

BACH'S CHILDREN

I wanted to have a feeling about the women and children in Bach's life, so I made this list.

A line through the name, means the children did not survive to adulthood.

I marvel at what the daily routine of the women must have been—just do the math on the children's birth and death dates.

With Maria Barbara, married in 1707 (1684–1720)

1. Catharina Dorothea 1708–1774 (Maria Barbara's elder, unmarried sister came to help until 1729)
 2. Wilhelm Friedmann 1710–1784
 3. ~~Johann Christoph~~ 1713 } Twins
 4. ~~Maria Sophia~~ 1713 }
 5. Carl Philipp Emanuel 1714–1788
 6. Johann Gottfried Bernhard 1715–1739.
Died at 23 moving from music to law and debt. J.S. called him unstable and undutiful.
 7. ~~Leopold Augustus~~ 1718–1719 10 months, Godfather Leopold, Prince of Anhalt–Cöthen
- Maria Barbara died in 1720.

With Anna Magdalena (Wilcke), married on Dec 3, 1721 (1701–1760).

Her father was a trumpet player. Mother was the daughter of an organist.

She was a singer at the court of Anhalt–Cöthen and continued to sing professionally after her marriage.

8. ~~Christina Sophia~~ 1723–26
9. Gottfried Heinrich 1724–1763. Mentally handicapped but the family took care of him.
10. ~~Christian Gottlieb~~ 1725–28
11. Elisabeth Juliana Friederica 1726–1781–(born 2 months after Christinana died)
She married Bach pupil, Johann Christoph Altnikol.
12. ~~Ernestus Andreas~~ 1727
13. ~~Regina Johanna~~ 1728–1733
Maria Barbara's sister died in 1729
14. ~~Christiana Benedicta Louise~~ 1730
15. ~~Christiana Dorothea~~ 1731–1732
16. Johann Christoph Friedrich 1732–1795 The “Buckenburg Bach” was a harpsichord professional and a composer—Italian style. His eldest son, Wilhelm Friedrich Ernst, was also a composer.
17. ~~Johann August Abraham~~ 1733
18. Johann Christian 1735–1782, The “London Bach” (J.S. was 50)
19. Johanna Carolina 1737–1781, not married
20. Regina Susanna 1742–1809, not married.
She knew Beethoven, who gave the proceeds from premiere of his Symphony No. 3 to her. She died in poverty.

After Bach's death, the sons came into conflict and went to live with other family members. The sons were educated, but the daughters did not go to school. Anna Magdalena had no financial support from the family, except for C.P.E. Bach. She was caring for herself, her two youngest daughters and her stepdaughter from Bach's first marriage. She relied on charity and hand-outs from the city council, ultimately relying on begging to survive. She died on the street on Feb. 27, 1760 with no money at all. She was buried in an unmarked pauper's grave at Leipzig's Johanniskirche. It was a hard life. The church was destroyed by allied bombing during World War II.

“This gift of life was never meant to be perfect, but if we can find the perfections amidst the disappointments and losses, we can live more fully in the abundant beauty that is always underneath it all. This is the message I hear so much in Mozart and in Schubert, and, of course, in J. S. Bach.”

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The Flutist Quarterly: Vol. 45, No. 2, Winter 2020, p. 51.*