



LADY GAGA – Bad Romance (2009)

Fugue in B minor, BWV 869, from: The Well-Tempered Clavier I

For the video of this song, Lady Gaga chose Bach's Fugue in B minor from The Well-Tempered Clavier, Book 1. The unusual theme contains all twelve notes of the chromatic scale. At the beginning and end of the song, the first eight bars of the fugue are played on a harpsichord synthesizer.

THE BEATLES – Penny Lane (1967)

Brandenburg Concerto No. 2, BWV 1047

The song's colourful sound and melody are reminiscent of the sonic splendour of the Baroque era. Watching a performance of Bach's Concerto No. 2 on television, Paul McCartney was impressed by trumpeter David Mason and asked him to play a high piccolo trumpet solo on 'Penny Lane'.

SWEETBOX – Everything’s gonna be alright (1997)

Air, from: Orchestral Suite No. 3 in D major, BWV 1068

Bach meets rap. Tina Harris’s rapping blends harmoniously with Bach’s famous Air from Orchestral Suite No. 3, recorded by the Berlin-based DSO (German Symphony Orchestra). Sweetbox scored a worldwide hit with it.

BEACH BOYS – Lady Lynda (1979)

**‘Jesus bleibet meine Freude’ (‘Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring’),
from: Cantata BWV 147**

The melody performed on oboes and violins in Bach’s chorale ‘Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring’ is very catchy. Originally composed in 9/8 time, the Beach Boys transformed it into a light-hearted love song in 4/4 time.

PAUL SIMON – American Tune (1973)

**‘O Haupt voll Blut und Wunden’ (‘O head of blood and
wounding’), from: St Matthew Passion, BWV 244, No. 54**

Paul Simon wrote new lyrics to the melody of Bach’s well-known Passion hymn, composing a deeply melancholic song. In it, he expressed his disappointment with society in the USA shortly after Richard Nixon’s re-election as president.

PAUL McCARTNEY – Blackbird (1968)

Bourrée, from: Suite in E minor for solo lute, BWV 996

Bourrée was one of McCartney’s party pieces. The dance movement inspired him to write the guitar accompaniment for ‘Blackbird’. He then added the lyrics and the vocal melody.

JEM – They (2005)

Prelude in F minor, BWV 881, from: The Well-Tempered Clavier II

Welsh pop singer Jem based her song on a very famous jazz recording by the Swingle Singers, who adapted Bach's Prelude in F minor from The Well-Tempered Clavier, Book 2, for their album 'Bach's Greatest Hits' (1963).

SKY – Toccata (1980)

Toccata in D minor, BWV 565

Sky was known for its virtuoso rock versions of classical music. The group's biggest hit was Bach's Toccata in D minor. 'Sky 2', the LP it appeared on, reached number one in the UK album charts in 1980.

STING DUET WITH **MARY J. BLIGE**

Whenever I Say Your Name (2003)

Little Prelude in C major, BWV 924

Sting, an ardent admirer of Bach, engages with his music daily. He was inspired by Bach's Little Prelude in C major to write 'Whenever I Say Your Name'. He transferred motivic fragments and the harmonic progression to the song, which he sang as a duet with Mary J. Blige.

EMERSON, LAKE & PALMER

The Only Way (1971)

Toccata in F major, BWV 540 / Prelude in D minor, BWV 851, from: The Well-Tempered Clavier I

Keyboardist Keith Emerson opens the song with Bach's Organ Toccata in F major. The hymn, sung by Greg Lake, leads into Bach's Prelude in D minor. The first six bars evoke the jazz style of the Jacques Loussier Trio, setting the stage for an extended piano trio improvisation in the next vocal segment.

Music to the exhibition on Spotify:

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/72BluaFOLKLpMGHLFherMF?si=93396020dc4943aa>

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