

**Johann Sebastian Bach** (31 March 1685 – 28 July 1750) was a German composer, organist, harpsichordist, violist, and violinist whose sacred and secular works for choir, orchestra, and solo instruments drew together the strands of the Baroque period and brought it to its ultimate maturity. Although he did not introduce new forms, he enriched the prevailing German style with a robust contrapuntal technique, an unrivalled control of harmonic and motivic organisation, and the adaptation of rhythms, forms and textures from abroad, particularly from Italy and France.

**If Thou Be Near** ("Bist du bei mir" - BWV 508) is an aria in the *Notebook for Anna Magdalena Bach*. It was therefore attributed to Johann Sebastian Bach, but the melody is part of the Gottfried Heinrich Stölzel opera *Diomedes, oder die triumphierende Unschuld* (Diomedes, or The Triumphant Innocence) that was performed in Bayreuth on November 16, 1718. The opera score is lost. The aria had been part of the Berlin Singakademie music library and was considered lost in the Second World War, until it was rediscovered in 2000 in the Kiev Conservatory. The continuo part of BWV 508 is more agitated and continuous in its voice leading than the Stölzel aria; it is uncertain who provided it, as the entry in the Notebook is by Anna Magdalena Bach herself. In an essay in the *Bach-Jahrbuch 2002*, Andreas Glöckner speculates that either she obtained the song from the inventory of the Leipzig Opera that had gone bankrupt in 1720, or that it simply was a favourite known to nearly everybody in Leipzig that was particularly suitable for Hausmusik.

**Dr. Michael Pratt** has degrees in music education and music composition from The University of Toledo, The University of Michigan, and Boston University. He studied composition with Pulitzer Prize winning composers Ross Lee Finney and Leslie Bassett at The University of Michigan, and taught music in the public schools for many years in Michigan.

He has sung with The Toledo Choral Society, Toledo Symphony Chorale, Opera!Lenawee, and The University Musical Society Choral Union of The University of Michigan with whom he has performed with The Detroit Symphony Orchestra, The San Francisco Symphony, The Kirov Orchestra, The Russian National Orchestra, The Ann Arbor Symphony, The Lansing Symphony, The Grand Rapids Symphony, The Toledo Symphony, The Birmingham Symphony, The Gabrieli Consort, and The Tallis Scholars.

He has played tuba with The Toledo Symphony, Toledo Concert Band, Toledo Opera, University of Toledo Faculty Brass Quintet, Adrian Chamber Brass, Adrian College Faculty Brass Quintet, The Croswell Opera House, The Adrian Symphony Orchestra and The Adrian City Band.

He has performed with many notable conductors, including, Valery Gergiev, Michael Tilson Thomas, Neeme Jarve, Mikhail Pletnev, Rafael Fruhbeck de Burgos, Leonard Slatkin, John Adams, Gennady Rozhdestvensky, Paul McCreech, Peter Phillips, Catherine Comet, Eric Kunzel, Margaret Hillis, Martin Katz, and John Finley Williamson.

Michael Pratt is a member of ASCAP.

# If Thou Be Near

Duration 4:40

from *Notebook for Anna Magdalena Bach*  
BWV 508

Johann Sebastian Bach  
Gottfried Heinrich Stölzel  
Arr. by Michael Pratt  
for Brass Septet

Largo Espressivo & Sostenuto  $\text{♩} = 60$

Musical score for Brass Septet, measures 2 through 15. The score is in 3/4 time and B-flat major. The instruments are Trumpet in B-flat 1, Trumpet in B-flat 2, Trumpet in B-flat 3, Horn in F, Trombone, Euphonium, and Tuba. The score includes dynamics such as *mf*, *mp*, and *f*, and articulation like *tr* (trill). The key signature has two flats (B-flat major). The tempo is Largo Espressivo & Sostenuto with a quarter note equal to 60 beats per minute. The score is divided into two systems: measures 2-7 and measures 8-15. The first system shows the initial entry of the brass instruments, with the Horn in F and Trombone playing a melodic line, and the Trumpets and Tuba providing harmonic support. The second system continues the development of the piece, with the B-flat Trumpet 1 playing a prominent melodic line and the other instruments providing accompaniment.