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0521619769 - J. S. Bach and the German Motet
Daniel R. Melamed
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J. S. Bach's much-performed motets are probably the most sophisticated pieces ever composed in the genre. Daniel Melamed takes a fresh look at Bach's works in the context of the German motet tradition, showing that they are firmly rooted in the conventions of his time. This allows new insights into Bach's contribution to the genre and into the vexing question of instrumental participation in the motets. Professor Melamed argues for Bach's authorship of an early motet wrongly dismissed as inauthentic, and demonstrates that other motets were products of Bach's familiar technique of musical reworking. The chronology of the motets can be substantially revised, and Bach's activities as a motet composer shown to extend over his entire career. An understanding of the eighteenth-century conception of "motet" sheds light on how and why Bach used motet style in his cantatas, Latin works, and oratorios. Finally Bach's study and performance of seventeenth-century motets late in his life, documented in newly discovered and reconstructed sources, played an important role in his exploration of his family's history and of the musical past.

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DANIEL R. MELAMED

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To the memory of my father,
the scholar



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PREFACE

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ABBREVIATIONS

ABA	Altbachisches Archiv
AmB	Amalien-Bibliothek (now in SBB)
BG	Bach-Gesellschaft, <i>Johann Sebastian Bachs Werke</i>
BJ	<i>Bach-Jahrbuch</i>
BT	Werner Neumann, ed., <i>Sämtliche von Johann Sebastian Bach vertonte Texte</i>
BuxWV	Georg Karstädt, <i>Thematisch-systematisches Verzeichnis der musikalischen Werke von Dietrich Buxtehude</i>
BWV	Wolfgang Schmieder, <i>Thematisch-systematisches Verzeichnis der musikalischen Werke von Johann Sebastian Bach</i>
DDT	Denkmäler deutscher Tonkunst
Dok	Bach-Archiv Leipzig, <i>Bach-Dokumente</i> , vols. 1–3
EDM	Das Erbe deutscher Musik
MGG	<i>Die Musik in Geschichte und Gegenwart</i> , ed. Friedrich Blume
NBA [KB]	Johann Sebastian Bach, <i>Neue Ausgabe sämtlicher Werke [Kritischer Bericht]</i>
<i>New Grove</i>	<i>The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians</i> , ed. Stanley Sadie
P, St	SBB Mus. ms. Bach P (score), St (parts)
SA	Sing-Akademie zu Berlin
SBB	Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin/Preußischer Kulturbesitz