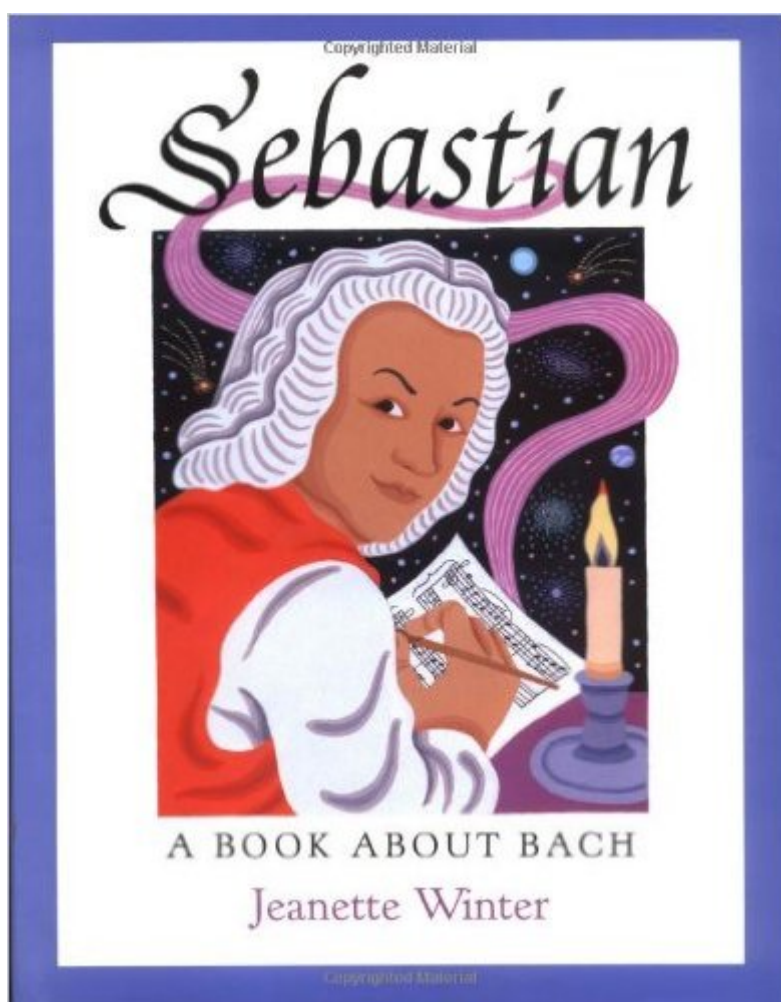


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# Sebastian: A Book About Bach



## Synopsis

A long time ago, a boy named Sebastian was born into a family of musicians. He heard music everywhere, especially in his own head, and he wrote down what he heard. Sebastian married, raised a family, and wrote more than a thousand pieces of music. He also created a little book of music especially for his wife, Anna Magdalena, so that in the evenings the whole family could make music together. Hundreds of years after his death, Bach's music is heard and played all over the world. Many people think it is some of the most glorious music ever written. And today young students--like Bach's own children--can learn to play the music from Anna Magdalena's notebook.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: AD780L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: Harcourt Children's Books; 1st edition (March 1, 1999)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 015200629X

ISBN-13: 978-0152006297

Product Dimensions: 10.8 x 8.3 x 0.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 15 ounces

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (5 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,240,369 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #81 in [Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Music > Classical](#) #83 in [Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Music > History](#) #313 in [Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Musical](#)

Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

My daughter and I loved this book! It's story is easily understood and the beautiful illustrations are sweet and peaceful and really bring the words to life. While the author did write about Bach's church music, she did not mention his devotion to God. But there are other books about that. This is a book for everyone.

Johann Sebastian Bach was born into a family of musicians. All the Bachs played musical

instruments, and young Sebastian was no exception. But even more than the joy of playing, Bach loved composing his own music. "Sebastian heard the music in his head. The melodies came fast- as his pen raced over the page, he rarely changed a note. He heard one melody for the violin, one for the trumpet, one for the flute, and one for the oboe. Each instrument had its own voice. And when all the voices sounded at the same time, it was like good friends talking together." Bach married, had twenty children, and settled in Leipzig where he was the church music and choir director. He worked all day teaching his students and playing the organ, and composed all night as "new music filled Sebastian's head." During his life, Bach wrote over one thousand compositions. It is said that even as he took his dying breath, he was composing one last piece..... Jeanette Winter has written an engaging and informative, introductory picture book biography that brings Bach and his times to life on the page. Her simple, spare, yet eloquent prose is lyrical and poetic, and complemented by her evocative, vibrant, and expressive signature folk art paintings. Together word and art give youngsters a real feeling for the intensity of Bach's great love and devotion to both playing and composing music. Perfect for reading aloud, or for early readers 6-10, Sebastian is a fascinating and entertaining biography that will whet the appetite of budding musicians, and send them out looking for more.

Winter has achieved another perfect picturebook bio for reading aloud (see *My Name Is Georgia* and *Diego Rivera*). Simply told, with beautiful language this book is a keeper! Wow, she's an awesome illustrator too! Music teachers across the country should be buying multiple copies for their classrooms! Buy it!

This book is wonderfully written. It tells a mini-story of Bach's life in a very child-friendly way. It touches on his birth (and death) and his religious life. The focus is on Bach - not his religion. The artwork is vibrant and I highly recommend the book.

My 2.5 year old daughter really enjoys this story and shows great interest in Bach's life story and music since have been reading her this book. Jeanette Winter's books are all so nicely illustrated and I really like the various subjects she has chosen to write about.

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