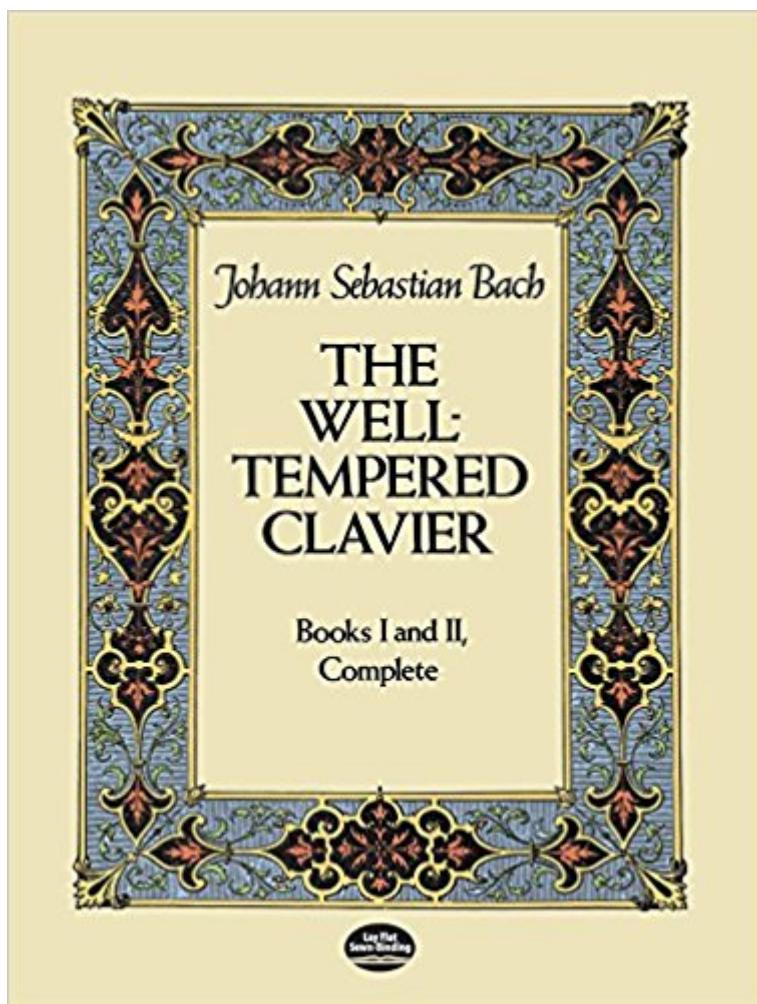


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# The Well-Tempered Clavier: Books I And II, Complete (Dover Music For Piano)



## Synopsis

"His art was of an encyclopedic nature, drawing together and surmounting the techniques, the styles, and the general achievements of his own and earlier generations and leading to a new perspective." — Grove's Dictionary of Music and Musicians. This informed assessment of the genius of Bach's works can be applied with greatest accuracy to The Well-Tempered Clavier. This highly influential work is monumental in the history of Western music. It represents not only the culmination of Bach's own maturation process, but also the galvanization of the emerging style and structure of modern keyboard music. The grace and fecundity of The Well-Tempered Clavier have thrilled audiences, musicians, and composers for centuries. Mozart, when rapidly advancing to the height of his mastery, had but to read a manuscript copy of The Well-Tempered Clavier and his style developed a new polyphonic richness and depth of harmony. Beethoven studied all the accessible works of Bach profoundly (including The Well-Tempered Clavier) and frequently quoted them in his sketchbooks, often with direct bearing on his own works. Chopin is nowhere more characteristic than when he shows his love of The Well-Tempered Clavier in his Etudes and Preludes. It was Schumann who, in a series of maxims for young musicians, said "Make The Well-Tempered Clavier your daily bread." This remarkable volume contains all 48 preludes and fugues, from Books I and II, in all major keys, reproduced directly from the authoritative Bach-Gesellschaft edition. The fine engraving is beautiful, clear, and easy to read. These elegant pieces, which vary in difficulty, are available complete in one low-cost, convenient Dover edition.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"His art was of an encyclopedic nature, drawing together and surmounting the techniques, the styles, and the general achievements of his own and earlier generations and leading to a new perspective." — Grove's Dictionary of Music and Musicians. This informed assessment of the genius of Bach's works can be applied with greatest accuracy to The Well-Tempered Clavier. This highly influential work is monumental in the history of Western music. It represents not only the culmination of Bach's own maturation process, but also the galvanization of the emerging style and structure of modern keyboard music. The grace and fecundity of The Well-Tempered Clavier have thrilled audiences, musicians, and composers for centuries. Mozart, when rapidly advancing to the height of his mastery, had but to read a manuscript copy of The Well-Tempered Clavier and his style developed a new polyphonic richness and depth of harmony. Beethoven studied all the accessible works of Bach profoundly (including The Well-Tempered Clavier) and frequently quoted them in his sketchbooks, often with direct bearing on his own works. Chopin is nowhere more characteristic than when he shows his love of The Well-Tempered Clavier in his Etudes and Preludes. It was Schumann who, in a series of maxims for young musicians, said "Make The Well-Tempered Clavier your daily bread." This remarkable volume contains all 48 preludes and fugues, from Books I and II, in all major keys, reproduced directly from the authoritative Bach-Gesellschaft edition. The fine engraving is beautiful, clear, and easy to read. These elegant pieces, which vary in difficulty, are available complete in one low-cost, convenient Dover edition.

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750) was a prolific German composer and organist whose sacred and secular works for choir, orchestra, and solo instruments exemplify the heart and soul of the Baroque period. A revival of interest and performances of his music began early in the 19th century and continue to this day. He is now widely considered to be one of the greatest composers in the Western tradition.

What does one say about Bach's WTC? I'm not nearly gifted enough to play all these pieces, but I love muddling through a small selection and testing my brain's musical boundaries (which are far too narrow, I'm the first to admit). My favorite is Prelude 22 from Book II (pp. 186-187), in B-flat Minor. I had a mild obsession with this Prelude and Fugue before I bought this book (it's the reason I bought the book to begin with), and I'll fully admit that the fugue is beyond my abilities. Like, leaps

and bounds beyond. However, I've learned the Prelude well enough to entertain myself and to drive my housemates crazy with playing it over and over. Somehow, Bach's work is complex enough to never quite stick for me, so it's a new battle every time I start the piece again. A lovely way to spend an hour or afternoon, in other words. The book is nice quality. I have to prop it open to the page I want (yes, usually 186-187), because I don't like breaking book spines, but it should break well if someone else has fewer qualms about that sort of thing.

It would be ok if only a couple of the songs were faded, but it seems like the whole book was printed with 10% full ink cartridges. I noticed right away but I thought I was being a bit too choosy/wasteful to return it. However, some of the ink is so faded that it is truly difficult to read the notes. It is blotchy, crammed, and printed with a seemingly low definition. What I mean is that even the notes that are not lacking enough ink seem like they are just blurry or even like they got smudged... This is more than likely due to a low quality printer.

When I got it, the book was in perfect shape. You'll have to "break it in" so to speak, as the pages don't stay stationary at first, but they do later on. While I would have preferred some fingering (this edition has none), I know some prefer the book to not have fingering at all, so I'm not going to rate it lower. Despite this, it does tell you how to execute the trill notions and the recommended tempo speeds. The sheet music itself is very clean and easy to read. It also indicates the number of melodies that are supposed to counterpoint each other in the pieces themselves. Overall, it's a great book and definitely worth the price.

It has the complete collection in a book, but because of the same reason, the music scores were pretty packed and printings are smaller in fonts. Some parts of the lines are also not clearly printed (broken lines and such). This is not my preferred book, but will make do.

Not a very good edition. Print is kinda strangely squished horizontally onto the page making it look more crowded than it needs to be, and more importantly, it is missing some ornamentation markings on notes that exist in other editions, and what is Bach without the proper ornamentations?

The book is in decent shape, but it has some faded spots which make the already small notation harder to read. Also, if you like fingering notes to help you play, this book does not have those.

This is a must-have in your piano repertoire. Good for practicing or performing. The pieces are therapeutic to practice, and are helping my piano skills develop. There's always something to discover in the Well-Tempered Clavier. I cannot speak to its faithfulness to original manuscripts, etc... But I like it very much. Great value.

Just awesome, it is the complete Well Tempered Clavier, that is like the manuscripts of the classical music. A must have for every serious piano student.

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