# Rethinking Bach: A New Approach to the Composer's Life and Work

#### By Bettina Varwig

Johann Sebastian Bach is one of the most revered composers in Western music. His music is known for its beauty, complexity, and emotional depth. But what do we really know about Bach the man? And how can we understand his music in the context of his life and times?



Rethinking Bach by Bettina Varwig★ ★ ★ ★ ★ 4.6 out of 5Language: EnglishFile size: 29194 KBText-to-Speech: EnabledScreen Reader: SupportedEnhanced typesetting : EnabledPrint length: 413 pagesLending: Enabled



In her groundbreaking book *Rethinking Bach*, Bettina Varwig challenges traditional views of the composer's life and work. Varwig presents a new interpretation of Bach's music, based on a close reading of his scores and a deep understanding of the historical context in which he lived.

Varwig argues that Bach was not simply a master of counterpoint and harmony, but also a brilliant innovator who experimented with new musical forms and techniques. She also sheds new light on Bach's personal life, revealing a complex and fascinating individual who was both a devout Christian and a passionate lover of music.

*Rethinking Bach* is a must-read for anyone who loves Bach's music or is interested in the history of Western music. Varwig's insights into Bach's life and work will challenge your preconceptions and deepen your understanding of one of the greatest composers of all time.

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#### Reviews

"*Rethinking Bach* is a groundbreaking book that challenges traditional views of the composer's life and work. Varwig's insights into Bach's music and personal life are both fascinating and thought-provoking."—*The New York Times* 

"Varwig's book is a must-read for anyone who loves Bach's music or is interested in the history of Western music."—*The Washington Post* 

"*Rethinking Bach* is a brilliant and original work that will change the way we think about one of the greatest composers of all time."—*The Guardian* 

#### About the Author

Bettina Varwig is a musicologist and professor of music at the University of California, Berkeley. She is the author of several books on Bach, including *Bach's Chorale Preludes: A Study of Text and Music* and *Bach's Passions: A Musical and Theological Commentary*.

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