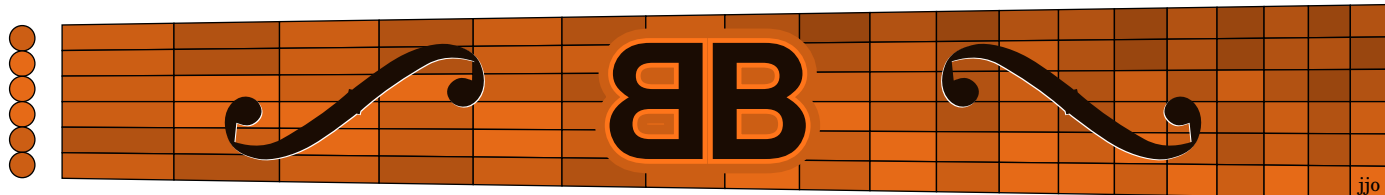


August Fretboard Exercises

Back-to-Back Bach Bassi



Two basso continuos realized in guitar range . . .

Exercise 1: I 2 II 4 III 5 IV 7 V 5

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Tempo: $\text{♩} = 72$

Exercise 2: I 1

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Tempo: $\text{♩} = 76$

Exercise 1		Bach(1720): Violin Concerto, BWV 1041, Andante		1
Exercise 2		Bach(1720): Violin Concerto, BWV 1042, Adagio		1

Basso continuo is a Baroque Italian invention for improvising above a simple bass line, like jazz does with lead sheets. It often uses figured bass to indicate the chords and may also include basso ostinato (obstinate repetition of the bass, a.k.a ground bass) like in Pachelbel.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=78NDQrv1dAQ> (“What is Basso Continuo?”)
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Basso_continuo
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Figured_bass
- <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ostinato>

Bach wrote his only two violin concertos about the same time, c. 1717 -1723 (they now have successive BWV numbers, hence “back-to-back”), and the slow movements of both begin with prominent basso continuos before the solo violin enters.

BWV 1041 Andante starts like this with a separate bass ostinato line (red, etc.), but these two lines are joined in Exercise 1 to make one melody line. The upper line (below) has the original notes for the higher instruments (two violins and a viola) so you can hear the chords. This is the original key but note durations have been doubled for simplicity. Chord names are my annotation.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c8Hh-8AzA5I&t=219s> (beginning)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c8Hh-8AzA5I&t=512s> (double bar to end)
- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Violin_Concerto_in_A_minor_\(Bach\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Violin_Concerto_in_A_minor_(Bach))
- <https://imslp.org/wiki/Special:ImagefromIndex/829264/hfpb> (score, p14)

BWV 1042 Adagio starts with the whole melody in the bass. Still there is a striking similarity (red) to the ostinato above. Bach also made it a figured bass to guide improvisation (numbers above bass line). The original was in C # minor in 3/4 meter, but doubling durations makes it 6/4 here.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6aB5Q1jfRWw>
- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Violin_Concerto_in_E_major_\(Bach\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Violin_Concerto_in_E_major_(Bach))
- <https://imslp.org/wiki/Special:ImagefromIndex/829265/hfpb> (score, p22)

The high definition (8K) videos above were performed and produced by **Voices of Music**, a non-profit early-music group in San Francisco performing on authentic period instruments. Watch, listen and donate: <https://voicesofmusic.org/support.html>

*P.S. It easiest to follow these links if you **get the pdf** as indicated on the first page.*