

## Listening Guide 25

### Bach: *Brandenburg Concerto No. 2 in F major*, First Movement

(4:45)

**DATE OF WORK:** 1717–18

**GENRE:** Concerto grosso

**CONCERTINO:** Violin, oboe, recorder, trumpet

**MOVEMENTS:** I. Allegro  
II. Andante  
III. Allegro assai

#### **First Movement: Allegro; in ritornello form**

**WHAT TO LISTEN FOR:** 4 different solo instruments (violin, oboe, recorder, trumpet), playing in quick exchanges with the full orchestra; Baroque period instruments. Lively tempo, with strong rhythmic drive throughout. Recurring theme (ritornello) in full orchestra unifies movement, alternates with short solo statements. Multiple lines heard simultaneously (polyphonic texture).

Opening of ritornello theme:



	SECTION	DESCRIPTION	KEY	
43	0:00	Ritornello 1	Full ensemble; 8-measure statement.	F major
	0:18	Solo 1	Solo violin; short statement.	F major
	0:23	Ritornello 2	Full ensemble; short statement.	F major
	0:28	Solo 2	Oboe and violin; short statement.	F major
	0:33	Ritornello 3	Full ensemble; short statement.	C major
44	0:37	Solo 3	Recorder and oboe; short statement.	F major
	0:42	Ritornello 4	Full ensemble; short statement.	C major
	0:47	Solo 4	Trumpet and recorder.	F major
	0:52	Ritornello 5	Full ensemble; 6-measure statement.	C major
	1:06	Solo 5	Trumpet, violin, recorder, oboe; short statement.	F major
45	1:11	Ritornello 6	Full ensemble; long statement with entries exchanged between instruments, ending with cellos.	Various
	2:19	Solo 6	Recorder, violin, oboe, trumpet; each with short statement.	Various
	2:38		Long modulatory tutti section; various exchanges between instruments.	
47	4:00	Ritornello 7	Full ensemble; final statement.	Returns to F major