

# [Aria with Variations]

J. S. Bach, BWV 991 (completion  
by David Schulenberg)

[Poco vivace]

[Var. 1]

1 2

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The first system of music consists of two staves. The treble staff begins with a series of eighth-note chords, some marked with accents. The bass staff provides a steady accompaniment with eighth-note patterns. The key signature has two flats, and the time signature is 4/4.

[Var. 2]

The second system continues the piece, featuring a repeat sign and a double bar line. The treble staff has a melodic line with some rests, while the bass staff continues with rhythmic accompaniment.

The third system shows a continuation of the musical theme. The treble staff has a melodic line with a repeat sign at the end. The bass staff maintains the accompaniment.

The fourth system continues the musical development. The treble staff has a melodic line with a repeat sign. The bass staff provides accompaniment.

The fifth system includes first and second endings, indicated by the numbers '1' and '2' above the treble staff. The first ending leads back to an earlier section, while the second ending concludes the system.

[Var. 3]

The sixth system concludes the piece with a final melodic flourish in the treble staff and a rhythmic accompaniment in the bass staff. The key signature remains two flats.

First system of musical notation, featuring a treble and bass clef. The treble clef part contains a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, while the bass clef part provides a rhythmic accompaniment with similar note values.

Second system of musical notation, continuing the piece. The treble clef part shows a more complex melodic structure with some accidentals, and the bass clef part continues with a steady accompaniment.

Third system of musical notation, showing a continuation of the melodic and accompanimental lines. The treble clef part features a series of sixteenth-note runs.

Fourth system of musical notation, with the treble clef part showing a more active melodic line and the bass clef part providing a consistent accompaniment.

Fifth system of musical notation, concluding the piece. It includes first and second endings, indicated by the numbers '1' and '2' above the treble clef staff. The first ending leads back to an earlier section, while the second ending provides a final resolution.

## Air with Variations, BWV 991

The original is preserved in Bach's autograph in D B Mus. ms. Bach P 224, where it was subsequently crossed out (not necessarily by Bach). Only the unbracketed portions of the present score are Bach's. The reconstruction opens with a statement of the theme as Bach gave it in his first variation, combined with a simplified form of the bass from the same variation (here variation 2). Four blank staves that follow in the manuscript imply that Bach intended to compose at least one more variation.