ABOUT THE MUSIC:

This is "springtime music." The texture should be light, the style flowing, the articulation neat. The playing must not become heavy or leaden; rather, let it be flexible, moving at a comfortable pace, spacious at the cadences, and in general full of joy.

The theme or "subject" has two phrases. The first consists of two notes, tonic and dominant in the statement of the theme, dominant and tonic in the answer. The second phrase, a light, airy contrast to the commanding first phrase, has three graceful rhythmic figures: first two quarter notes, then a half and a quarter, then a quarter, two eighths, and a quarter.



Entrances of the subject should be heard clearly and distinctly. It is useful to practice the subject by itself -- 1st Alto and Tenor together in octaves, then 2nd Alto and Baritone -- until every detail is articulated with scrupulous attention to phrasing and accents. If this is done, the subject will be easily distinguished within the contrapuntal texture. Do not emphasize the subject fortissimo every time it appears. This merely distorts the tonal balance.

Philip Gordon

Conductor

FUGUE NO. 7

from the "Well-Tempered Clavier"

by Johann Sebastian Bach arranged by Philip Gordon

1st Eb Alto Saxophone

2nd E Alto Saxophone

Bb Tenor Saxophone

Eb Baritone Saxophone







