



Lesson Ideas

Design a Facebook profile for J.S. Bach. Include “Basic Information” (Network, Birthday, Relationship Status, Religious Views), “Personal Information” (Contact details, Education and Work), “Friends” (any significant people who lived at the same time as Bach) and create some “Groups” that Bach may have belonged to. Finish it off with a photo copied from the Fact Sheet. Students not familiar with Facebook could design a passport.

Imagine that you could invite J.S. Bach over for coffee. Make a list of three questions you would like to ask him about his life or the time in history that he lived. Have a class discussion on what the answers would be or choose a student to be Bach and ask them some of the questions. For an extra special addition to this activity, have the class bring in some gingerbread or other traditional German snack to share.

Extension Activity:

Find a work of art on the internet that was created around the same time that Bach was alive. Do some research to find some of the ways that the art work reflects the same Baroque style that Bach’s music does.

Here is somewhere to start: <http://www.alifetimeofcolor.com/study/timeline.html>

Listening Activity

Bach’s music has such universal appeal that it has been played in every conceivable fashion by every conceivable instrument. Below are two recordings of Bach’s well-known Toccata and Fugue in d minor. The first is a recording on an organ, the instrument it was originally written for. The second is played on an electric guitar and drum machine. Watch portions of both video recordings and discuss the differences.

Possible topics to consider in your discussion are:

What are the similarities and differences between the two versions?

Which one do you like better? Why?

What do you think Bach would have thought of the electric guitar version?

Organ version: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_FXoyr_FyFw

Electric Guitar Version: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=itb7xpd8epA&feature=related>