

# Classics for Kids



## “Brandenburg Concerto No. 2”

**Johann Sebastian Bach**  
Born: March 21, 1685  
Died: July 28, 1750

Johann Sebastian Bach was a German composer. He came from a long line of composers - over 300 years' worth of Bachs all worked as musicians. By the time Johann was 10 both his parents had died, so he was brought up by his older brother, who was a church organist. Johann became a very good organist, too.

When he was older, Johann worked first for a duke, then for a prince, and finally became choirmaster of the St. Thomas Church and School in Leipzig, Germany, a position he held for 30 years. Bach wrote much of his famous music there. In

his spare time, he enjoyed playing music with other younger people at Zimmerman's Coffeehouse.

During his lifetime, people thought of Bach as an ordinary working musician. No one really knew much about his music until another composer, Felix Mendelssohn, started performing Bach's music 100 years after he died.

Bach wrote all kinds of music - for organ, orchestras, choirs and many different instrument combinations. Some of his best known works are the *Tocatta and Fugue in D Minor* and the *Brandenburg Concertos*. He is now seen as one of the greatest geniuses in music history.



Johann Sebastian Bach

## Concerto Grosso

No, not a gross concerto. Literally, this term means great, or large, concerto. Bach and many other composers in the Baroque period wrote pieces in this style. In a *concerto grosso* two groups alternate. They are called the *concertino* (small ensemble) and the *ripieno* (a larger group). When everyone plays together, it is called *tutti*. Do you ever see the word *tutti* in your band music? Point to the *concertino* and the *ripieno* as you listen to the *Brandenburg Concerto No. 2*.

## Ripieno



## Concertino



## Name that Soloist

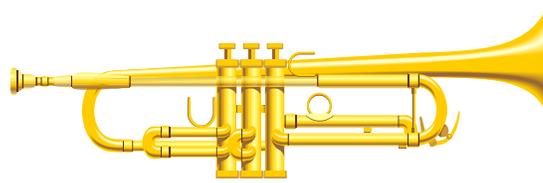
The small ensemble in the concerto grosso is called the concertino. In the Brandenburg Concerto No. 2, Bach's concertino includes four instruments. Can you unscramble the letters to find out their names?



OVLINI



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RPTUMTE



Here's your chance to create your own piece of art after listening to Bach's "*Brandenburg Concertos*."

Draw your picture, or write a story.

Share it with

Classics for Kids

c/o WGUC,

1223 Central Parkway,

Cincinnati OH 45214, or

e-mail us at [mail@classicsforkids.com](mailto:mail@classicsforkids.com).



## Draw the Music You Hear

Can you hear the flute when you listen to Bach's Brandenburg Concerto #2? Draw a picture in the space below while you listen. You can also dance along to the music. Or, pretend you are playing the flute. It's fun!



*Spring* by Erica, Cincinnati OH