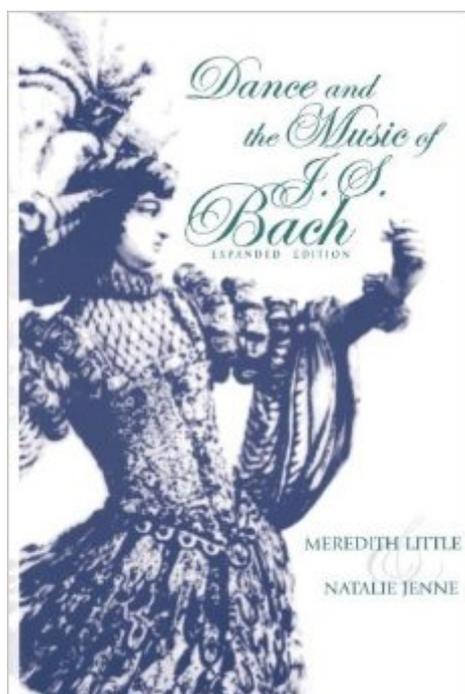


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# Dance And The Music Of J. S. Bach: Expanded Edition



## Synopsis

Stylized dance music and music based on dance rhythms pervade Bach's compositions. Although the music of this very special genre has long been a part of every serious musician's repertoire, little has been written about it. The original edition of this addressed works that bore the names of dances—a considerable corpus. In this expanded version of their practical and insightful study, Meredith Little and Natalie Jenne apply the same principals to the study of a great number of Bach's works that use identifiable dance rhythms but do not bear dance-specific titles. Part I describes French dance practices in the cities and courts most familiar to Bach. The terminology and analytical tools necessary for discussing dance music of Bach's time are laid out. Part II presents the dance forms that Bach used, annotating all of his named dances. Little and Jenne draw on choreographies, harmony, theorists' writings, and the music of many seventeenth- and eighteenth-century composers in order to arrive at a model for each dance type. In Appendix A all of Bach's named dances are listed in convenient tabular form; included are the BWV number for each piece, the date of composition, the larger work in which it appears, the instrumentation, and the meter. Appendix B supplies the same data for pieces recognizable as dance types but not named as such. More than ever, this book will stimulate both the musical scholar and the performer with a new perspective at the rhythmic workings of Bach's remarkable repertoire of dance-based music.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book is a must for all serious performers of Bach's music. It is the only book that details not only of most of the dances that appear in Bach's works, but provides a fundamental vocabulary for a discussion of rhythm. After that has been provided, dances are discussed with clarity and precision, with a wealth of original sources for the reader. There is nothing on the market like it.

This book provides a fine survey of the rhythms associated with the most prevalent Baroque dances. Although stylized dance pieces and other instrumental works beyond the dance hall might not strictly follow the rhythm of the original dance, this book provides a solid grounding for any person interested in the topic and wishing to flexibly apply dance rhythms to their own interpretations of Bach's music. Thus, this book is important to any performers serious about playing Baroque music and especially Bach's. I recommend the book for its information but also because it is so easy to read.

Very well researched, clearly written and well organized. All we need now is an accompanying DVD that demonstrates the dances in period costume and with a reasonable company of dancers.

Just got this book. Tried to look up Allemande from French Suite 4, BWV 815. There are no allemandes mentioned in the book, despite the fact that each of Bach's six French Suites starts with an allemande. The start of Part II says it discusses all of Bach's titled dances, and that all are listed in Appendix A. But, no allemandes there either. If there's something that I don't know, such as that "allemande" is not actually a dance form, or that it has another name, please, someone, instruct me.

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