*. The score is in G minor and 3/4 time. The key signature has two flats (Bb and Eb). The tempo is Allegro Moderato. The score is for a string ensemble with parts for Violin I (XI), Violin II (X2), Viola (V), Cello (C), Contrabass (M5), and five Mutes (M1-M4). The music features a complex rhythmic pattern with many sixteenth and thirty-second notes. The dynamics range from *f* (forte) to *p* (piano) and *mp* (mezzo-piano). The score is in G minor and 3/4 time. The key signature has two flats (Bb and Eb). The tempo is Allegro Moderato. The score is for a string ensemble with parts for Violin I (XI), Violin II (X2), Viola (V), Cello (C), Contrabass (M5), and five Mutes (M1-M4). The music features a complex rhythmic pattern with many sixteenth and thirty-second notes. The dynamics range from *f* (forte) to *p* (piano) and *mp* (mezzo-piano).

Sample Image

62

X1 *mf* *p* *mp*

X2 *mf* *p* *mp*

V *f* *mp* *f*

G *f* *mp* *mf*

C *f*

p *mf*

p *mf*

p *mf*

p *mf*

p *mf*

Sample
Image

E

Musical score for Brandenburg No. 2, measures 68-73. The score includes parts for XI, XII, Violin (V), Guitar (G), Cello (C), M1, M2, M3, M4, and M5. Dynamics include mp, p, f, and mf.

Sample Image

F

73

XI *f* *p* *mf*

X2 *f* *p* *mf* *mp* *mf*

V *f* *mp* *mf* *mf*

G *mp* *cresc.*

C *pp*

mp *mf*

mp

mp

mp

mp

Sample
Image

Musical score for Brandenburg No. 2: Allegro Moderato – Slawson, measures 79-82. The score includes staves for XI, X2, V, G, C, M1, M2, M3, M4, and M5. Dynamics include mp, mf, f, and ff.

Measure 79: XI (mf), X2 (mp), V (f), G, C (mp), M1 (f), M2 (mf), M3 (mf), M4 (mf), M5 (mf).

Measure 80: XI (mf), X2 (mf), V (f), G, C (mp), M1 (f), M2 (mf), M3 (mf), M4 (mf), M5 (mf).

Measure 81: XI (f), X2 (f), V (f), G, C (mp), M1 (f), M2 (mf), M3 (mf), M4 (mf), M5 (mf).

Measure 82: XI (mf), X2 (mf), V (ff), G (f), C (f), M1 (f), M2 (mf), M3 (mf), M4 (mf), M5 (mf).

Sample Image

G

83

rit.

X1 *f* *ff*

X2 *f* *ff* 6

V *ff* *ff*

G *ff* *ff*

C *ff* *ff*

ff 6 *ff*

ff

ff

ff

ff

Sample
Image



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