



# If Casals or Primrose Jumped Off a Cliff, Would You?

Thoughts on Editions of J.S. Bach's Cello Suites  
and Their Use by Performers

*Andrew Justice*



# Pablo Casals



# János Starker



# Jacqueline du Pré



# Yo-Yo Ma



6  
Sixtes a  
Violoncelle Solo  
sans  
Basso  
composees  
par  
A. J. L. Bach.  
Maître de Chapelle.

Title page of  
Anna  
Magdalena  
Bach's  
manuscript

# Editions



1824 Norblin	1941 Mainardi	1981 du Pré
1825 Probst, Dotzauer	1944 Grümmer	1982 Gendron
1827 Richter	1947 Kozolupov	1984 Heitz, Kurtz
1866 Grützmacher	1949 Sturzenegger	1985 Vitale
1879 Dörffel (BG)	1950 Wenzinger	1986 Foley, Vlassov
1888 Schröder	1953 Ebner	1987 Valdettaro
1897 Salter	1954 Francesconi	1988 Epstein (NBA)
1898 Hausmann	1956 Schulz	1990 Tournus
1900 Loeb, Klengel	1957 Stogorskii	1993 Banda
1906 Jeral	1958 Wiłkomirski	1996 Mueser / Gerschefski
1907 van Lier	1963 Rosanoffs	1997 Icking, Thomas-Mifune
1911 Becker	1964 Markevitch	1998 Bylsma
1914 Malgren	1965 Rubardt	1999 Maisky, Niefind
1916 Magrini	1966 Tortelier	2000 Beisswenger, Ginzl, Leisinger, Nicholas, Schwemer / Woodfull- Harris
1918 Malkin, Pollain	1968 Selmi	2005 Kaboff, Vlasov
1919 Such	1970 Vandersall	2013 Yokoyama
1920 Bazelaire, Liégeois	1971 Starker	
1921 Kurth	1972 Fournier, Freed	
1923 Forino	1974 Eicher	
1929 Alexanian	1975 Eisenberg	
1935 Schulz	1978 Pratt	
1939 Gaillard		



# Sources

[X] autograph/working copy (lost), c. 1720

[F] autograph fair copy (lost), 1720-24?

**B: Johann Peter Kellner, 1726**

**A: Anna Magdalena  
Bach, 1727-1731**

[G] copy/autograph  
(lost), c. 1750

**H: Arr. Fifth Suite for lute  
in JSB's hand, 1727-31**

**C: anon. copy (Westphal), c. 1760**   **D: anon. copy, c. 1795**   **E: 1<sup>st</sup> edition, 1824**





## Anna Magdalena



## Kellner





C (anon. / Westphal)

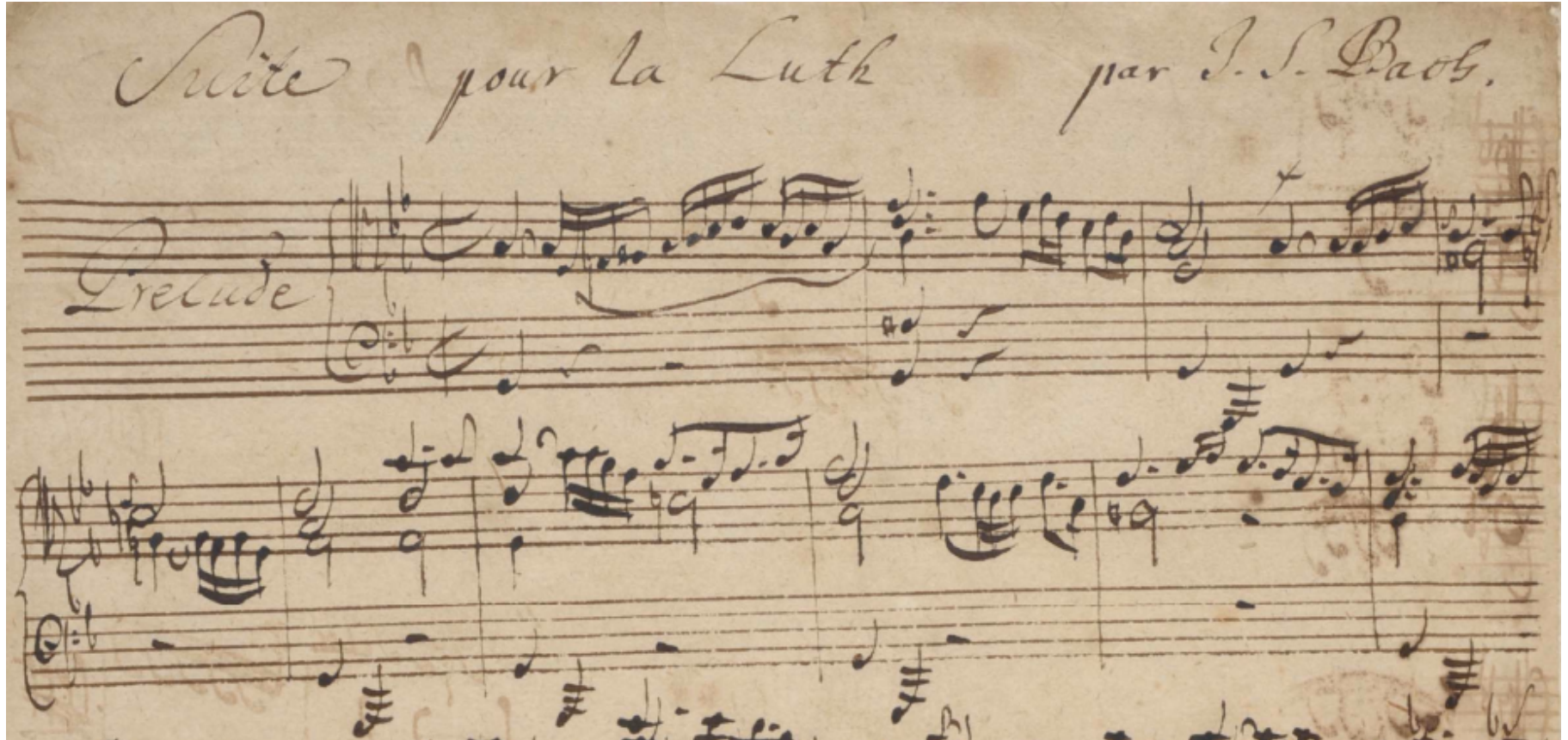


D (anon.)





H (1727-31)





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Undated portrait by  
Ramon Casas i Carbó  
(Museu Nacional d'Art  
de Catalunya)



Norblin (1824)

SONATE I. PRÉLUDE. All<sup>o</sup>. Moderato .

A musical score for a piano sonata. The title is "SONATE I. PRÉLUDE. All<sup>o</sup>. Moderato .". The score is written in bass clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). It consists of two staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a sharp sign, indicating a treble clef with a key signature of one sharp. The music features a series of eighth notes with slurs, moving in a stepwise fashion across the staves.

Dotzauer (1826)

SONATE I. Prélude Allegro

A musical score for a piano sonata. The title is "SONATE I. Prélude Allegro". The score is written in bass clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). It consists of two staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a sharp sign, indicating a treble clef with a key signature of one sharp. The music features a series of eighth notes with slurs, moving in a stepwise fashion across the staves.



# Grützmacher (1866)

**Allegro moderato.** J. S. Bach.

**Prélude.**

# (1971)

Prelude J. S. Bach  
edited by Janos Starker



## Forbes (1951)

**Prélude** Molto moderato  $\text{♩} = 69$

*p* *tranquillo* *simile*

1 2 3

Detailed description: This is a musical score for a prelude in G major, 3/4 time, by Forbes (1951). The tempo is 'Molto moderato' with a quarter note equal to 69 beats. The score is written for a single staff in treble clef. It begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic and a 'tranquillo' marking. The music consists of a series of eighth-note chords, some with grace notes, and is marked 'simile' towards the end. There are three fingering numbers (1, 2, 3) above the notes.

## Katims (1971)

PRÉLUDE (Moderato)  $\text{♩} = 63-76$  VIOLA JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH (1685-1750)

*mp* *espr.* *poco* *a* *poco* *cresc.*

Detailed description: This is a musical score for a prelude in G major, 3/4 time, by Katims (1971), based on the original by Johann Sebastian Bach. The tempo is 'Moderato' with a quarter note equal to 63-76 beats. The score is written for a single staff in treble clef. It begins with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic and an 'espr.' (espressivo) marking. The music features a series of eighth-note chords with a 'poco a poco cresc.' (gradually increasing) dynamic. The score is labeled 'VIOLA' and 'JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH (1685-1750)'.

## Primrose (1978)

Prelude  $\text{♩} = 88$

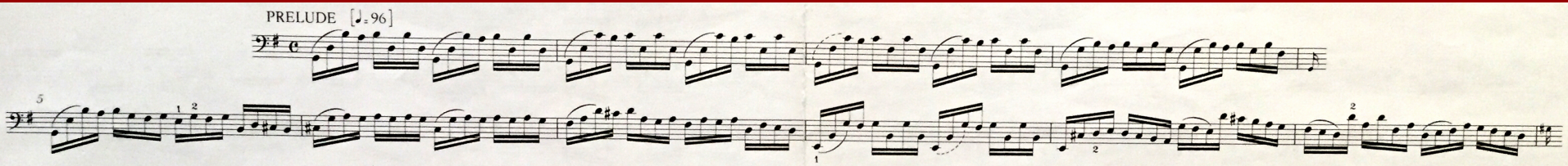
*f*

Detailed description: This is a musical score for a prelude in G major, 4/4 time, by Primrose (1978). The tempo is marked with a quarter note equal to 88 beats. The score is written for a single staff in treble clef. It begins with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The music consists of a series of eighth-note chords, some with grace notes, and is marked 'f'.





6  
Sixtes a  
Violoncelle Solo  
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Klaus Heitz / Marcel Bitsch (Leduc, 1984)



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Thank You!

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