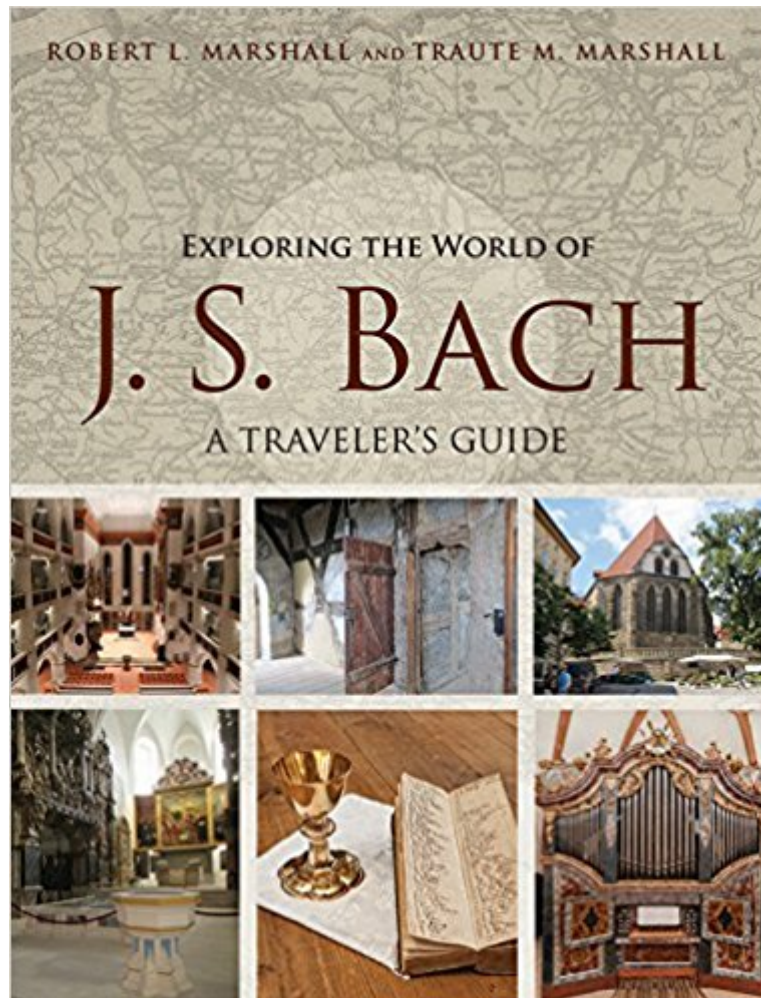


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Exploring The World Of J. S. Bach: A Traveler's Guide



Synopsis

A singular resource, *Exploring the World of J. S. Bach* puts Bach aficionados and classical music lovers in the shoes of the master composer. Bach scholar Robert L. Marshall and veteran writer-translator Traute M. Marshall lead readers on a Baroque Era odyssey through fifty towns where Bach resided, visited, and of course created his works. Drawing on established sources as well as newly available East German archives, the authors describe each site in Bach's time and the present, linking the sites to the biographical information, artistic and historic landmarks, and musical activities associated with each. A wealth of historical illustrations, color photographs, and maps supplement the text, whetting the appetite of the visitor and the armchair traveler alike.

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Customer Reviews

The vivid descriptions and images of the places where Bach visited or lived, and the latest in musicological research, make this book essential reading for everyone who wants to know more about his music, life and world.--Mark Kroll, harpsichordist and author of *Johann Nepomuk Hummel: A Musician's Life and World* "Beautifully written and lavishly illustrated, with both modern photographs and 18th-century images, *Exploring the World of Bach* is an invaluable guidebook for any traveler wishing to explore Bach's Germany and Germany's Bachâ | A sophisticated and original piece of scholarship (including a superb bibliography and valuable appendix) which will be of great value to both Bach experts and novices for years to come."--Early Music America "An extraordinary accomplishment and an indispensable resource for anyone interested in the life and works of J. S. Bach. The authors combine in a single volume the results of the latest research and

biographical studies in the form of an illustrated guide of the towns in which Bach lived and which he visited." --Don O. Franklin, The American Bach Society "The book is clear, intelligent, authoritative, and readable. Also, it is stocked with photos. . . . You may wonder whether Robert and Traute Marshall themselves have followed Bach through Bach Country. They have. Every step. I wish I had done it with them. But you can do it, in a sense, through this book. . . . I esteem what the Marshalls have done." --Jay Nordlinger, The New Criterion

Following in the footsteps of the great composer

Exploring the World of J. S. Bach: A Traveller's Guide is far more than its title implies. Though written in a style accessible to the general reader, this is not just an armchair travel book but actually a fascinating scholarly compendium of Bach knowledge. This book is a must for any Bach lover, and an essential resource for all music libraries. Painstakingly researched, with nearly 100 color illustrations, it is full of detailed information (much of it new), not only about Bach and his many musical journeys throughout Germany, but also on contemporary musicians, famous and obscure, as well as Bach's legions of friends, students, employers, children and relatives. Robert and Traute Marshall's own explorations of each of Bach's sites, combined with Robert's lifelong dedication to Bach study, provide an unusually intimate view here of Bach's frenetic life and astonishing creativity. You will enjoy dipping into this book's encyclopedic contents at virtually any spot (or in this case, in any one of Bach's many towns) and will likely come upon fresh insights that will reward you with a most inspiring experience of the life of music's greatest genius. I am delighted by this marvelous addition to my Bach library.

Anyone who has ever read a biography of Bach (or any other major historical figure for that matter) is confronted with a plethora of place names but generally learns little about them. What were those places like back then? What do they look like today? Were I to visit, is there anything there worth seeing related to the person I'm reading about? These are questions I've often asked myself and this book is for just people like us: it takes you through every town Bach lived in and visited, takes you through the history, tells you about life there during Bach's time, and fills you in on what survives that's related to him (and what else there is to see that's of historical significance). The writing is superb, and the book is filled with wonderful, colorful images both historical and modern. Whether you plan to make the pilgrimage or not, this is an essential book for any enthusiast of Bach

or of German history!

Makes me want to travel the Bach routes again and again. You can find similar books about Bach and his different towns, but this one is the very best I have seen. Highly recommended.

An incredible resource for anyone planning a trip to the former East Germany to see where Bach lived and worked.

In boring high school history classes I used to tune out and daydream about what it might have been to be George Washington or (better) Genghis Khan. I was always amazed that you could stuff facts into your brain for an entire semester and never have a clue where anything actually occurred. Hence reading through *Exploring the World of J.S. Bach* is almost jarring in its immediacy. You walk with the 15-year old Bach and a classmate the 233 miles from his brother's to a new school. You watch Bach getting jumped by two ruffians in Arnstadt. You hear him dazzle a congregation in Altenberg with two successive half-step modulations in a favorite chorale. You step with Bach inside a surviving fifteenth-century church (the volume teems with beautiful color plates as well as presented in the Kindle as in the print edition). The subtitle "A Traveler's Guide" does not nearly do justice to the scope of this study. Part biography, part travelogue, part social history, part musical style study, the two supremely qualified authors, without either fuss or excessive length, bring Bach's life to light in an uncanny way that should make even those barely familiar with Bach's music eager to step inside the treasure trove of places where he walked.

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