[Aria with Variations]

J. S. Bach, BWV 991 (completed by David Schulenberg)











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Air with Variations, BWV 991

The original is preserved in Bach's autograph in D B Mus. ms. Bach P 224 (the first Little Keyboard Book for Anna Magdalena Bach, 1722), where it was subsequently crossed out (not necessarily by Bach). Only the unbracketed portions of the present score are Bach's. The reconstruction opens with a statement of the theme as Bach gave it in his first variation (here variation 2), combined with a simplified form of the bass from the same variation. Four blank staves that follow in the manuscript imply that Bach intended to compose at least one more variation. The following page (on the reverse) is also ruled with four more unused systems.