

Alban Berg, Violin Concerto (1935)

Completed in 1935, Berg's violin concerto was his last finished composition. It was premiered after his death in Barcelona on 19 April 1936 by the violinist **Louis Krasner**, for whom the concerto was written.

Berg received the commission from the violinist Louis Krasner in early 1935. The work was composed after the death of **Manon Gropius**, daughter of Alma Mahler and Walter Gropius, whom Berg knew personally. Berg dedicated the concerto "To the memory of an angel," and that private grief gives the piece its elegiac character.

The concerto is in two large parts, each containing two movements: Andante–Allegretto, then Allegro–Adagio. The first part is often heard as a portrait of youthful life, while the second moves toward death and transfiguration.

Berg brings in two quotations: a **Carinthian folk song** in the second movement and the **chorale "Es ist genug"**, harmonized by Bach, in the Adagio, giving the final pages a sense of resignation and peace.

The tone row consists of many familiar sonorities from traditional tonal music:

G	Bb	D	F#	A	C	E	G#	B	C#	Eb	F
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G, Bb, D	
D, F#, A	
A, C, E	
E, G#, B	
B, C#, Eb, F, (G)	

J. S. Bach's harmonization of chorale "Es ist genug"



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Alban Berg

Introduktion (10 Takte)

Andante ♩ = 56

1 *pp* *p* **5** **10** *un poco rit molto riten* *dim, aber deutlich kadenzieren* *mp* *f* **15** *a tempo* *pp, ma espr* **20** *morendo* *a tempo* **25** *rall*

a tempo *pp, ma espr* **15** *(Br Fag)* *pp* *(Hr)* *dolce* *p* *m.d.* *(Kb Solo)* *p espr*

(rustico) **115** *poco f*