Guidelines for the analysis of JS Bach’s Inventions

Students will no longer be required to do part-writing but will be required to analyse some of JS Bach’s Two-Part Inventions.

When doing the analysis, students should be able to identify:

- the motive
- the countermotive
- the keys
- imitation
- developmental devices such as augmentation, diminution, inversion (contrary motion), retrograde, stretto etc.

They should also be familiar with the concept invertible counterpoint.

Students are advised to study the chapter on two-part inventions from the following source:


Earlier editions of this book may also be used. Listening to and/or playing the inventions that have to be analysed will enable students to better familiarise themselves with the structure of these compositions.