

Lecture-Presentation on J.S. Bach *Clavier-Übung III*
For Tacoma Chapter, American Guild of Organists
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I. What is the Clavier-Übung III? Context & History

Clavier-Übung I	1731	Six Partitas, BWV 825-830
Clavier-Übung II	1735	French Overture, BWV 831; Italian Concerto, BWV 971
Clavier-Übung III	1739	Prelude & Fugue BWV 552; Chorale-Preludes BWV 669-689
Clavier-Übung IV	1741	Goldberg Variations, BWV 988

Is Clavier-Übung III an Organ Mass?

II. How do we play the Clavier-Übung III? The Music & Performance Issues

Registration
Tempo
Ornamentation
Contrapuntal awareness
Harmonic awareness
Articulation
Expressivity

Conducting & Recording:

As part of preparation, always conduct away from the organ;
listen as objectively as possible to yourself in recording.

Selected Further Reading

Laukvik, Jon. *Historical Performance Practice in Organ Playing: An introduction based on selected Organ Works of the 16th-18th Centuries*. Stuttgart: Carus, 1996.

Volume 1 – text

Volume 2 – music

Williams, Peter. *The Organ Music of J.S. Bach*. Second Ed. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003.

Various score prefaces, especially

Stauffer, George, ed. *Complete Bach Organ Works*. vol. 8. Colfax: Leupold, 2010.

The Structure of *Clavier-Übung III*

Praeludium pro Organo pleno	♩ meter
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li style="border-left: 1px solid black; padding-left: 5px;">Kyrie, Gott Vater in Ewigkeit (<i>ped.</i>) <li style="border-left: 1px solid black; padding-left: 5px;">Christe, aller Welt Trost (<i>ped.</i>) <li style="border-left: 1px solid black; padding-left: 5px;">Kyrie, Gott heiliger Geist (<i>ped.</i>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4/2 meter; <i>cantus firmus</i> in soprano 4/2 meter; <i>cantus firmus</i> in tenor 4/2 meter; <i>cantus firmus</i> in bass
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li style="border-left: 1px solid black; padding-left: 5px;">Kyrie, Gott Vater in Ewigkeit (<i>man.</i>) <li style="border-left: 1px solid black; padding-left: 5px;">Christe, aller Welt Trost (<i>man.</i>) <li style="border-left: 1px solid black; padding-left: 5px;">Kyrie, Gott heiliger Geist (<i>man.</i>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3/4 meter 6/8 meter 9/8 meter
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li style="border-left: 1px solid black; padding-left: 5px;">Allein Gott in der Höh sei Ehr (<i>man.</i>) <li style="border-left: 1px solid black; padding-left: 5px;">Allein Gott in der Höh sei Ehr (<i>ped.</i>) <li style="border-left: 1px solid black; padding-left: 5px;">Fughetta super Allein Gott (<i>man.</i>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3/4 meter; F major 6/8 meter; G major 4/4 meter; A major
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li style="border-left: 1px solid black; padding-left: 5px;">Dies sind die heiligen zehn Gebot (<i>ped.</i>) <li style="border-left: 1px solid black; padding-left: 5px;">Fughetta super Dies sind (<i>man.</i>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6/4 meter; <i>cantus firmus</i> in canon 12/8 meter
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li style="border-left: 1px solid black; padding-left: 5px;">Wir glauben all an einen Gott (<i>ped.</i>) <li style="border-left: 1px solid black; padding-left: 5px;">Fughetta super Wir glauben (<i>man.</i>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2/4 meter; in <i>organo pleno</i> 4/4 meter
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li style="border-left: 1px solid black; padding-left: 5px;">Vater unser im Himmelreich (<i>ped.</i>) <li style="border-left: 1px solid black; padding-left: 5px;">Vater unser im Himmelreich (<i>man.</i>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3/4 meter; <i>cantus firmus</i> in canon 6/8 meter
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li style="border-left: 1px solid black; padding-left: 5px;">Christ unser Herr zum Jordan kam (<i>ped.</i>) <li style="border-left: 1px solid black; padding-left: 5px;">Christ unser Herr zum Jordan kam (<i>man.</i>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4/4 meter; <i>cantus firmus</i> in pedal 3/4 meter
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li style="border-left: 1px solid black; padding-left: 5px;">Aus tiefer Not schrei ich zu dir (<i>ped.</i>) <li style="border-left: 1px solid black; padding-left: 5px;">Aus tiefer Not schrei ich zu dir (<i>man.</i>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4/2 meter; in <i>organo pleno</i> 2/4 meter
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li style="border-left: 1px solid black; padding-left: 5px;">Jesus Christus, unser Heiland (<i>ped.</i>) <li style="border-left: 1px solid black; padding-left: 5px;">Fuga super Jesus Christus (<i>man.</i>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3/4 meter; <i>cantus firmus</i> in pedal 4/4 meter
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li style="border-left: 1px solid black; padding-left: 5px;">Duetto I <li style="border-left: 1px solid black; padding-left: 5px;">Duetto II <li style="border-left: 1px solid black; padding-left: 5px;">Duetto III <li style="border-left: 1px solid black; padding-left: 5px;">Duetto IV 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3/8 meter; E minor 2/4 meter; F major 12/8 meter; G major ♩ meter; A minor
Fuga pro Organo pleno	C (4/2), 6/4, 12/8 meters