

# **Johann Sebastian Bach**

## **Cello Suite in G Minor BWV 1007**

(transposed to B Major)

### **Prélude – Allemande – Courante – Sarabande – Menuet I & II – Gigue**

**Setting for the Kala UBass (or potentially for any bass tuned to EADG) by Klaus Smedegaard Bjerre (2012)**

As told in other contexts a tiny contrabass instrument in form of the Kala UBass entered my home in late July of 2012. It is shaped and sized close to a baritone ukulele. It is its special strings and its electrical amplification that make it sound astonishingly similar to a plucked upright bass. Its 21" scale is much kinder on my hands than is my upright bass, so I started toying around on the UBass. Melody playing is quite easy and it is hard to avoid testing its chord capabilities because the frets are so short. You may have seen my simple arrangements of a few hymns, a kids' tune, and a spiritual. (Plus some dances from some of the other cello suites by Bach).

I never played Bach on any string instruments, but I have been woodshedding several movements from his cello suites a few decades ago. On the trombone! That took the faking of the multiple stops that come so naturally to the cello. The UBass is tuned to fourths as opposed to the fifths of the cello, which allows for a much gentler editing of the multiple stops than with the trombone. Bach uses the highest and the lowest notes very expressively, so I didn't want to change their relative positions. Hence these dances from the G Major suite have been transposed to B Major allowing this suite to match the range of the acoustic UBass exactly: low E to high B.

This transposition implies one not very desirable notational element, the double sharp, which is anything but friendly towards the reading musician. However it has been kept rather than resorting to rewrites not reflecting the tonal progression.

The appoggiaturas and trills have been written out according to baroque performance practices. However you may easily find recordings of cello interpretations done in each their own and very different fashion. Which is part of the liberal baroque practice. This edition is rather kept on the simple side. Another part of baroque practice is the liberal attitude towards omitting or adding movements, as long as some unity of tonality is kept. Pick the movements you can play. Match them with other relevant movements. One suggestion might be movements from my transcription from the C Minor Suite, which are transposed to E Minor.

If the double through quadruple stops are awkward, one or more of the lower notes may be omitted, yet they are important in defining the tonality and as sound effects. The four-note chords may be strummed rather than plucked thereby reflecting the cello's bowing.

The tablature transcription goes for as few position shifts as possible, yet the performer should modify his/hers fingerings as needed for personal comfort. The tempo indications are guidelines only. The layout has given high priority to the absence of page turns rather than paper economy. Place up to 3 pages next to each other on your stand.

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Bassbone Music

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Kala U-Bass  
(or any bass tuned to  
EADG)

# Cello Suite in G Major BWV 1007

J. S. Bach around 1720

(here transposed to B Major)

Arranged 2012 by  
Klaus Smedegaard Bjerre

## Prélude

$\text{♩} = 68$

7 9 8 6 8 8 8 8 6 8 8 8 8 11 9 11 11 8 8 11 9 11 8 11 8 7 8 9 8 9 8 9 8 8 9 8 9 8 7 8 9 8 9 8

4

9 8 6 8 9 8 9 9 8 6 8 9 9 6 8 6 8 9 8 9 9 6 4 3 1 3 4 6 4 6 4 6 4 3 4 6 4 6 4 6 4

7

8 11 11 10 11 6 4 6 3 6 4 6 4 3 6 4 4 6 4 3 4 4 4 4 3 4 4 4 3 4 6 4 3 4 6 4 3 6 4 4 3 11 10 8 11 9

10

8 11 9 11 11 8 6 6 8 6 9 8 6 9 10 9 7 6 7 10 9 9 7 6 7 10 9 7 6 8 9 6 6 9 7 6 6 8 9 6 8 6

13

5 8 5 8 6 8 6 8 5 8 5 8 6 8 6 9 8 6 9 8 9 6 8 9 8 6 9 7 6 9 7 6 7 9 7 9 7 9 7 6 7 9 7 9 7 9 7 6 7 9 7 9 7 9 7



# Cello Suite in G Major BWV 1007

31

Measure 31: Bass clef, G major key signature (one sharp). The staff shows a melodic line with eighth notes and a fretted bass line with fingerings 4, 3, 6, 3, 6, 4, 6, 6, 3, 6, 4, 6, 6, 3, 6, 4, 6, 6, 3, 6, 4, 6, 6, 3, 6, 4, 6, 6, 3, 6, 4, 6, 6, 8, 6, 6.

34

Measure 34: Bass clef, G major key signature. The staff shows a melodic line with eighth notes and a fretted bass line with fingerings 6, 6, 8, 6, 9, 6, 6, 8, 6, 9, 6, 11, 6, 8, 6, 9, 6, 8, 6, 9, 6, 6, 6, 8, 6, 6, 6, 8, 6, 9, 6.

36

Measure 36: Bass clef, G major key signature. The staff shows a melodic line with eighth notes and a fretted bass line with fingerings 6, 6, 9, 6, 6, 6, 8, 6, 9, 6, 8, 6, 9, 6, 6, 8, 6, 9, 6, 7, 9, 8, 9, 9, 5, 9, 9, 6, 7, 9, 9.

38

Measure 38: Bass clef, G major key signature. The staff shows a melodic line with eighth notes and a fretted bass line with fingerings 8, 9, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 13, 13, 16, 13, 16, 13, 16, 13, 13, 16, 13, 16, 13.

40

Measure 40: Bass clef, G major key signature. The staff shows a melodic line with eighth notes and a fretted bass line with fingerings 16, 16, 16, 16, 16, 16, 15, 14, 14, 15, 14, 15, 14, 15, 14, 14, 15, 14, 15, 14, 16, 14.



# Cello Suite in G Major BWV 1007

61 63

TAB: 7 6 9 9 7 9 6 7 2 9 8 9 11 8 9 6 6 5 8 6 8 9 7 6 7 6 8 5 6 9 8 6 11 6 7 9 6 7 4 4 3 4 3 6 8 11 9 8

64

TAB: 9 8 6 9 7 6 7 9 7 6 7 9 11 6 5 6 8 6 7 9 7 6 7 6 8 9 8 9 8 6 6 8 9 8 9 4 3 4 6 6 4 7 6 4

67

TAB: 9 8 9 8 6 4 6 8 9 11 13 11 13 14 11 13 9 11 9 8 6 8 9 13 13 11 13 11 9 11 11 9 8 11 9 8 9 8 11 9 8

70 71

TAB: 9 9 9 6 8 9 8 6 8 9 9 7 6 9 7 9 8 6 9 6 8 9 9 9 9 11 9 11 10 11 11 8 11 9 7 9 8 9 9 11 9 7 11 11 9

73

TAB: 8 11 9 13 11 2 1 4 4 3 4 3 4 2 1 4 4 8 11 15 16 11 8 9 7

# Cello Suite in G Major BWV 1007

## Courante

$\text{♩} = 76$

79

83

87

91

93

95

Kala U-Bass  
(or any bass tuned to  
EADG)

# Cello Suite in G Major BWV 1007

96 99

T  
B

100 103

T  
B

105

T  
B

109

T  
B

113

T  
B

# Cello Suite in G Major BWV 1007

## Sarabande

$\text{♩} = 72$

121

T  
A  
B

122

125

T  
A  
B

126

129

T  
A  
B

130

T  
A  
B

# Cello Suite in G Major BWV 1007

## Menuet I

$\text{♩} = 88$

137

139

141

145

146

149

153



Kala U-Bass  
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EADG)

# Cello Suite in G Major BWV 1007

Gique  
♩.=80

185

TAB: 4 4 1 1 2 4 4 4 4 1 2 4 4 6 8 6 6 8 9 8 9 8 9 8 6 6 8 8 9 9 6 4 6 6 3 3 4 3

187

189

193

TAB: 4 8 9 6 6 9 8 6 6 7 6 9 9 7 6 6 9 7 7 6 9 7 6 4 4 4 3 4 4 1 2 6 8 9 9 6 8

194

197

TAB: 8 9 8 9 8 8 9 8 9 9 6 8 9 11 9 11 11 9 9 8 9 9 8 7 8 6 9 8 6 6 6 5 6 6 7 4 9

201

205

TAB: 6 8 9 10 11 13 8 9 6 7 8 9 11 6 7 9 6 6 8 9 6 8 9 11 8 9 7 6 9 9 7 11 11 9 12 12 11 9

207

209

TAB: 7 6 4 4 4 3 4 1 2 4 2 1 4 4 1 2 4 1 2 6 6 3 4 6 3 4 8 8 9 6 8 5 6 9 6 8 11 8 9 13

213

TAB: 4 6 8 9 8 4 3 4 4 1 2