

Readings

Online

Context

[Bach's Holy Dread](#). Alex Ross, *The New Yorker*, January 2, 2017.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2017/01/02/bachs-holy-dread>

[Bach's St. John Passion from 1725: A Liturgical Interpretation](#). Markus Rathey.

<https://ism.yale.edu/sites/default/files/files/Johann%20Sebastian%20BachG%C3%87%C3%96s%20St.pdf>

Controversy

[Bach's St. John Passion and the Jews](#). Michael Marissen.

[https://ism.yale.edu/sites/default/files/files/BachG%C3%87%C3%96s%20St\(1\).pdf](https://ism.yale.edu/sites/default/files/files/BachG%C3%87%C3%96s%20St(1).pdf)

Books

Background

Christoph Wolff, *J.S. Bach: The Learned Musician*

Peter Williams, *J.S. Bach*

John Eliot Gardiner, *Bach: Music in the Castle of Heaven*

Performing the Passions

Daniel Melamed, *Hearing Bach's Passions*

Andrew Parrott, *The Essential Bach Choir*

The intellectual and religious context

John Butt, *Bach's Dialogues with Modernity*

Michael Marissen, *Bach and God*

Michael Marissen, *Lutheranism, Anti-Judaism, and the St. John Passion*

Performance videos available on YouTube

Both of these reflect the highest contemporary standards for Bach performance with period instruments and historically-informed interpretation.

Bach Collegium Japan/Masaaki Suzuki

<https://youtu.be/SiKgrezvT-g>

Dunedin Consort/John Butt

<https://youtu.be/vPZC5OJhKSU>

Recordings of historical interest

The oldest existing recording (1938)

Buenos Aires Colon Theater Choir and Orchestra/Erich Kleiber
Gebhardt, 2003

The first published recording, sung in English

Robert Shaw Chorale and Collegiate Chorale, RCA Victor Orchestra/Robert Shaw
RCA Victor, 1950

The first recording on period instruments

Concentus Musicus Wien/Nikolaus Harnoncourt
Telefunken, 1968

An adventurous recording on period instruments

Brandenburg Collegium/Anthony Newman
Newport Classics, 1986