

School Rules

and

Regulations

for the

St. Thomas School of Leipzig

As Established and Decreed

by the

Most Honorable City Council of
Leipzig

Immanuel Tietzen, Printer, 1723

English Translation by Thomas Braatz © 2007

Preface

With this complete translation into English of this important printed document pertaining to Johann Sebastian Bach's tenure as the cantor of all the main churches in Leipzig, I hope to provide easier access to this valuable background resource, a resource, which until now has had only limited availability to Bach scholars in the form of a reprint in the *Bach Jahrbuch* at the beginning and as a limited edition facsimile at the end of the 20th century.¹ While German Bach scholars have had this important volume available to them in these formats as well as in copies of the original to be found only in select university libraries, English-speaking scholars as well as any other interested individuals without a solid knowledge of Late Baroque/Early Enlightenment German vocabulary and style would encounter considerable obstacles in understanding what this document contains, assuming that they would have been able to obtain a reprint or facsimile of the original. Accessing this original source, however, has become much easier since it was digitized less than a year ago and made available to the public at large for free via the internet.

It is at this point that I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the following individuals and organizations that have helped to make the original volume readily available for study, research and translation:

1. Dr. Helmut Rohlfing from the Niedersaechsische Staats- und Universitaetsbibliothek Goettingen for granting the permission to reproduce some original pages and copperplate engravings from the original
2. Das Göttinger Digitalisierungszentrum (GDZ), particularly the DigiWunsch Program whereby donors help to defray the cost of digitalization
3. Maria Ganescu, the 'book sponsor' who helped to defray the cost involved in the digitalization process.

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The complete reference for this book, along with the call number at the University of Göttingen Library, is as follows:

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For those readers that encounter difficulties in deciphering the German Fraktur (Black Letter Gothic) characters used in the original printed version of this book, I have supplied in a separate PDF file the transliterated version of the same. Thus a reader will be able to view simultaneously in separate windows 1. the original digitized version (Fraktur) downloaded as a PDF from the GDZ; 2. the transliterated PDF version on the Bach-Cantatas Site in Roman type ; and 3. the English translation as a separate PDF file on the Bach-Cantatas Site. In order to coordinate these various versions so that a rapid comparison can be facilitated, items 2 and 3 above have special page numbers inserted in red at approximately the same points where the original begins with a new page.

Should those who read and study the translation discover any errors or wish to make suggestions, they may direct such comments and criticisms to the webmaster, Aryeh Oron at: oron-a@inter.net.il Suggestions and corrections will be duly considered and, if deemed worthwhile for inclusion, credit will be given to those who have contributed to the improvement of this translation.