

*David Schulenberg*  
***The Music of Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach***  
**Supplement 7.4. Two Sets of Little Ensemble Pieces, W. 81 and 82**

The Twelve Little Pieces for two flutes and keyboard, W. 81, must have been intended as easy chamber music for beginners. The scoring is inventive, although probably suggested by earlier volumes of Telemann.<sup>1</sup> Some pieces are for two flutes alone, others for two flutes and continuo, and still others either for two flutes and continuo or for solo keyboard; one or both flutes can also be replaced or joined by violin. The small dances and other binary-form compositions are similar to those which Bach was writing at the same time for keyboard alone. Although fairly trivial musically, the set was evidently a commercial success, and Bach issued another like it eleven years later (W. 82).

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<sup>1</sup> E.g., the *Six concerts et six suites* (Hamburg, 1734), alternatively for various combinations of flute, violin, and continuo or obbligato keyboard.