Student Study Outline

Chapter 25: Bach’s Sacred Music

1. Bach’s Sacred Music
   1. Bach was the Leipzig music director for nearly 30 years, during which time he provided music for Sunday church services.
2. Bach’s Cantatas
   1. Cantatas
      1. How often did Bach compose a new cantata?
      2. How many cantatas were required for a year’s worth of church services?
      3. Was Bach religious? How do we know?
   2. Cantatas make up the largest part of Bach’s sacred music.
3. Bach’s Chorale Cantatas
   1. What is a chorale?
   2. Bach’s chorale cantatas typically begin with a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ choral movement built on a melody, and conclude with a simple \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_setting of the same melody with varied individual movements between them.
4. Making Connections: A Tale of Two Churches
   1. What is the historical significance of the St. Thomas Church of Leipzig?
   2. What is the historical significance of the St. Nicholas Church of Leipzig?
5. Listening Map: Cantata No. 140 (1731) by J.S. Bach
   1. The text of this cantata comes from which Bible story?
   2. What is the form of the melody?
   3. What is a walking bass?
6. Bach’s Other Religious Music
   1. What other sacred works did Bach compose that surpassed the cantatas in terms of sheer scale? List at least three.