

The Imagination of Glenn Gould



**A LIFE Institute Course
Winter 2017
Bob Fabian**

[Session 4]

Plan for Session Today

- Hearing two musical lines at once
 - Angela Hewitt explains the two part inventions
 - Glenn Gould plays the two part inventions
- Glenn Gould and the moderns
 - Gould's explanation of Hindemith
 - Gould's introduction to Shostakovich
- Glenn Gould's Toronto tour
 - Interesting view of Toronto (& Gould)
- 32 Short Films about Glenn Gould
 - Just the first few ...

Bach: 2 & 3 Part Inventions

- 15 Two Part Inventions BWV 772-786
 - Two interwoven musical lines
 - Top line: Right Hand
 - Bottom line: Left Hand
 - “Honest method, by which the amateurs of the keyboard – especially, however, those desirous of learning – are shown a clear way to learn to play cleanly in two parts” - J.S.Bach



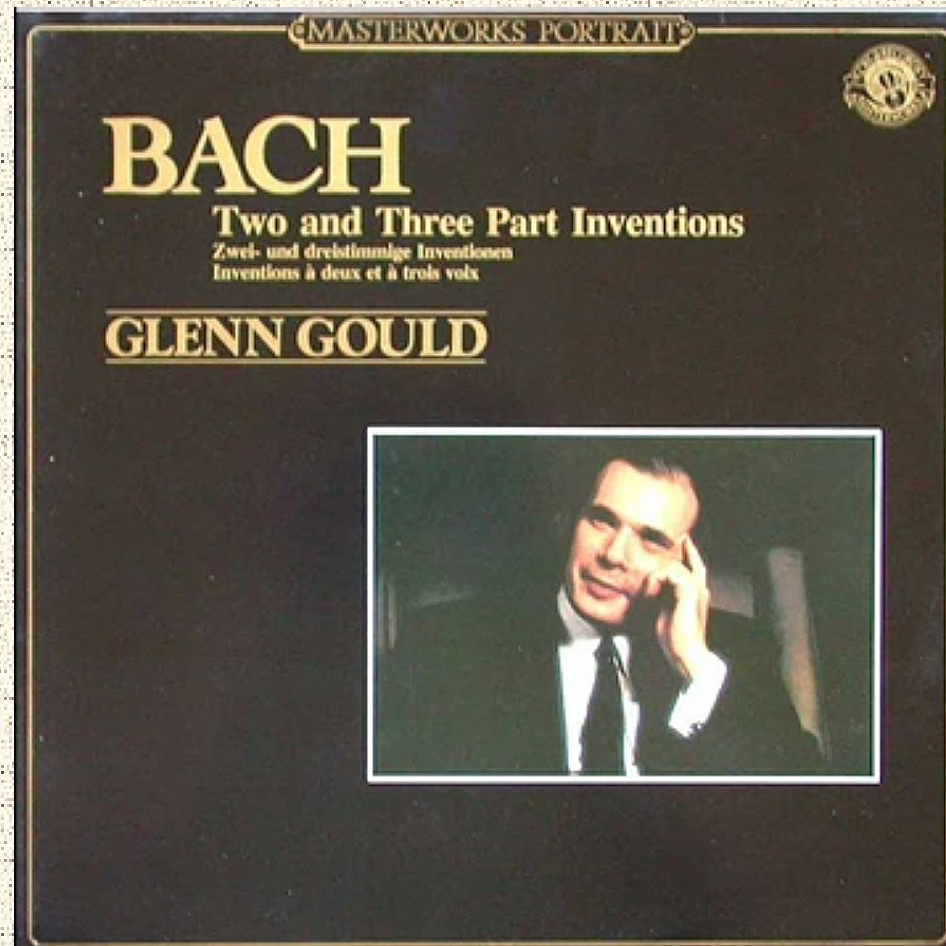
Angela Hewitt

Bach Performance on the Piano A Lecture-Recital by Angela Hewitt

Angela Hewitt, the next distinguished Canadian Bach pianist

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZAeLjliS1LY>

Glenn Gould Version

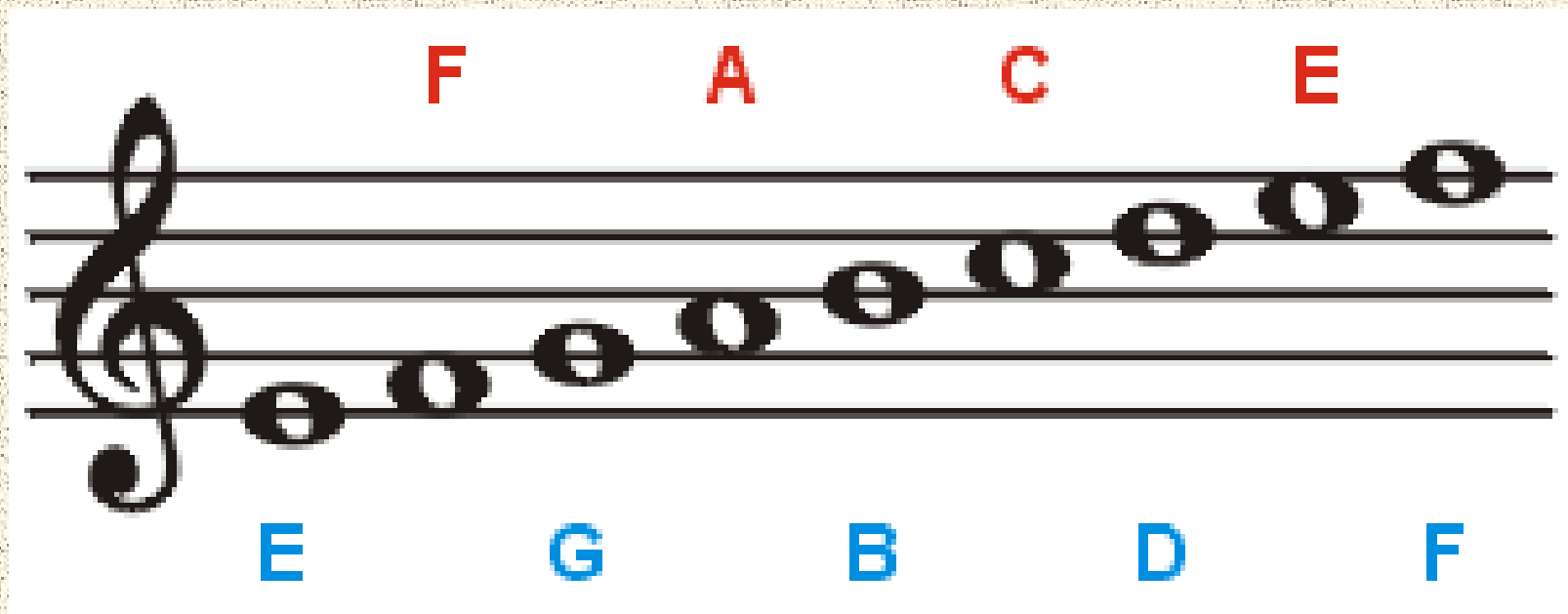


<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cTU5UPhOVtl&t=54s>

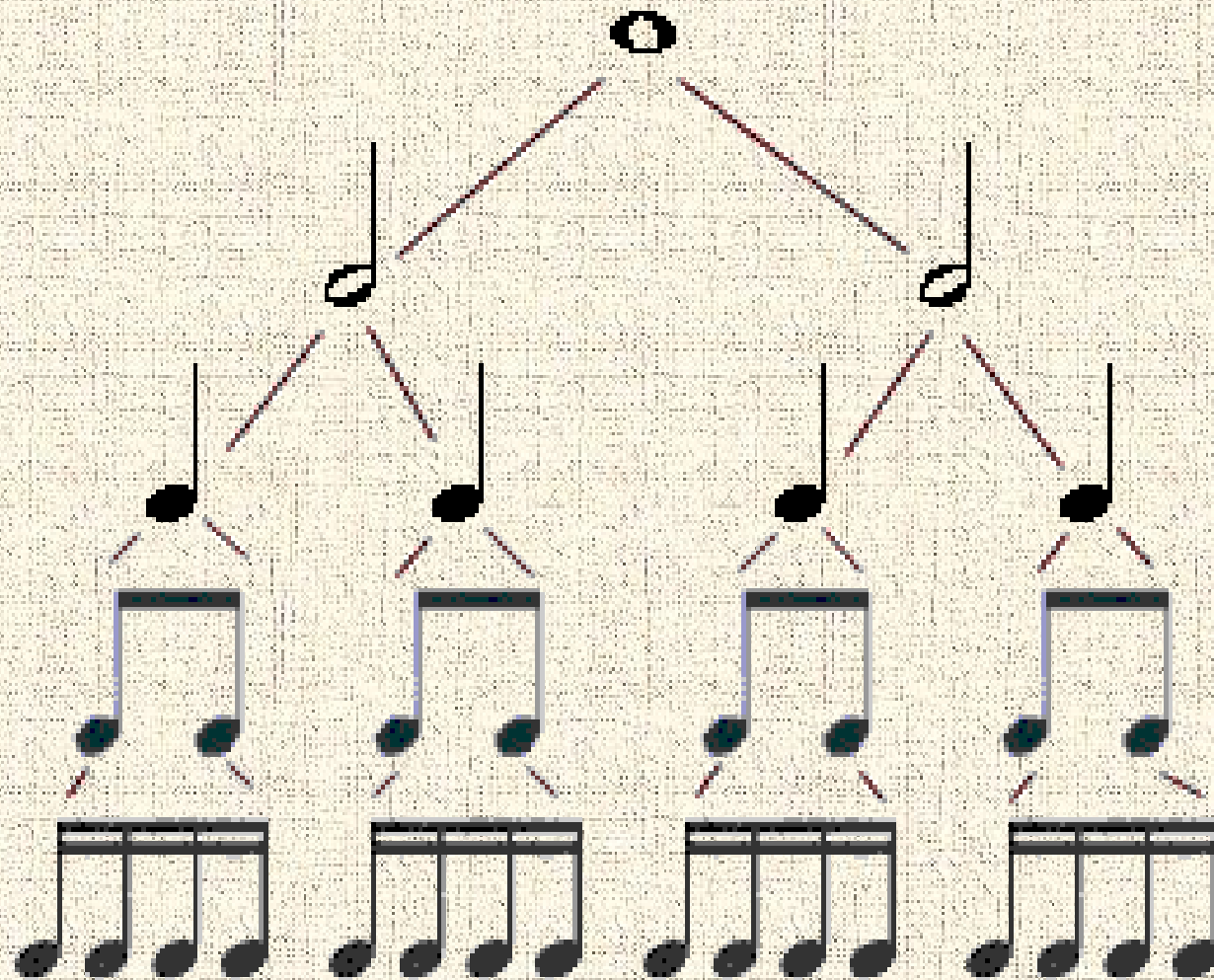
Anyone Can “Follow” Music

- Two basics
 - Is the next note lower or higher
 - How long should the note sound
- Measure (aka Bar) – uniform time division
 - Signified with vertical bar |
- Plus a raft of niggling complications
 - # (sharp) up a half tone
 - b (flat) down a half tone

Ascending Scale



Going down, length is halved



BWV 772 (follow-along)

Inventio 1.



The image displays a musical score for 'Inventio 1.' in C major, BWV 772. The score is presented in a two-staff format, with the treble clef on top and the bass clef on the bottom. A vertical red line is positioned at the beginning of the second measure, indicating the starting point for a follow-along exercise. The music consists of eighth and sixteenth notes, with a wavy line above the notes in the second measure of both staves. The score is set against a white background with a black border.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HFELqgVLxBM&t=230s>

The 20th Century

- Pre-20th Century (Wagner, Mahler, etc)
 - Exploited all of the orchestral colours
- 20th Century (Reger, Hindemith, etc)
 - Rediscovered the importance of pattern
- Personal Aside ...
 - Max Reger 1873 - 1916
 - Greatly respected
 - Rewards attention
 - Documentary about him (beginning)
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KGv80K1-bbc>

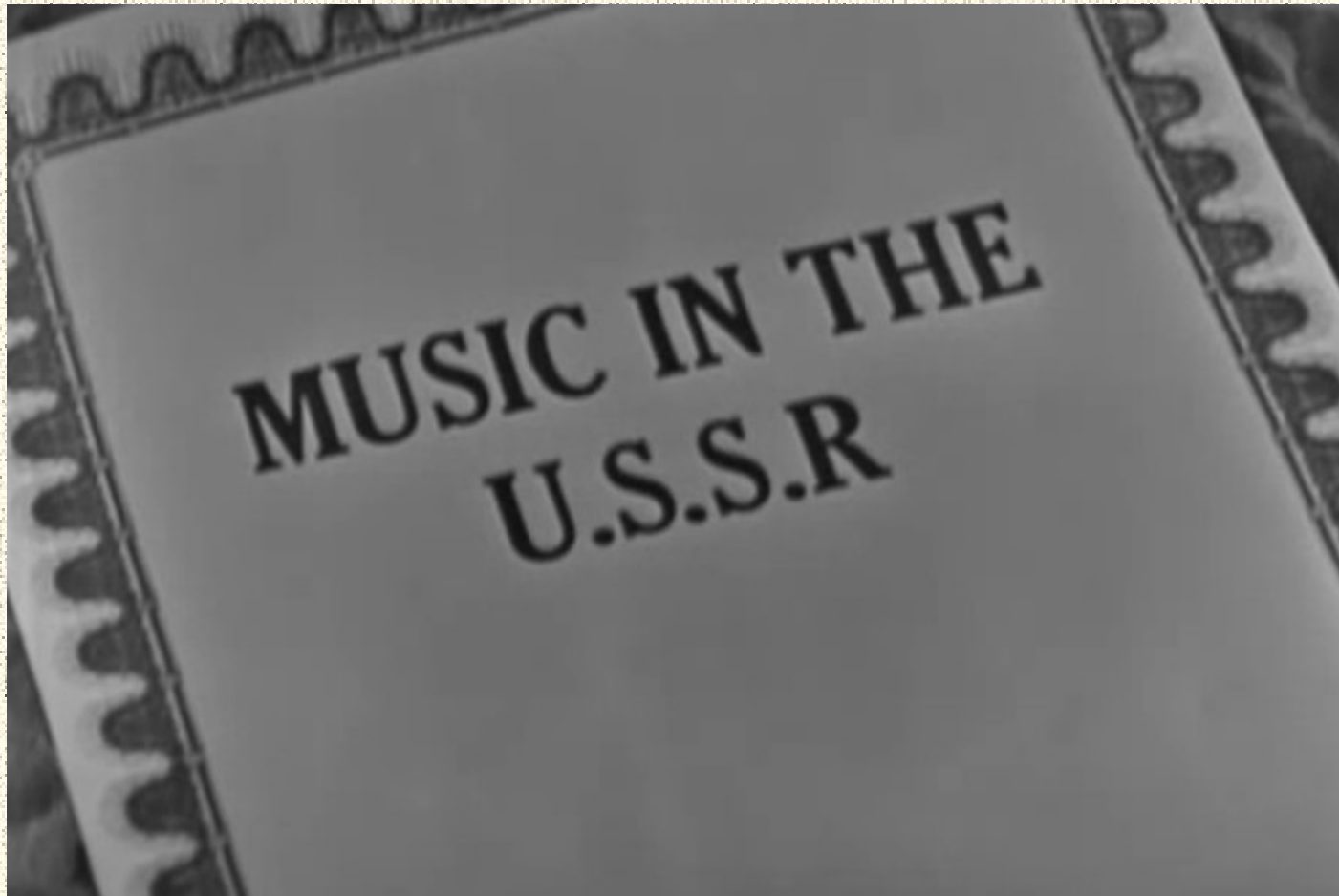


Gould on Hindemith



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rMe-RGkUfb0>

Gould on Shostakovich



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q2L32ji6kdg&t=59s>

Multi-Faceted Gould

- Won initial fame as Bach pianist
- Early and extensive TV performances
- Wrote extensively on music
 - Wrote many of his record jacket liner notes
- Produced radio & TV documentaries
 - Today: Gould's Toronto
 - Next Week: The Idea of North
- Struggled to find new ways to see & hear

Gould's Toronto

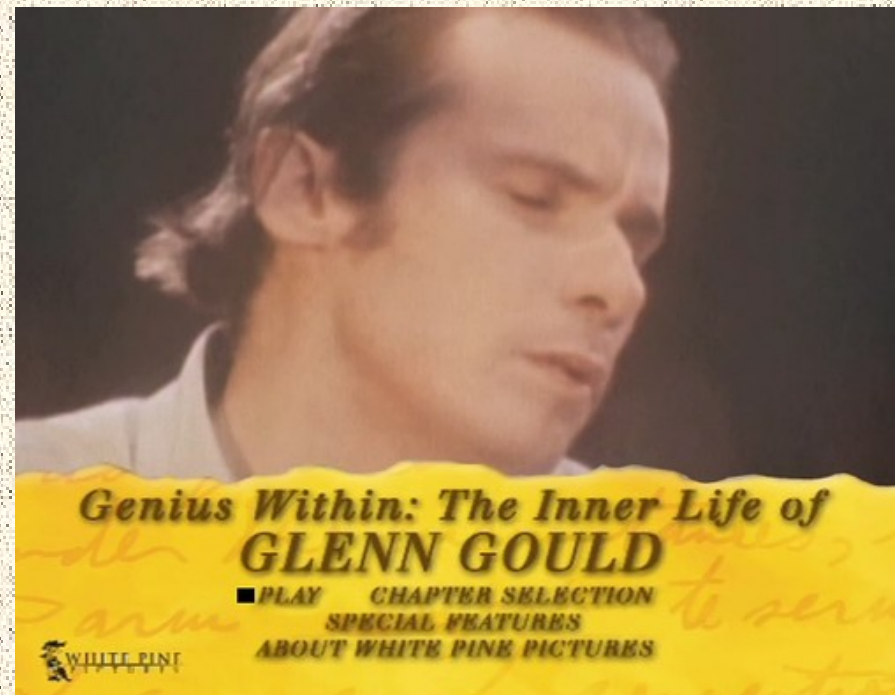


<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gyXnpFvBmXk>

First of six program segments

Tentative Next Session

- Just a bit more Bach
- The Idea of North
 - A short film by Glenn Gould
 - “contrapuntal” sound/image
- Beginning:
(Total: 113 minutes)



Perspectives on Glenn Gould



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P9g0O505uVQ&t=271s>