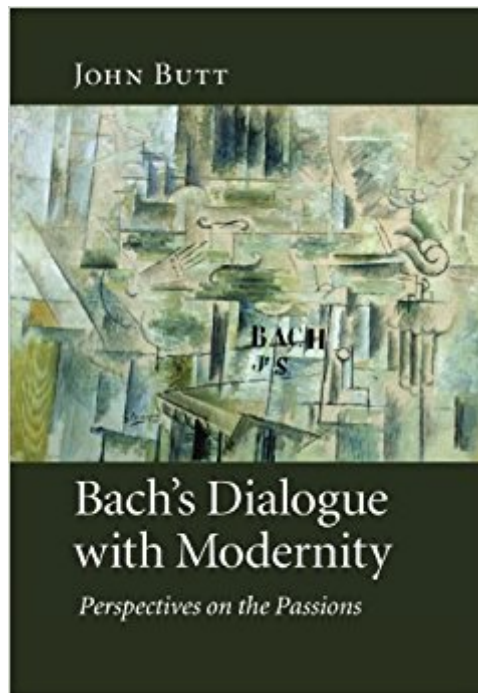




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# Bach's Dialogue With Modernity: Perspectives On The Passions



## Synopsis

Providing a detailed analysis of Bach's Passions, this 2010 book represents an important contribution to the debate about the culture of 'classical music', its origins, priorities and survival. The angles from which each chapter proceeds differ from those of a traditional music guide, by examining the Passions in the light of the mindsets of modernity, and their interplay with earlier models of thought and belief. While the historical details of Bach's composition, performance and theological context remain crucial, the foremost concern of this study is to relate these works to a historical context that may, in some threads at least, still be relevant today. The central claim of the book is that the interplay of traditional imperatives and those of early modernity renders Bach's Passions particularly fascinating as artefacts that both reflect and constitute some of the priorities and conditions of the western world.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

'This spirited and wide-ranging book opens up a host of original and timely perspectives on a crucial repertoire, and argues eloquently for the vital relevance and rewards Bach's Passions offer the modern world.' David Yearsley'Butt's [is a] scholarly book, with its copious musical examples and often fascinating asides.' Glasgow Sunday Herald

Why is Bach's music still valuable? Through detailed analysis of the Passions, this 2010 book balances the traditional concern of Bach scholarship - Bach's local creative context - with an analysis of much broader cultural developments. An important contribution to the debate about the

culture of 'classical music', its origins, priorities and survival.

John Eliot Gardiner's book is more popular, I'm sure, but this is a much deeper study. It's an excellent discussion of Bach (and not just the choral music) and a very clear and persuasive look at Bach as an emerging enlightenment figure. Very recommended.

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