

**ABSTRACT**

**DISSERTATION:** Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach Sonata for Flute and Basso continuo (Wq 128): A Transcription for Cello

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Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach (1714–1788), the second surviving son of Johann Sebastian Bach, worked in a transitional period of music between the Baroque and the Classical period. He is considered the most notable sonata composer in Berlin during the reign of Frederick II of Prussia (Frederick the Great). Through C.P.E. Bach's fifty-seven (57) years of compositions, he worked in all major genres of the time except for opera, making original contributions to each.

C.P.E. Bach wrote three cello concertos, including Concerto in A minor, Wq 170 (1750), B-flat major, Wq 171 (1751), and A major, Wq 172, (1753), which also exist as versions for flute and keyboard. These concertos are early examples of virtuosic works for the cello highlighting its merits as a solo instrument, pre-dating the concertos of Boccherini and Haydn by over a decade. These three concertos require great technical skill of both the performer's left and right hands. With the pieces containing a plethora of Baroque bowing techniques, requiring brisk string crossings with great control in the right hand while moving vertically and horizontally on the fingerboard with the left, it is perhaps unfortunate that C.P.E. Bach's output of cello works was not greater.